

**MINUTES OF THE
NORTHWEST REGIONAL COUNCIL
July 22, 2021**

<https://zoom.us/j/96222043516?pwd=NHBIQ1EwSUJaNTZWT0VKes9aTXArZz09>

BOARD MEMBERS: Island County Commissioners Jill Johnson and Melanie Bacon, San Juan County Councilmember Cindy Wolf, Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen, and Whatcom Council Executive Satpal Sidhu

STAFF: Dan Murphy, Aly Horry, Amanda McDade, Cindy Madigan, Elizabeth Anderson, Kristine Glasgow, Pat Elwell, Kyle Ludwig

PUBLIC: Barb Pesola, San Juan County, NWSSB Chair

The meeting was called to order at 10:01AM.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda: Motion was made by Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu and seconded by Island County Commissioner Melanie Bacon to approve the Consent Agenda (items 3.a through 3.e) as presented: Minutes of the April 22, 2021 Regular Meeting; March 2021 Expenditure Listings in the amount of \$1,976,695.21, April 2021 Expenditure Listings in the amount of \$1,718,818.12, and May 2021 Expenditure Listings in the amount of \$1,653,366.18; the January through May 2021 Budget to Actual Report; the routine contracts and agreements as presented, and; the Submittal of Requests for Contributions to Member Counties for 2022 at the same levels as in 2021. The Motion passed unanimously.

Regular Agenda

- a) 2021 Supplemental Budget, Resolution #21-02 – NWRC Executive Director Dan Murphy presented and summarized the 2021 Supplemental Budget. Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen and seconded by San Juan County Councilmember Cindy Wolf to approve and adopt Resolution #21-02, Supplemental Budget #1. The Motion passed unanimously.

- b) NWRC Policies for Post Pandemic Reopening and Remote Work – The proposed policies for NWRC's post-pandemic reopening and remote work were presented. A lengthy discussion followed around vaccination, ensuring safe service delivery for both client and employee, addressing potential service delivery disparity, potential workload consequences based on agency staff vaccination status, and evolving legal implications.

Island County Commissioner Melanie Bacon moved and San Juan County Councilmember Cindy Wolf seconded that Northwest Regional Council adopt a policy of mandatory vaccination for all staff who see clients in their home. Discussion followed.

Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu offered a friendly amendment that Northwest Regional Council adopt a policy of strongly recommending vaccination for all staff who see clients in their home. Commissioner Bacon declined the friendly amendment. Discussion followed.

Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen moved, and Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu seconded that the Northwest Regional Council strongly encourages vaccination for all employees who see clients in their home. The Motion passed three to two.

Governing board members expressed their concern that clients be given the opportunity to refuse service from unvaccinated staff and that this be incorporated into the protocol when scheduling home visits.

Discussion continued around the proposed “hybrid” workplace model. Views shared included that any workplace model must first work for the client. Board members discussed whether board action was necessary to address the specifics of a “hybrid” workplace model.

Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu moved and Island County Commissioner Melanie Bacon seconded that, after removing item #7 that addresses a “hybrid” workplace model, the Northwest Regional Council approves the Post Pandemic Reopening Policies (items 1 through 6) as presented. The Motion passed unanimously.

The board requested Executive Director Murphy to take action as he sees fit around a “hybrid” workplace model for NWRC and to report back to the board on results.

Island County Commissioner and Vice-Chair Jill Johnson noted that the motion passed earlier around strongly encouraging staff vaccination is the same policy that was recommended in the Post Pandemic Reopening Policies and that there is no inconsistency between the last two motions.

- c) Election of Officers and Executive Committee – The slate of officers nominated are as follows:

Chair	Commissioner Jill Johnson, Island County
Vice-Chair	County Executive, Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County
Executive Committee	Commissioner Peter Browning, Skagit County Commissioner Cindy Wolf, San Juan County

Island County Commissioner Melanie Bacon moved, and Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen seconded to approve the nominated slate of officers. The Motion passed unanimously.

- d) Agency Update – Hemisphere Design + Marketing was selected to work with NWRC in updating and further developing NWRC's brand, brand anthem, tagline, and logo. Concepts developed to-date were presented for board review. Discussion followed.

Other Issues

The next governing board meeting is scheduled for December 9. Board members requested this be an in-person meeting to be held at the Skagit County Commissioners Hearing Room, provided pandemic restrictions allow in-person meetings. Otherwise, the meeting will be held via Zoom.

San Juan County Councilmember Cindy Wolf indicated a preference for "hybrid" meetings in the future, with no more than one in-person only meeting scheduled per year.

Board members requested a future agenda item in which NWRC staff report back on how equity/inclusion service delivery data is tracked.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

There being no further business, **Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen moved, and Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu seconded that the NWRC board meeting adjourn. The Motion passed unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 12:01PM.

Prepared and submitted by:

Patricia F. Elwell, HR Manager