

WASHINGTON STATE GOOD ROADS & TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

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Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2008

In attendance: Mark Kushner, President; Jim Tobin, Past President; Rick Door, President Elect; Bob Schuster, Treasurer; Dennis Piatek, Secretary; Carrie Hay, Executive Administrator.

The meeting was held via conference call and was called to order at 1:00 pm.

Recap of Annual Conference

The committee reviewed Carrie's recent recap of the meeting. It was well planned, entertaining and the speakers were excellent. The sponsorship process was smooth and well received. Attendance however was poor. Some of the committed attendees cancelled at the eleventh-hour. Fundamental searching questions were asked: Why the poor attendance? Why does the organization exist? Is WSGTRA recognized as an organization that makes a difference? How can we fashion the convention as a "must attend" event? Do we need to redirect our focus?

Election Results

The status-quo prevailed on the West and East side of the state. The transit package passed in Seattle, while the initiative failed state-wide.

There is a new impetus to fund economic projects. There are some infrastructure projects on the shelf and ready to go. The Benton Franklin COG has submitted ideas to the Governor.

November 20th Meeting, Agenda and Speakers

Carrie will arrange for the large conference room. Mark will generate an agenda.

Craig Stone was targeted to speak but had a conflicting commitment. Larry Larson, Project Engineer, will make a presentation on the NCS project in Spokane. Joe Tortorelli will talk about studded tires. He will request the WSGRTA to take an official stance.

Legislative Committee Status

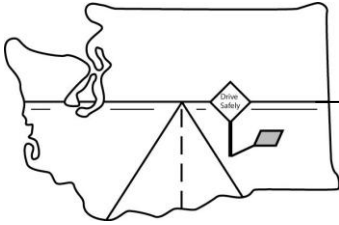
There has not been a WSGTRA legislative agenda for 2 years. The Western Highway Users Federation meets weekly when the legislature is in session. How can the WSGRTA get exposure with the legislatures? This will be on the November 20th meeting agenda. The idea to visit the hill in conjunction with our Legislative Breakfast was considered. More participation from the west-side is needed. Bob suggested we get 2 or 3 funding "schemes" on WSGRTA's agenda. Bob will review the concept with Ross Dunfee. Additional ideas are needed.

Legislative Breakfast – February 5-6

Carrie has reserved the meeting room for Thursday evening and Friday morning. There is a block of 20 rooms reserved in WSGRTA's name. The "drop-dead" date for reservations is 1/5/09. Rooms are \$119 plus tax. Rick is working on speakers from the hill, including the governor. Carrie will follow-up with a formal letter. Breakfast is at 7AM, followed by speakers at 7:15 AM. Legislatures will get an invitation, so they can circle the date on their calendar.

2009 Annual Meeting in Vancouver

Ginger has volunteered to organize the event. Mark will contract Ginger Metcalf and get the process started. The idea of scheduling the golf tournament on Friday, after the meeting, was discussed.



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Newsletter and Web-Site Status

The next newsletter needs to include the calendar of events for 2009. We need to confirm that Ken Nelsen is willing to continue generating the letter.

Mark suggested we generate a color flyer, outlining state-wide transportation projects which need funding. Targeted recipients are major newspapers. The cost of the last newsletter was \$2000. Perhaps we could publish one less newsletter in favor of the color flyer? Carrie updated the web-site last week. She will post pictures from the annual convention shortly.

Status of Vice Presidents

There is a vacancy in the North-Central region. Ken Stanton is a possible candidate. Jim will call Jeff Wilkins to check on Kens' status.

Treasurers Report

There are several with outstanding bills from the annual meeting. Our profit-and-loss statement is fairly balanced. We paid back the deficit from last year. Mark needs signature authorization for our bank account. This can be accomplished in Olympia in conjunction with our annual Legislature meeting.

Miscellaneous Items

Increasing membership in the organization will be on Novembers' agenda.

Twenty-six members responded to Ken Nelsen's survey. Carrie has a PDF file of the responses and will make it available.

There were 95 registrations for last years' Legislative Breakfast. Fifteen of these registrations were cancelled.

Carrie was asked to update the contact information for Executive Board and Vice Presidents.

Don Senn has retired from the DOT. Bob Suggested that WSGTRA generate a congratulatory letter. Don could also be candidate for a Vice President.

Next executive meeting is earmarked for January 7, 2009. Tentative dates for next year meetings are: April 16th, July 16th, September TBD, and November 19th.