



Puget Sound Regional Council

MINUTES

Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board Thursday, March 25, 2021, 10 – 11:30 AM Virtual Meeting

This meeting was conducted remotely.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Executive Board was called to order at 10:02 AM by Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier, President, PSRC. The meeting was conducted remotely. Roll call determined attendance and that a quorum was present.

[To watch a video of the meeting and hear the full discussion, please go to <https://www.psrc.org/boards/watch-meetings.>]

Members and *Alternates* that participated for all or part of the meeting included:

Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive—President
Don Anderson, City of Lakewood Mayor
Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember—Vice President
Glen Bachman, Port of Everett Commissioner
Nancy Backus, City of Auburn Mayor
David Baker, City of Kenmore Mayor
Angela Birney, City of Redmond Mayor
Dow Constantine, King County Executive
Allan Ekberg, City of Tukwila Mayor - Other Cities & Towns in King County
Becky Erickson, City of Poulsbo Mayor - Other Cities & Towns in Kitsap County
Fred Felleman, Port of Seattle Commissioner
Jim Ferrell, City of Federal Way Mayor
Cassie Franklin, City of Everett Mayor
Charlotte Garrido, Kitsap County Commissioner
Lorena González, City of Seattle Councilmember
Kathy Lambert, King County Councilmember
Andrew Lewis, City of Seattle Councilmember
Sam Low, Snohomish County Councilmember
Dick Marzano, Port of Tacoma Commissioner
Roger Millar, WA State Department of Transportation Secretary
Amy Ockerlander, City of Duvall Mayor - Other Cities & Towns in King County
Mary Lou Pauly, City of Issaquah Mayor – Other Cities & Towns in King County

Ed Prince, City of Renton Councilmember
Bill Pugh, City of Sumner Mayor - Other Cities & Towns in Pierce County
Rob Putaansuu, City of Port Orchard Mayor
Dana Ralph, City of Kent Mayor
Chris Roberts, City of Shoreline Councilmember - Other Cities & Towns in King County
Lynne Robinson, City of Bellevue Mayor
Leslie Schneider, City of Bainbridge Island – Other Cities & Towns in Kitsap County
Hester Serebrin, WA State Transportation Commissioner
Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive
Axel Strakeljahn, Port of Bremerton Commissioner
Dan Strauss, City of Seattle Councilmember
Penny Sweet, City of Kirkland Mayor
Barbara Tolbert, City of Arlington Mayor - Other Cities & Towns in Snohomish County
Nancy Tosta, City of Burien Councilmember - Other Cities & Towns in King County
Bryan Wahl, City of Mountlake Terrace, Other Cities & Towns in Snohomish County
Greg Wheeler, City of Bremerton Mayor
Derek Young, Pierce County Councilmember

Members absent included:
(*alternate present)

Jenny Durkan, City of Seattle Mayor
*Armondo Pavone, City of Renton Mayor
Victoria Woodards, City of Tacoma Mayor

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The following person addressed the board:

- Karen Vargas, Kitsap ERACE Coalition

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

President Bruce Dammeier thanked members for participating in today’s meeting. He stated that the board has two important action items. First, the board will consider a proposal for the structure, functions and membership of an Equity Advisory Committee; and seconded, in preparation for the April 29 General Assembly, the board will be asked to approve the Fiscal Years 2022-2023 Biennial Budget and Work Program. He stated, “We had a robust discussion on this last month and the Operations Committee met this morning to address concerns.”

President Dammeier reported that the City of Kent appointed Councilmember Toni Troutner as its alternate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice President Claudia Balducci, Chair, Operations Committee, reported that at today’s meeting, the committee recommended Executive Board approval of vouchers dated February 15, 2021 through March 8, 2021 in the Amount of \$881,837.39.

The committee also recommended approval for legal representation services. This contract authorization will go towards supporting recent legal costs, though most of the expense is expected to be recovered through insurance. The committee also reviewed monthly budget, contract and grant reports.

Vice President Balducci reported that the Operations Committee had an in-depth discussion about the Fiscal Years 2022-2023 Budget and Work Program, specifically reviewing membership dues. Based on feedback from the February Executive Board meeting, the Operations Committee reconsidered the recommendation for membership dues increases in the next biennium. She stated that the committee carefully tried to balance commitment to increasing reserves to recommended levels, while also being cognizant of the financial challenges of members due to COVID-19. After discussion at today's Operations Committee meeting, it is recommended to maintain the current dues schedule to continue the goal of reaching the adopted policy of 2-months operating reserves. She noted that this topic will be before the board under agenda item 8.

CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION: It was moved and seconded (Roberts/Erickson) to: (a) Approve Minutes of Meeting held February 25, 2021 (b) Approve Vouchers Dated February 15, 2021 through March 8, 2021 in the Amount of \$881,837.39 (c) Approve Contract Authorization for Legal Representation Services and (d) Adopt Routine Amendment to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Creation of an Equity Advisory Committee

Charles Patton, PSRC Equity Manager, briefed the board on a proposal for the structure, functions, and membership of an Equity Advisory Committee, consistent with the VISION 2050 action to develop a Regional Equity Strategy.

VISION 2050 calls for PSRC to develop a plan and commit resources for an equity advisory group that can provide feedback on and help implement the Regional Equity Strategy. The Regional Equity Strategy is intended to make equity central to PSRC's work and to support the 2024 local comprehensive plan updates. The strategy will include components such as tools, resources, and best practices.

The new committee will help guide the development of the Regional Equity Strategy and report directly to the Executive Board. It will have 15 members and no alternates; this will include two people from each county with the remainder being residents or representatives of governmental and community-based organizations.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded (Garrido/Sweet) to approve the creation of an Equity Advisory Committee, as described in Attachment A. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommend Adoption of Fiscal Years 2022-2023 Budget and Work Program

Diana Lauderbach, PSRC Chief Financial Officer, reported on the recommendation for the board to adopt the Fiscal Years 2022-2023 Budget and Work Program.

Ms. Lauderbach stated that the Operations Committee, which has primary responsibility for developing the annual Budget and Work Program, began work on the budget in September. In December, the committee reviewed membership dues scenarios and agreed to propose dues increases of 2 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 and 4 percent in Fiscal Year 2023.

She reminded the board that PSRC has been working to build a contingency fund to a recommended minimum target of two months of operating expenses and had been making progress towards that goal by dedicating 4 percent per year dues increases to the contingency fund, pursuant to PSRC's financial policy as developed by the Operations Committee and adopted by the General Assembly on April 30, 2015. When this policy began PSRC had barely enough reserves to cover one month of expenses. Since then, PSRC's dues increase have brought the contingency amount from 50 percent of the goal to approximately 89 percent of the goal. Dues increase have been approved and dedicated to the contingency fund for five of the last six years. Prior to 2016 PSRC had not had an increase in dues since 2009. Last year PSRC decided to forgo the dues increase due to the economic pressures on its members.

Ms. Lauderbach stated that at the February Executive Board meeting comments were received on the recommended 2 percent dues increase in Fiscal Year 2022 and members suggested that, due to the economic stress on member jurisdictions from the effects of the pandemic, PSRC should not propose an increase in dues at this time and reassess later.

She drew member's attention to an attachment in the agenda packet which shows what a 2 percent increase and 4 percent increase would look like in the proposed budget versus no dues increase for the first and 4 percent increase the second year of the budget.

Ms. Lauderbach stated that after the Operations Committee's discussion this month, it was recommended to maintain the current dues schedule to continue the goal of reaching the adopted policy of 2-months operating reserves.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded (Balducci/Birney) to: (1) Recommend that the Executive Board approve the Proposed FY 2022-2023 Biennial Budget and Work Program and recommend adoption by the General Assembly on April 29, 2021. (2) Recommend that the General Assembly adopt Resolution PSRC-A-2021-01 authorizing the submittal of the adopted Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Biennial Budget and Work Program. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business brought before the board.

NEXT MEETING

The Executive Board will next meet on Thursday, April 22, 2021, 10 - 11:30 AM. This will be a virtual meeting.

PSRC's General Assembly being held on Thursday, April 29, 2021, 9 – 11:30 AM. This will be a virtual meeting.

ADJOURN

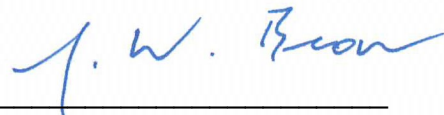
The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Adopted this 22nd day of April, 2021.



Executive Bruce Dammeier, President
Puget Sound Regional Council

ATTEST:



Josh Brown, Executive Director