

**MINUTES OF THE
NORTHWEST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

JULY 23, 2020

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/236858309>

BOARD MEMBERS: Island County Commissioner Helen Price Johnson, San Juan County Councilmembers Jamie Stephens and Rick Hughes, Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen, Whatcom County Councilmember Carol Frazey and Whatcom County Council Executive Satpal Sidhu

STAFF: Dan Murphy, Aly Horry, Amanda McDade, Cindy Madigan, Kristine Glasgow, Melody Woodrich-Fernando, Pat Elwell, Ryan Blackwell,

PUBLIC: Barb Pesola, San Juan County, NWSSB Chair

The meeting was called to order at 10AM.

There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda

Skagit County Commissioner Wesen moved and San Juan County Councilmember Hughes seconded to approve Consent Agenda (items 2a through 2e) as presented: Minutes of the April 23, 2020 Regular Meeting; November 2019 Voucher Listings Nos. 1096318 through Nos. 1096471 and 2002 to 2201 in the amount of \$1,698,241.98; December 2019 Expenditure Listings Nos. 2202 through 2426 in the amount of \$1,520,273.73; January 2020 Expenditure Listings Nos. 2427 through 2681 in the amount of \$1,553,100.83; February 2020 Expenditure Listings Nos. 2682 through 2905 in the amount of \$1,608,532.77; March 2020 Expenditure Listings Nos. 2906 through 3141 in the amount of \$1,519,146.93; April 2020 Expenditure Listings Nos. 3142 through 3357 in the amount of \$1,572,741.74; May 2020 Expenditure Listings Nos. 3358 through 3514 in the amount of \$1,363,892.01; the January through December 2019 Budget to Actual Report; and, Routine Contracts and Amendments. The Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

a) NWRC COVID-19 Responses

Dan Murphy, Executive Director presented on NWRC's allocation of COVID-19 Older American's Act Emergency Funding to community partners; Skagit Community Action Volunteer Services, Opportunity Council Volunteer Services, Skagit Public Health, Whatcom Council on Aging, Island Senior Resources, San Juan Health and Community Resources. Allocations were based on input from providers and staff. Discussion followed.

b) 2020 Supplemental Budget, Resolution #20-01

The 2020 Supplemental Budget was presented. Major changes from the 2020 budget were highlighted and preparation for anticipated downturn due to pandemic were outlined.

Discussion followed.

Island County Commissioner Price Johnson moved and San Juan County Councilmember Hughes seconded that the Northwest Regional Council hereby approves and adopts Resolution #20-01, Supplemental Budget #1. The Motion passed.

c) COVID Related Postponement of Bid Process

With current providers focusing on navigating the COVID pandemic and to facilitate continuity of services during this crisis, NWRC proposes delaying by a year the bid process that would have occurred in 2020 for 2021 contracts. It was noted that the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has indicated no issue with this delay. Discussion followed.

Whatcom County Executive Sidhu moved and Whatcom County Councilmember Frazey seconded that the Northwest Regional Council authorizes postponing the open bid process for grant-funded programs by one year, to be completed in time for 2022 contracts. Staff will negotiate contracts with current providers for 2021 using 2020 funding amounts. The Motion passed.

d) NWLEARN Transition Plan

The NW LEARN Transition Plan was presented. Correction was noted for Transition Steps #3, that the date should be January 1, 2021, not January 1, 2020. Discussion followed.

Island County Commissioner Price Johnson moved and San Juan County Councilmember Hughes seconded that the Northwest Regional Council approves the transition plan to dissolve NW LEARN by December 2020, with the date correction of January 1 2021 for Transition Step 3. The Motion passed.

Due to technical difficulties Chair Stephens was experiencing, Vice-Chair Price-Johnson assumed chairing the meeting. Whatcom County Executive Sidhu excused himself to attend to another matter.

e) County Contribution Request for 2021

The 2021 Contribution Request from member counties was presented. Discussion followed.

Whatcom County Councilmember Frazey moved and San Juan County Councilmember Hughes seconded that the Northwest Regional Council approves the submittal of requests for the presented amounts for fees and contributions to member counties for 2021. The Motion passed.

f) Legislative and Agency Updates

Executive Director Murphy described steps agency staff are taking to address the pandemic and the effect the pandemic has had on various programs. A lengthy discussion followed around impacts of the pandemic in service delivery in member counties.

San Juan County Councilmember Hughes moved and Whatcom County Councilmember Frazey seconded that NWRC draft a letter to be shared with local and state legislators stressing the importance of maintaining Long Term Care funding and Caregiver Support programs. Discussion followed. The Motion passed.

Other Issues

County Info Sharing - Board members shared highlights of activities of import occurring within their community.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:56 AM.

Prepared and submitted by:

Patricia F. Elwell, HR/Office Manager