

Paula Hammond
Chair

Jennifer Ziegler
Vice Chair

Dylan Doty
Secretary/Treasurer

Charlie Brown
Executive Committee Member

Mark Riker
Executive Committee Member

Sheri Call

Jeff DeVere

Pat Dunn

Mike Ennis

Dave Gent

Davor Gjurasic

Greg Hanon

Tony Sermonti

Jerry Vanderwood

Billy Wallace

EX OFFICIO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Neil Weaver
Washington State Patrol

Reema Griffith
WA State Transportation Commission

Brandy DeLange
Association of Wa Cities

Steve Breaux
WA State Department of Transportation

Chris Herman
WA Public Ports Association

Beau Perschbacher
Department of Licensing

Ashley Probart
Transportation Improvement Board

Ann Rendahl
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

Brian Ziegler
Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board

Axel Swanson
WA State Association of Counties

Jane Wall
County Road Administrative Board



WHUF, PO Box 6285 Olympia WA 98507
(360) 209-3338
whufinfo@gmail.com
www.whuf.org

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting
9/22/2022, 1:30 PM
Gordon Thomas Honeywell – Tacoma, WA
Remote Option via Zoom provided

I. Call to Order & Introduction

WHUF Chair, Paula Hammond called the meeting to order at 1:32pm. Present at the meeting were: Paula Hammond, Dylan Doty, Brandy DeLange, Jeff DeVere, Jerry Vanderwood, Pat Dunn, Dave Gent, Davor Gjurasic, Billy Wallace, Mark Riker, Steve Breaux, Beau Perschbacher and Holly Cocci. Those who attended virtually were Reema Griffith, Jane Wall, Ashley Probart, Ann Rendahl and Shelly Helder.

According to the bylaws, a quorum of at least eight 2022 Board Members is required to vote. There were nine voting members present (in-person and virtual) at the meeting.

II. Approval of May 4, 2022 meeting minutes (included in meeting packet)

Davor made the motion to approve the WHUF Board meeting minutes from May 4, 2022 and Billy seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously

III. WHUF Mission Statement

During the last board meeting in May, the board had a discussion about the WHUF website language and the mission statement. Over the past several years, WHUF’s membership has broadened, with groups having various interests and goals around transportation. As an informational resource to transportation stakeholders and others, it is important that the WHUF mission is inclusive and relatable to all members. It was determined that an Ad Hoc Committee would be developed to further discuss the website and mission statement language, and provide any recommendations to the board. Those who served on the Ad Hoc committee were Paula, Jennifer, Charlie, Dave, Brandy and Greg. Those who were present at the meeting chimed in with their thoughts on the recommendations for the website and mission statement. The board reviewed the website changes and mission statement proposal, which is included in the board packet. The Ad Hoc committee’s suggested mission statement removes the word “aggressively” and broadens the scope of what transportation topics the WHUF covers. It was stated that the intent of the revised mission statement was to focus on the mobility of people and goods, rather than solely addressing highway widening. A robust discussion

WHUF is a member-driven organization that provides a space for collaboration, networking and education on a wide range of transportation issues.

followed. Specific attention was paid to the word “sustainable,” which the Ad Hoc Committee stated was intended to capture both the environmental benefit and the longevity of the funding sources. Several Board members commented on how the proposed mission statement feels like a significant shift away from highways to broader interests, with some focus on the phrase “transportation systems”.

The Board noted that the highways tie everything together anyway, so this new mission statement seems workable. It was discussed how the WHUF hears all the issues at our weekly meetings, we participate in the political process for transportation in general and that we don’t want to be viewed as highway only, and therefore, anti other modes. Recognizing that there is nothing inherently bad about highways, it was suggested that we eliminate the word “systems” if that would soften the language. The mission of this group is to ensure our state highway system is tended to because that is the backbone of our state economy. Lastly, the Board discussed whether the word “equitable” was appropriate to include in the new mission statement, with some saying that including it is a nod toward trying to balance the playing field so there is transportation for all, some communities need different services, while others thought the word speaks to the efforts to try and increase access to transportation services and the highway system for all, and yet others believed it was too undefined to include.

After the discussion, it was determined that the following mission statement would be voted on: *“WHUF is committed to the use of dedicated funding to improve transportation, increase highway safety, support mobility of people and goods, and facilitate economic growth with sustainable public investments.”*

MOTION: Jerry made a motion to approve the revised mission statement and Mark seconded. The board approved the new mission statement unanimously.

IV. 2022 Interim Briefing

Holly reminded the group that the Interim Briefing is scheduled for November 29th and will be held at the Tacoma Convention Center. There is a networking opportunity for the first hour from 8-9am.

a. Draft Agenda

A draft agenda for the briefing was included in the meeting packet. The panels listed on the agenda stem from the feedback Holly and Shelly received from the board during the last meeting. Holly went over the four different panels and provided further information on the two new topics included in this years agenda. Holly and Shelly are still working to confirm those on the clean transportation efforts panel. The panel will cover issues such as the Climate Commitment Act, the Clean Fuel Standards program and the Interagency Electric Vehicles Council, all of which have recently been developed over the last couple of years. The next topic is regarding traffic safety, which the Director of the Transportation Safety Commission, Shelly Baldwin, will provide an update on. With traffic deaths reaching a 20 year high, several board members have shared the importance of learning more about the leading causes of accidents, whether fatal or not and what strategies are effective at reducing the risks. It was shared that WSDOT will be leading legislation on automated speed enforcement in work zones, and that the Traffic Safety Commission

is considering a bill on DUI blood alcohol content, to which it was noted that the State Troopers Association may have concerns around one or more of the proposals. The Department of Licensing is working on a proposal for this session around young drivers and providing a subsidy for drivers ed courses. They also have been working on driver safety data, which has been used by the Traffic Safety Commission. Although there are several proposals being circulated right now, it was recommended that the Traffic Safety panel remain focused on providing data driven information, and avoid overtly diving into any possible legislation. The group agreed.

b. Registration

Holly shared that registration for the briefing will open up in mid-october. Registration will be available on Eventbrite and the cost for registration will differ for members (\$55) and non-members (\$80). Legislators and legislative staff will be able to register free of charge. Those who arrived to the briefing and have not yet registered, will be charged \$100. She asked the group whether there is a desire to increase registration costs. There was not, so registration costs will remain the same.

c. Sponsorships

Holly included the list of sponsorships to date on the Interim Briefing agenda included in the packet, along with a list of sponsors from the 2021 briefing. She encouraged members to reach out to their organizations or clients who may be interested in sponsoring this year.

V. Membership & Finance Report

a. 2023 Membership Dues

Shelly informed the group that there a total of 70 members this year, three in which have not yet paid their dues: Toni Sermoniti, Port of Seattle and the Arledge Group. All three have been reminded. If dues are not paid by the end of November, Shelly and Holly will be removing them from the WHUF distribution list.

b. Finance Update

Shelly shared an overview of WHUF's multi-year profit and loss statement. As a reminder, WHUF financial statements align with the state's (July 1 through June 30). WHUF's total income for FY21 is \$44,320 with total expenses at \$46,106.53. The shortfall is largely due to the 2021 Interim Briefing's cost for larger than historically needed conference space, to accommodate social distancing. Although the 2022 Interim Briefing will not require the same amount of space, and therefore the room charge will be less, the cost will still be higher than historical years because the Tacoma Convention Center provided a cost break in years' past. Next, she reviewed the Balance Sheet. There are four invoices that are past due, three of which are the unpaid membership dues mentioned previously. 2023 membership dues invoices are sent in November and expected to be paid by the end of January. The Board does not recommend increasing membership dues for 2023 due to two uncertainties and WHUF's strong bank balance. The two uncertainties are revenue/costs from the 2022 Interim Briefing, and the 2023 Weekly Briefing space. Depending on the outcome of these items, the board can consider changing membership dues for 2024.

VI. Weekly Legislative Briefings

a. Format for 2023

As a reminder, the board agreed that the 2023 weekly briefings format would ideally be in-person, in a space that includes hybrid capabilities for those that would like to connect via Zoom. The board also prioritized that the space be within walking distance to the Capitol. Holly and Shelly were tasked with researching various options, and bringing them to the board for consideration at the September meeting. The following spaces were discussed:

- **WSDOT:** WSDOT has helped identify a conference room at WSDOT that can provide the space and hybrid technology needed for weekly briefings. However, as the attendees are coming into the facility they are to answer the COVID questions at the front desk and take their temperature. If they cannot answer these questions sufficiently or their temperature is above 100.4 F they are to be denied access to the facility.
- **McCleary Mansion:** GTHGA has moved to the McCleary Mansion located at the corner of Capitol Way and 21st Avenue. Holly and Shelly have access to the building and can reserve the meeting room free of charge. The parking lot is available for attendees, however, they must exit the parking lot by 8am. There is also street parking available, or attendees can park at the Capitol and walk about 10 minutes to the McCleary Mansion. The conference space can fit about 30 people and has the technology for remote meeting access as well.
- **Association of Washington Business (AWB):** The group asked whether AWB would be willing to host the WHUF in one of their conference spaces. Shelly and Holly plan to follow up with AWB to find out whether this would be an option.

The Executive Committee will be meeting in the next month and will decide which location will be selected for the 2023 weekly briefings.

VII. 2023 Board Elections

Holly reminded board members that the 2023 Board Elections will occur at the beginning of the Interim Briefing on November 29th. According to the WHUF bylaws, the board must be elected annually by a majority of the WHUF members and the Interim Briefing is the only yearly event that has sufficient membership participation to meet this requirement. Last year, Jane Wall and Billy Wallace were elected to the board. The current board consists of 15 voting board members, and 11 ex officio/non-voting board members. According to the bylaws, the board can have up to 21 voting board members.

a. Establish nominating committee

As the Chair, Paula is tasked with serving on the nominating committee, along with three other board members. Last year, the executive committee was established as the nominating committee. Paula asked board members if anyone has an interest in participating in the nominating committee this year. No one indicated an interest, so Paula confirmed the executive committee will serve as the nominating committee. Paula shared with the group that she will not be seeking Chairwomanship next year, as she has other obligations she must prioritize. She plans to remain a member of

WHUF. Vice Chair, Jennifer Ziegler was not present at the meeting, but communicated with Paula and Holly a willingness to be considered for Chair in 2023. The nominating committee will meet within the next few weeks to establish a nominating slate for consideration during the Interim Briefing. Paula encouraged members to reach out to the nominating committee or Shelly and Holly if they have any suggestions for nominations.

b. Director Emeritus Nominations

In addition to creating board member recommendations, the nominating committee is tasked with selecting a Director Emeritus, if any. There were no initial suggestions, but all were encouraged to reach out if they had anyone in mind.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

Asked whether there were any final announcements from the group, information was shared about the Work Zone Safety Committee that has been developed in an effort to bring unions, contractors, and industry stakeholders together to make a difference and improve work zone safety standards throughout Washington due to the increased injuries and fatalities in work zones. Holly plans to share their work in the next WHUF Update and reminded members to reach out to her with any information they would like broadly distributed to WHUF members.

a. November Board Meeting Reminder

Holly reminded the board that the next meeting is scheduled after the Interim Briefing on November 29th. The meeting will begin 12:30 PM and will be held in the Centennial room at Gordon Thomas Honeywell. Lunch will be provided.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:53pm.