

**COLUMBIA RIVER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MEETING MINUTES  
EAST WENATCHEE, WA  
02/08/2024**

**Members Present** – Cindy Carter, Kevin Overbay, Marc Straub, Mike Garza, Rob Coffman

**Members Participating by Zoom** – Chris Branch

**Staff Present** – Bruce Buckles, Tammy Harvey, Debbie Peterson, Erin Nelson, Diane Tribble, Ken Sterner, Josh Hamilton, Nicole Buak

**Guests Present** – Christine Johnson, Union Employee Representative, Tom Cash, Union Representative

**Meeting** – Cindy Carter called the Columbia River Council of Governments (COG) meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Public Comment** – None

**Minutes** – Rob Coffman moved to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2023, meeting. Kevin Overbay seconded, and the motion carried.

**Budget & Expenditures** – Expenditures were reviewed for November 2023 Checks 71737-71840, DD22106-DD22223, DRS21-2023, DRS22-2023, PRT11-2023. December 2023 Checks 71841-71939, DD22224-DD22341, DRS23-2023, DRS24-2023, PRT12-2023, PRT13-2023, PRT14-2023, VOID 71358, 71899. Kevin Overbay made a motion to approve the expenditures for checks. Marc Straub seconded, and the motion carried.

**Surplus Equipment Disposal** – The list of surplus equipment for disposal was reviewed. Mike Garza moved to approve the disposal of surplus equipment. Kevin Overbay seconded, and the motion carried.

**Personnel Update** – Tammy Harvey reviewed the personnel update.

**Executive Director's Report** – Bruce Buckles mentioned the dedication and longevity of the staff attending the meeting. He shared that we are in the throes of the legislative process. With the open borders we can anticipate the needs for healthcare and social services in this area will put added stress on services. It will take creativity and perseverance as we move forward. AACCW is committed to working with community partners throughout our PSA. Mark Straub asked if we are seeing the impact of the open borders in our area. Bruce responded that although we have only seen a slight increase, the local hospital districts are beginning to see it. We will all need to gear up to address the health care and social service needs with limited resources. Kevin

Overbay asked if our agency was still receiving cases transferred from other PSA's, resulting in people being transplanted here and then seeking housing. Debbie Peterson addressed this question. Although we continue to receive cases transferred to our agency, often it is for people needing long-term care housing. Kevin Overbay went on to discuss the results of the Homeless Point in Time Count, a little over 10% are folks over 60. There will be an office housed in the Columbia Station building that will provide Coordinated Entry, opening July 1. Services of AACCW may be called upon as they help to address the needs of the over 60 population and those with disabilities.

**Meeting Adjourned** – Kevin Overbay moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. Marc Straub seconded, and the motion carried.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.