

**ISLAND COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 27, 2013**

The Island County Council of Governments met in regular session on February 27, 2013 in the Commissioners' Hearing Room 102B, located at 1 NE 6th St., Coupeville. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Nancy Conard at 9:30 a.m.

The Council of Governments Minutes and recordings of meetings may be located at <http://www.islandcounty.net/commissioners/cog/2013/>

Members Present: Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Kelly Emerson, Island County Commissioner
Jill Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Fred McCarthy, Mayor, City of Langley
Curt Gordon, Commissioner, South Whidbey Port District
Benye Weber, Commissioner, Coupeville Port District

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nancy Conard called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2013 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

SUSTAINABLE WHIDBEY COALITION

A voucher for Sustainable Whidbey Coalition (SWC) was provided. It was moved and seconded to approve the SWC voucher. Motion carried. Commissioner Emerson abstained.

Chair Conard noted a couple items that are planned for the next agenda, in March:

- Will have an updated report on the .09 Economic Development Funds
- Ron Nelson from the EDC and Sherrye Wyatt to provide a periodic update on Economic Development and Tourism (this was changed to April meeting)
- Island County Planning Department has asked for time on the agenda to discuss the county-wide planning policy and receive input from the COG. She added that Brad Johnson and William Simpson from the Island County Planning Department were sitting in on the meeting. Members of the COG introduced themselves and identified their entities.

DISCUSSION OF SUSTAINABLE WHIDBEY COALITION PROGRAM: SUPPORTING LOCAL ECONOMY/SHOP LOCALLY CAMPAIGN

Chair Conard explained that the Sustainable Whidbey Coalition identified a work plan for this year and part of that plan is to develop a 'shop local campaign' to support the local economy. She asked the group to brainstorm to identify who and what that means to them. The following were some of the suggestions:

- Curt Gordon explained some of the challenges for small business to be competitive with prices to be competitive (with larger companies prices); need awareness of what is available.
- If you can't find what you need on the island, shop online from Washington companies so that at least the sales tax revenue will go to the jurisdiction where the goods are delivered.
- Work with the chambers on the island to focus on local businesses.
- Fred McCarthy suggested having a preferred list of vendors.
- Raising awareness of what is produced on the island that can be purchased on the island.

- Businesses need to support other local businesses.
- Don't ask for donations from businesses if you don't support the business; show the interconnection and how the money is circulated.
- Some other ideas were that this campaign can be used to build community; we have a lot of non-profits; foster on-island businesses; highlighting businesses and how they have donated.
- The focus is to motivate (rather than guilt) people into shopping locally.
- Chair Conard contacted Sound Publishing as they could be a major partner for reaching out and promoting businesses through the island newspapers.
- Another suggestion was bumper stickers/decals to promote shopping locally.
- Commissioner Price-Johnson suggested including the chambers and building that into the plan.
- Chair Conard explained that the plan is to develop a model and bring back to the COG for review.
- Promoting local businesses through advertising videos which are showing on the 'DVD by the Sea' (DVD rental units in the stores) that highlight local businesses.
- Businesses should get more information from their customers, such as where they are from, and what they are interested in purchasing; they should be actively involved in the campaign.

ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

Commissioner Price-Johnson recently went to Olympia (with other elected officials) to advocate for the Mukilteo multi-model station. She and members of the Port of Coupeville traveled to Skagit County and met with the Board of Skagit County, visited an incubator business, the WSU office and visited a commercial kitchen that was helpful to her in regards to the Island County Fairgrounds. This is the cut-off week for legislation; the bill for local control for fishnet pens died but they will continue their efforts. Another issue that is moving forward is flexibility with tourism funds and how this can work with urban and rural communities.

Curt Gordon asked about the hotel/motel tax. Commissioner Johnson explained how the tax is received by the state and distributed to cities and counties, and that the second 2% of the hotel/motel tax is passed on to the Island County Joint Tourism Committee for tourism promotion. Mr. Gordon talked about the possibility for receiving funding for a rescue boat for the sheriff's department and a fire boat for the fire department but they will need to provide a match; he will check with Sheriff Brown on the status of that.

Benye Weber noted that they have damage to floats at the Port due to the stormy weather. She talked about the two fishermen and a dog, who were rescued by a Port Angeles Coast Guard helicopter in Penn Cove. They have been supporting bills that are (hopefully) generating money for the Department of Natural Resources on derelict vessel removal after what happened last year in Penn Cove.

Chair Conard explained about the article in the Whidbey Examiner about staffing in the Coupeville Marshal's department; and we are looking at three options. One of the options that is being considered is outsourcing for police services with Island County Sheriff's Department. The Town has contracted to evaluate and develop a proposal with the Sheriff's Office. She expects this will be about a two month process and no decision will be made until all options are evaluated by the Town Council.

Chair Conard adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.


 Approved