

**MINUTES OF THE
NORTHWEST REGIONAL COUNCIL
July 28, 2022**

BOARD MEMBERS: Island County Commissioner Melanie Bacon, San Juan County Council Members Cindy Wolf and Jamie Stephens, Skagit County Commissioner Peter Browning, Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Council Member Kathy Kershner

STAFF: Amanda McDade, Shu-Ling Sun, Kyle Ludwig, Sarah Silvas, Darla Smith

PUBLIC: Barbara Pesola, San Juan County, NWSSB Chair

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Announcements:

Amanda McDade, Executive Director gave an overview of the NWRC success story shared on screen at the opening of the meeting. A request was made to include them with the board packets in the futures.

Consent Agenda:

Motion was made by Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen and seconded by Skagit County Commissioner Peter Browning to approve the Consent Agenda (items 4.a through 4.e) as presented: Minutes of the May 19, 2022 and June 27, 2022 meetings; Expenditures listings for March in the amount of \$1,882,187.65, April in the amount of \$1,825,692.26, May in the amount of \$1,728,518.94, the 2022 Budget to Actual Report; the routine Contracts and Amendments and; the County Contribution Requests for 2023. The Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report

Amanda McDade, Executive Director informed the Board that NWRC is working on two legislative issues including:

1. Increased funding for the Hospital Transitions Program
2. Language to maintain funding for case management at a level that stays with the market and inflation.

The Agency is also working on staff recruitment and retainage, including reviewing wages and the benefits package to remain competitive in the market. She will be bringing a proposal to the December Board meeting.

Regular Agenda

a. Supplemental Budget, Resolution #22-02

Amanda McDade, Executive Director reviewed the supplemental budget request with a net funding increase of \$42,125.

Motion was made by San Juan County Council Member Jamie Stephens and seconded by Skagit County Commissioner Peter Browning to approve and adopt Resolution #22-02, Supplemental Budget request #1 as written. Motion passed.

b. Increase Bank Account Minimum Balance, Resolution #22-03

Amanda McDade, Executive Director reviewed the need to increase NWRC's minimum bank balance. There was additional discussion about potential impacts of the adjustment, including potential changes to revenue earned from interest.

Motion was made by Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen and seconded by Skagit County Commissioner Peter Browning to approve Resolution #22-03 as written. Motion passed.

c. Establish Reloadable Debit Card Program

Amanda McDade, Executive Director provided an overview of the procedure to reimburse Medicaid eligible clients who use non-emergency transportation services. The agency would like to establish a reloadable debit card program to streamline the process.

Motion was made by Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen and seconded by Skagit County Commissioner Peter Browning that NWRC continue to research and resolve any pending issues to establish a reloadable debit card program to reimburse non-emergency transportation to Medicaid eligible recipients and establish policies and procedures to ensure appropriate authorization processes, segregation of duties, and timely account reconciliations. Motion passed.

d. Policy & Procedure Manual Updates

Sarah Silvas, HR manager provided an overview of the Policy & Procedure Manual Updates. There was discussion regarding bridging benefits, vaccinations, required vaccinations and impacts on staff, the agency and clients.

Motion was made by Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu and seconded by Skagit County Commissioner Peter Browning to keep the language as noted in section 2. 04 Pre-Employment and Continuing Requirements. Discussion followed. The Motion passed five to two. Whatcom County Council Member Kathy Kershner and Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen opposed.

Motion was made to accept all changes in the NWRC Policy and Procedure manual. Discussion followed. The Motion passed five to two. Whatcom County Council Member Kathy Kershner and Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen opposed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:22 am

Prepared and submitted by:

Darla Smith

Darla Smith, Office Supervisor