



Consortium of County Commissioners Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2025
Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86043127287?pwd=LhadwAuawtjApOTEojbmzs0Dxz1zck.1>

PRESENT

Consortium Members

Kyle Curtis, Yakima County
Asa Leckie, Skamania County
Brett Wachsmith, Kittitas County

SCW Staff

Amy Martinez, CEO
Tim Hoerner, CFO
Travis Piatz, COO
Patricia Padilla, Secretary

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Kyle Curtis at 2:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Curtis called for a motion to approve the Consortium minutes from September 12, 2024.

Commissioner Brett Wachsmith moved to approve the minutes from September 12, 2024, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Kyle Curtis. Motion carried.

Program Year 2025 Projected Budget

Amy Martinez presented the projected budget for program year 2025, July 1, 2025-June30, 2026. She began discussion by revealing the financial outlook data based on information from about a month ago, prior to the end of the legislative session. A major focus was the Community Reinvestment Fund, which was initially proposed to be eliminated but was later partially restored to \$60 million for the biennium. The local board, which previously received \$3.9 million when the fund was \$250 million, now expects to receive about 25% of the new amount. This fund supports poverty alleviation and minority-owned small businesses, with the greatest impact seen in aiding small businesses. Due to anticipated funding cuts, approximately a 46% reduction equating to 3.5 full-time equivalents (FTEs), two employees were laid off, and a janitorial position was transitioned to a contract service, potentially saving costs. The organization is primarily funded by federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) dollars, and additional support of \$77,000 was secured from the state to help with layoffs in Yakima County, covering nearly one FTE. No new hires are planned; instead, the focus is on sustaining current staff. The organization retains only 15–20% of its \$16 million budget for internal operations, with the remainder distributed to subcontractors for participant services. Additionally, there are discussions about streamlining fund distribution by having the Department of Commerce bypass the Employment Security Department to improve efficiency.

Final Budget Review Discussion

Amy Martinez opened discussion for the final budget review process. Traditionally, the board approves both the financials and the budget by July 1, with a preliminary version reviewed during the June board meeting. Historically, Yakima County, being the largest partner in the consortium, has taken the lead in reviewing the budget through its finance director, previously Craig Warner, who would examine the budget on behalf of the consortium and raise any questions if necessary. This informal process has been in place for about 8 to 10 years and was not formally documented in the joint powers agreement. When the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was introduced and a new director stepped in, the process evolved to include both the financial director's review and a presentation to the consortium. After discussion on whether to maintain this status quo or adjust the process with the new finance director in place, the consortium expressed a preference to continue with the current approach, allowing the new finance director, Brian Carlson, to review the budget and leaving room for a deeper discussion during the July commissioners' meeting if needed. No further discussion followed.

Adjourned at 2:18 p.m.