ISLAND COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – REGULAR SESSION
NOVEMBER 28, 2012

The Island County Council of Governments met in regular session on November 28, 2012 in the Commissioners' Hearing Room 102B, located at 1 NE 6th St., Coupeville. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Nancy Conard at 9:00 a.m.

The Council of Governments Minutes and recordings of meetings may be located at
http://www.islandcounty.net/commissioners/cog/2012/

Members Present: Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Kelly Emerson, Island County Commissioner
Angie Homola, Island County Commissioner
Curt Gordon, Commissioner, South Whidbey Port District
Benye Weber, Commissioner, Coupeville Port District

Members Absent: Scott Dudley, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor
Larry Kwarsick, Mayor, City of Langley

Also Present: Ron Nelson, Island County Economic Development Council
Jill Johnson, Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce
Rufus Rose

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Nancy Conard called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2012 regular meeting. Motion carried.

SUSTAINABLE WHIDBEY COALITION
October and November vouchers for Sustainable Whidbey Coalition were provided. It was moved and seconded to approve the SWC vouchers. Motion carried. Commissioner Emerson abstained. The SWC Fall Forum was well attended and the PSE speaker was excellent.

DISCUSS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2013
Chair Conard had hoped to have state Legislators attend this meeting for a discussion on legislative priorities but they have committee meetings in Olympia this week and are not able to be here. Chair Conard provided a handout from the Association of Washington Cities of what some of their legislative issues are. She also provided a copy of last year's legislative priorities to be reviewed. Commissioner Price Johnson reported that one of the Washington State Association of Counties' number one priorities is to support the continuation of shared revenues. Those revenues that the state passes on to the local level are of high importance for local governments to perform the duties that they are mandated to do. The 2012 Legislative Priorities were reviewed:

2012 Legislative Priorities

1. **Retain** CAPRON Transportation funding as a critical resource for Whidbey Island surface transportation needs.
2. **Continue** to retain and support funding for the Public Works Trust Fund Program.
3. ~~**Refrain** from supporting Legislative proposals that would establish a mandate upon local government without a dialogue with local government and providing access to necessary funds.~~

4. **Support** a Legislative effort to limit local government liability and financial burdens caused by unreasonable public records requests.
5. **Support** a Legislative effort to continue planning for the definite replacement of the Deception Pass Bridge, in likeness.
6. ~~**Refrain** from supporting any Legislative proposal that requires the election of all municipal court judges, or consider application only to larger cities.~~
7. ~~**Support** exemption for flexibility in the requirements of Prevailing Wage for local government projects under $40,000.~~
8. ~~**Support** a 21st century approach to communication/information policy that allows new technologies to flourish while maintaining local regulatory and taxing authority. Franchise language is out of date and does not address changing cable and voice over internet protocol.~~
9. **Support** a state-wide prescription drug take back program, funded by manufacturers.
10. **Support** legislative flexibility to allow a fee attached to building permit fees to support long range land use planning.
11. **Provide** flexibility to local jurisdictions in use of certain dedicated funds, including:

    a. Maintain REET flexibility and remove supplant language
    b. 3/10th Law and Justice Sales Tax supplant language permanently removed
    c. Ability to increase 1/10th of one percent Mental Health sales tax and omit graduated supplant language
    d. Separate the Veterans Assistance Tax out from under the current expense levy

12. ~~**Retain** DSHS funding for adult chemical and alcohol treatment facilities and programs.~~

The following items were discussed by the COG and are of interest for future conversation and action:

13. ~~**Support** Legislation that better clarifies and retains Legislative decision making for determining reasonable and cost effective indigent defense services rules.~~
14. **Support** a Legislative effort to repeal those portions of RCW 36.70A.70(6) requiring Island County and its cities such as Oak Harbor to include State highways and ferry route capacity in determining transportation concurrency in local comprehensive plans. (RTPO is commissioning a white paper to further define this situation)
15. ~~**Continue** to support Legislative efforts to provide ongoing funding assistance for Phase II jurisdictions subject to NPDES storm water regulation and permitting~~

Added for discussion:

16. Flexibility with Conservation Futures Fund
17. Maintain Ferry Service
18. Maintain Shared Revenue
19. Sales tax collected on Internet sales
20. Hospital Concerns Related to Medicaid - need more information
21. Boat tax support

#1 – Keep
#2 – Keep
#3 – Off
#4 – Keep
#5 – Keep
#6 – Off
#7 – Off
#8 – Off
#9 – Keep
#10 – Keep
#11 – Keep Add CFF
#12 – Off (Shared Revenues)
#13 – Off
#14 – Talk about at RTPO
#15 – Off
#16 – Move To #11
#17 - Keep
#18 – Keep – Replace #12
#19 – Keep
#20 - Keep
#21 - Keep

It was suggested that the list of Legislative Priorities be trimmed down and to only give the highest ranking priorities to the legislators.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

It was moved and seconded to cancel the December 26, 2012 meeting. Motion carried. On the schedule is the January 23rd meeting to readdress these issues and continue the discussion on legislative priorities. Chair Conard will contact the legislators to see if they can attend the January meeting.

ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

None

Chair Conard adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 28th day of November, 2012.

Nancy Conard

Approved