

Regional Housing Council

Agenda: Thursday October 15, 2020 (5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.) (via Zoom)

Jim Cooper and John Hutchings: Chair and Vice Chair

#	TIME	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD	ACTION
1	5:00 – 5:05	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check-in • Review Agenda/Meeting Purpose 	Jim	
2	5:05 – 5:20	Public Comment	Jim	Information
3	5:20 – 5:25	Approval of September minutes	Jim	Action
4	5:25 – 5:30	Status of ILA Press Release – Communications Team	Jim	Information
5	5:30 – 5:50	Interfaith Works – Proposal for acquisition of property and temporary structure for shelter activities	Jim	Presentation and Action
6	5:50 – 6:20	Technical Team working group updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safe Parking • Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Common Understanding ○ Relationships to Stakeholders • Eviction • Funding/RFP 	Staff	Information
7	6:20 – 6:25	Continue Public Comment, if needed	Jim	Information
8	6:25 – 6:30	Good of the Order	Jim	Information
9	6:30	Upcoming Meetings Should we move start time to 4:30? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next RHC Meeting November 19, 2020 Location: Zoom meeting 		Information

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Thursday September 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Lenny Greenstein, Kelly Adams, Rick Walk, Scott Spence

Tumwater: Joan Cathey, Michael Althaus, Brad Medrud, John Doan

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Keith Stahley

Thurston County: John Hutchings, Ramiro Chavez, Schelli Slaughter, Tom Webster, Keylee Marineau, Jacinda Steltjes

South County: JW Foster

Public: Sam Gibbony (Port), Angela Maki (Providence)

Meeting began at 5:00pm.

Agenda Item 1: Agenda approved

Agenda Item 2: Minutes from August: Motion and second, all approved.

Agenda Item 3: Status of Interlocal Agreement (ILA)

Tom gave a brief update: Olympia, Tumwater, Lacey, Yelm and Thurston County have passed the ILA. Rainier is scheduled for October Council meeting. County staff have not received a status from Bucoda. Tenino mayor is going to reach out to Commissioners to discuss the ILA. Staff is waiting to gather signatures on the ILA after all jurisdiction approvals, and will use DocuSign.

Agenda Item 4: Elections

Group discusses the elections given that the ILA is not executed.

Cooper calls a vote on if Chair election should occur today: majority vote yes.

This chair position will carry until a new election I held in January per the ILA, and after the is ILA signed they will re-affirm today's action. Either the Chair or Vice Chair needs to be a County Commissioner (lead agency).

Foster nominates Councilperson Jim Cooper for Chair. No further nominations. All aye, all approved, motion carries.

Vice Chair nominations: Commissioner Hutchings. Motion to elect John Hutchings to Vice Chair, all aye, motion carries.

Agenda Item 5: Public Comment

Chair Cooper states that there is no requirement per the public meeting act. Discussion: general agreement to include public comment, perhaps take written and oral comments, and limit the time people can speak to ensure agenda stays on time.

All agree Public comment will be on the agenda going forward.

Agenda Item 6: Technical Team Working Groups

Tom gave a brief overview: the Technical Team has been meeting to determine what workgroups are needed. The purpose tonight is to introduce the ideas and direction for each workgroup.

Ramiro Chavez requests information from Sam Gibbony regarding the Port property: People have been living on Port property in Tumwater, and Tumwater requested a partnership with the Port to work together on solutions. They invited the Port to engage with the RHC and other groups working on siting. Port Commission have directed staff to look at port properties for potential mitigation sites. Many of the port properties have grant limitations on properties for non-residential use only. Question and answer follows.

Siting Committee: Keith Stahley is Chair. This Committee intends to come back to RHC with 3 – 5 sites identified by each jurisdiction to be potentially used for safe parking and mitigation, and long term sites for affordable housing. Discussion follows regarding how to identify sites: public owned, vacant building, private owned that could be purchased, land, all options.

The RHC have talked about having one councilperson or alternate on each Committee. Discussion follows. Michael will serve as liaison on siting.

Policy Committee (Common Understanding): Keylee Marineau is Chair. Working with jurisdictions on policy to make sure all are cohesive and using the same language. Also considering how the RHC works with other stakeholders in the County. Lenny volunteers as liaison for this Committee.

Relationships Workgroup (Tom Webster is Chair): This group will look at how the RHC interacts and shares information with other organizations that have knowledge or are impacted by the work of the RHC. Discussion follows regarding how the Communications team is working with this group. Carolyn offers to liaison for both the Relationships and the Communications groups.

Communications workgroup also met this week. Megan Porter will be the chair. They are serving on an as-needed basis.

Evictions Committee: Cary Retlin and Amy Buckler are co-chairs. Brad Medrud discussed the scope of the committee and requested direction from the RHC regarding goals and tasks for the Eviction group. Discussion follows regarding roles and relationships of RHC and workgroups, as well as objectives including Covid-19, and tenant protections. Liaison for eviction committee will be Jim Cooper.

Funding and RFP committee: Tom Webster is the Chair. Tom recommends that there be 2 electeds on this committee. Task for this group will include reviewing funding sources, funding priorities, and the RFP process. Jim Cooper adds that they do not want to have a quorum of primaries on this committee. Liaisons: Joan Cathey, John Hutchings, and JW Foster. Jim Cooper will ask Renata to serve as an alternate.

Agenda Item 7: 1406 Funding

Tom reviewed the previous discussion regarding use of 1406 funding this year, with a pooled 1406 fund in 2021, and jurisdictions using their 2020 funds individually this year. Everyone agrees, they will begin work on an ILA that will begin in January.

Good of the Order:

Angela Maki (from Providence): Providence wants to partner with jurisdictions on ending homelessness in our community. They are looking at working with a national non-profit, Community Solutions. Looking at short and long term plans, including adding housing over the next 3 – 5 years.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:25pm

Next Meeting: October 15, 5:00pm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Day, September, 00, 2020

CONTACT: Meghan Porter, Public Information Supervisor and RHC Communications Chair,
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Local Leaders Sign Interlocal Agreement for a Regional Housing Council

Thurston County, Lacey, Tumwater, Olympia, and Yelm (for south county) sign agreement

OLYMPIA – Thurston County, along with the cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater, and the City of Yelm representing all south counties, signed an interlocal agreement to form the Regional Housing Council (RHC). The RHC will replace the previously named Health and Human Services Council (HHSC). Under the HHSC, jurisdictions allocated a minimum of one half of one percent of general sales and use taxes to fund programs providing support to the county’s most vulnerable residents. Under the RHC, the jurisdictions making up 5% or more of the county’s population shall continue to allocate this same level of funding for the same purpose, which has been renamed the Human Services Fund (HSF).

Board of County Commissioners Chair, John Hutchings said, “I am elated to see this moving forward. We now have a strong basis to work on the housing situation as a region. The interlocal agreement allows for us to combine resources, as opposed to each jurisdiction trying to work independently, to begin addressing a region-wide issue.”

The RHC will leverage resources and partnerships through policies and projects that promote equitable access to safe and affordable housing. The RHC will consider issues specifically related to funding a regional response to homelessness and affordable housing, and how to better coordinate existing funding programs. The RHC will do this through assisting in the monitoring and implementation of the [county’s five-year Homeless Crisis Response Plan](#) (HCRP), by setting priorities and making funding decisions. The RHC may also provide a forum for consideration of policy options related to homelessness and to encourage development of regional approaches to planning for, responding to, and funding homeless services and facilities and expand affordable housing.

The RHC consists of one voting member and one alternate member from each of the jurisdictions that comprise more than 5% of the county population (Thurston County, Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater) and one representative representing South County (Yelm). A decision-making staff member from each jurisdiction will also participate but will not have voting capacity. Thurston County is providing a program manager, chair of a technical team, chair of a communications team, and staff to oversee administration activities.

The RHC’s responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Making recommendations to regional elected and appointed leaders on funding decisions related to implementing the HCRP and expanding shelter and affordable housing.
- Establishing an annual RHC work plan along with an annual budget.
- Submitting an annual report to the governing body of each jurisdiction.

The RHC may also:

- Monitor the HCRP and support actions necessary to implement the plan.
- Identify and support projects, programs, and policies to increase shelter and affordable housing through the region.
- Identify and support projects, programs, and policies to further the objectives of the HCRP and reduce the number of unsheltered individuals living in the region.
- Identify and support construction and operation of supportive housing in the region.
- Serve as a regional forum for developing and implementing policies, programs, and projects related to homelessness and affordable housing.
- Develop communication protocols to assist local elected officials and the community in understanding the extent and nature of the homeless and housing crisis in the region.

Read the full interlocal agreement at: XXXX

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