

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
PIERCE COUNTY REGIONAL COUNCIL
OCTOBER 21, 2010 – 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobbi Allison, Chair
Richard Wagner
Pat Johnson
Larry Wilcox
Glen Hull
Kathy McVay
Derek Young
Doug Richardson
Jason Whalen
Debra Perry
David Inge
Pat McCarthy
Joyce McDonald
Roger Bush
Tim Farrell
Connie Bacon
Ray Bourne
Steve Allsop
Joseph Lonergan
Marty Campbell
Denise McCluskey (and Councilmember Caroline Belleci)

Town of Eatonville
City of Auburn
City of Buckley
City of DuPont
City of Fife
City of Fircrest
City of Gig Harbor
City of Lakewood
City of Lakewood
City of Milton
City of Orting
Pierce County Executive
Pierce County Council
Pierce County Council
Pierce County Council
Port of Tacoma
City of Roy
City of Sumner
City of Tacoma
City of Tacoma
City of University Place

MEMBERS ABSENT

James Rackley
Richie Morgan
Donna O’Ravez
Tren Walker
John Knutsen
Nicole Martineau
Peggy Levesque
Ron Lucas
Lauren Walker
Vacant
Eric Choiniere
Donna Hogerhuis

City of Bonney Lake
Town of Carbonado
City of Edgewood
City of Pacific
City of Puyallup
City of Puyallup
Town of South Prairie
Town of Steilacoom
City of Tacoma
Town of Ruston
City of University Place
Town of Wilkeson

Non-members present:

Ian Munce, GMCC Chair
Jim Halmo, Citizen
Chris Mudgett, TCC Member
Sean Gaffney, PC Staff
Norman Abbott, PSRC

Dan Cardwell, Staff
Bud Rehberg, Citizen
Vince Bozick, JBLM
Hugh Taylor, Council Staff
UWT Students

Sean Eagan, Port of Tacoma
Ike Nwankwo, DOC
Tom Washington, WSDOT
Nancy Eklund, Puyallup Staff

Bobbi Allison, Chair of the PCRC, called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: (Ray Bourne, Marty Campbell, second) To approve September 16, 2010 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

It was requested by Roger Bush to move the Population Allocation / Employment Discussion/Action item to the beginning of the Agenda.

Motion: (Roger Bush, Derek Young, second) To move agenda item 6 to item 3 on the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Population Allocation / Employment Targets

Dan Cardwell referred to the memorandum distributed previously to the group with the GMCC's recommendation. Two additional memorandums were distributed to the group from the Pierce County Council and Executive; and from Norman Abbott, PSRC. This discussion was continued from the September meeting.

Discussion:

Roger Bush stated he was open to modifying the GMCC recommendation if the group was in favor or if more time and discussion was needed, he was in favor of delaying action until after further review by the group. (See handout dated 10/20/10 from County Council and Executive.) He stated the proposed increase in the population for unincorporated Pierce County is a result from what is happening on the ground and was not expansion.

Motion: (Roger Bush, Pat McCarthy, second) To modify the GMCC recommendation on Population/Employment Targets to reflect the Proposed Targets as distributed in the Memorandum from Roger Bush and Pat McCarthy.

Pat McCarthy stated the Executive's Office and the County Council are in agreement with the proposed numbers. She was concerned with targets in VISION 2040. She asked Norman Abbott if Snohomish County had some of the similar concerns as Pierce County does regarding how their growth patterns were developed and/or established. And, she questioned if the cities that reside in south King County have any issues with the numbers established in VISION 2040.

Norman Abbott answered the numbers were adopted by over 90% of the members at the PSRC General Assembly meeting. He stated there was risk to add population in the unincorporated area and would affect the countywide planning policies, specifically the centers policies. He would like to see some analysis with the new figures. He appreciated Dan Cardwell's work with the original figures but would like an explanation on how the number jumped to over 90,000.

Pat McCarthy questioned if the plan was flexible enough to massage the numbers going forward. There are over 300,000 in unincorporated Pierce County and she questioned how we plan for the numbers.

Dan Cardwell clarified the question regarding Snohomish County. Why is it that unincorporated Urban Snohomish County has 40% of the county's growth share as compared to the 22% growth share for unincorporated Urban Pierce County?

Glenn Hull asked what the implications would be if the numbers do not compliment the VISION 2040 Plan. Norman Abbott stated the risk was the possibility of the CPPs not getting certified.

Jason Whalen asked if the proposal reflected real numbers and would this shuffle the numbers around with the cities/towns. Roger Bush stated this would not affect the cities/towns population numbers. Norman Abbott stated the population would increase but it would not increase the jobs/employment population balance.

Joyce McDonald has requested several times to increase the employment numbers in Pierce County. She felt the reality is we don't know how much population/employment will come to Pierce County. She felt VISION 2040 was a top-down approach to growth control. She would like to have Norman Abbott take back the numbers to the PSRC and let them know Pierce County does not agree with them.

Joseph Lonergan asked for the history, specifically who was in the room when these numbers were agreed upon? Dan Cardwell stated it was a lengthy process which was driven by figures in VISION 2040. He felt as a staff member, he pushed the numbers as much as he could at a staff level. Since the GMCC passed the numbers for unincorporated urban Pierce County, there has been more involvement from elected officials and as a result, some assumptions have been adjusted. The County has done everything possible to make this a real number. Mr. Cardwell referenced an appendix to VISION 2040 that was to provide guidance to both PSRC and local jurisdictions in setting local growth targets.

Ian Munce stated all the cities, towns, and the Port all have an interest in the numbers; not just Pierce County. He was confused by the motion on the table and what the GMCC was to do with the motion. They had 14 out of 14 jurisdictions vote unanimously to approve the numbers. Joseph Lonergan questioned the assumptions and if there are consistencies. Wouldn't this change the person per household numbers?

Derek Young stated if we are pushing infrastructure to centers, shouldn't we be pushing the population to those centers as well. He would like the GMCC to review the proposed changes, specifically; he would like to see the assumptions and the absorption ratios from the Memo provided by County Council and Executive. He felt the PSRC may not support the numbers unless they can be backed up. He requested that the GMCC review and provide information to this group next month on the issue.

Roger Bush stated two years ago he voiced concern going forward with the population numbers and stated publicly, "these numbers are loony tunes". Now it seemed PSRC are referring to the numbers as the law and that they can't be massaged and adjusted. He felt this was the time to adjust the numbers; his district alone has grown over 40,000. He was told that the numbers could be adjusted if the situation changes and now he was hearing the numbers can't change.

Marty Campbell stated because of sprawl, the city doesn't grow in population due to it being cheaper to move out of the unincorporated areas.

Bobbi Allison stated Eatonville was concerned and they are struggling with the numbers. She can't see the Town ever reaching 4,000 people because of it. She would like to see the numbers sent back to the GMCC for further review and their recommendation on the proposal.

Pat McCarthy stated this was not a request to create urban sprawl, or to diminish population in cities/towns and felt there needed to be further conversations. She was interested in this going back to the professional staff to discuss further.

Roger Bush, Pat McCarthy, second, to withdraw the original motion.

Motion: (Roger Bush, Pat McCarthy, second) To move the proposal by the County Council and Executive regarding the 20-year Population, Housing and Employment Targets to the GMCC so they can review, provide a recommendation and refer back to this body.

Derek Young has also requested information from the GMCC regarding the Snohomish County references and if the GMCC agreed if the numbers should be attached as appendices.

The motion passed with 2 nays(Joseph Lonergan and Marty Campbell).

TCC Report

Chris Mudgett, TCC Member, provided a review of the Regional Project Evaluation Committee (RPEC) meeting where the process/project lists were discussed. There was concern because King County did not prioritize its funding recommendation list and submitted all 52 projects. Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap all prioritized their projects and submitted a top 10-20 list. King County did not prioritize and the TCC suggested a letter from the PCRC should be sent to the RPEC stating opposition of the large list of King County's projects.

Recommendation/discussion:

Norman Abbott commented he thought the letter would make a difference. The group concurred that a letter of opposition was valid.

Motion: (Joseph Lonergan, Larry Wilcox, second) To approve the TCC recommendation for drafting a letter of opposition that king county prioritize their list of 52 projects to the RPEC regarding the Regional Project List. The motion passed unanimously.

GMCC Report

Ian Munce, GMCC Chair, recapped the September GMCC meeting where the group discussed: Centers (this item is at the TCC currently where it is being reviewed); FEMA and the endangered species act requirements that are due in September 2011; and Jim Halmo recommendations (memorandum has been provided to the PCRC).

Amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies

In September the group decided to allow more time for members to review the submitted letters and review the completed document prior to the adoption of the document and delay taking action on two items from the CPP Reference Sheet distributed at the 9/16/10 meeting. The group felt more time is still needed before taking final action.

Motion (Derek Young, Tim Farrell, second): To move the Agenda Item of the CPPs discussion to the November meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Those items needing further discussion and time to resolve are:

10. By consensus of the minutes (7/15/10), Page 32, Education, Policy Ed-5.3, add language "...with consideration to existing facilities in rural areas":

5.3 prioritizing the location of these facilities to be in urban areas, with consideration to existing facilities in rural areas.

33. By consensus of the minutes (7/15/10), Page 94, UGA Section, added policy UGA-47 (which changed to UGA-48) as follows:

UGA-478. Regional and countywide transportation and economic development funds should be prioritized for centers in Pierce County that have been designated regionally; it is also appropriate for countywide and local funding to be directed to centers designated exclusively at the countywide level or identified locally by a jurisdiction.

Nominations/Election for Chair and Vice Chair

Bobbi Allison stated she would be happy to serve as Chair another year.

Motion (Pat Johnson, Joe Lonergan, second): To elect Bobbi Allison to serve as chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion (Pat McCarthy, Glenn Hull, second): To elect Derek Young as vice chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports/Announcements

Kathy McVay stated she will be out visiting jurisdictions in the next few weeks regarding emergency management.

Roger Bush extended the invitation to visit Spanaway Fantasy Lights.

Bobbie Allison encouraged all to attend Zoo Lights

Glenn Hull thanked the body for the support of funding for the Valley Avenue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.