



# WASHTO Board of Directors Meeting

AASHTO Annual Meeting – Indianapolis, IN

November 16, 2023

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**I. Welcome/ Call to Order/ Roll Call**

President Joel Jundt called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m. ET and asked for a roll call from those present in the room.

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**II. Statement from the President**

Jundt shared that the CEO Retreat that was held in Rapid City, South Dakota on November 1 & 2 was successful and had good discussion. He shared his appreciation for those that could make it and stated that draft meeting minutes are being written up and will be sent out for review.

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**III. Approval of June 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Jundt asked for a motion to approve the June 5, 2023 meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Director Mack Long (MT) and seconded by Director Tracy Larkin Thomason (NV) to approve the meeting minutes as presented. All present voted aye by voice vote. The motion carried.

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**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Jundt presented in the Treasurer's Report for Amber Coulson, the Treasurer, who was not able to make the meeting.

Not significant changes from the last meeting. The Board acknowledge the treasurer's report dated 10/31/2023.

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**V. Report from AASHTO (Jim Tymon was not present).**

Nothing to reported.

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## VI. New Business

### a. Reimbursement Option List

Jundt opened the discussion sharing the Resolution 02-21: Temporary Suspension on Non-Essential Expenditures that was adopted by the Board on 10/18/2021. Currently, only the Employee Memorials have been brought out of suspension, which occurred in October 2022.

Director Ed Sniffen (HI) shared that the WASHTO Annual Meeting in Hawai'i was able to make approximately \$160,000 to add back into the WASHTO account. This would result in an available balance of approximately \$223,000.

Director Tracy Larkin Thomason (NV) asked for the group to look at reimbursement of employee travel to AASHTO/WASHTO meetings and to make it a priority in order to help grow the new generation of employees and facilitate their engage of learning at the regional/nation level.

A motion was made by Secretary Roger Millar (WA) and seconded by Director Ed Sniffen (HI) to amend the suspended resolution to now fund meeting attendance reimbursement and the Hewes Awards.

A new resolution will be brought to the Board at the April 2024 WASHTO meeting in Madison, WI.

### b. Emergency Load Management Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Jundt introduced Deputy Director Greg Byres (AZ) and Deputy Commissioner Katherine Keith (AK).

Byres introduced the MOU. Keith shared her notes from Director Ryan Anderson (AK) which asked for the Board to discuss the MOU and sign it as well as a resolution. The MOU came from MASTO who had already adopted it.

Jundt shared that the MOU was reviewed briefly at the retreat and was proposed to bring back to each state's bridge engineers for their option.

Director Ron Henke (ND) noted in section 4.1, it says 90,000 pounds or 10% higher load limit. He questioned the two limits. Jundt suggested that the line referencing 90,000lb be eliminated, leaving only the 10% cap over the legal loads remain. Executive Director Carlos Braceras (UT) and Secretary Roger Millar (WA) also commented that they had no problems with the edit to read only the 10% and not the 90,000 pounds.

A motion was made by Secretary Roger Millar (WA) to sign a resolution to move forward with the MOU with the edit to section 4.1 to remove the 90,000 pound load limit with the remaining language as written. The motion was seconded by Director Tracy Larkin Thomason (NV). All present voted aye by voice vote. The motion carried.

The approved resolution is referenced as 03-23 and with the WASHTO Board approval. the remaining two regions will be considering it.

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**VII. Old Business: Avalanche Mitigation Meeting Update**

Executive Director Carlos Braceras (UT) shared that there has been further discussions and it has come to light that there is no need for help from WASHTO. Braceras withdrew the request for further investigation.

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**VIII. WASHTO Annual Meetings**

Jundt asked for updates on the upcoming WASHTO Annual Meetings.

- **2023** – Director Ed Sniffin (HI) shared his appreciate the CEO/Sponsors that participated in the meeting and he hoped that everyone took something away from the meeting. In the end, he believes that the end result of the meeting will be a positive ending cash balance of \$160,000 that will be sent to the WASHTO bank account.
- **2024** – Director Vicki Kramer (NE) turned over the status update to Moe Jamshidl, Deputy Director. He stated that there will be many new activities to due since 2005 when WASHTO was last held in NE. He said that contracts are being signed for the venue, hotel, catering, etc. and that everything is on track for a family friendly event.
- **2025** – Director Mack Long (MT) shared that Montana is prepared to host the meeting in Big Sky, Montana, about 1 hour from Bozeman, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July 2025.

Emerging Leaders was discussed and the Board found it worth while to have a pared down version of the program vs what was done while under IDT leadership. The Board agree to have some aspect of this determine so an event could occur during the 2024 WASHTO Annual Meeting in Omaha, NE. Jundt will work with the Nebraska group to put something together.

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**IX. Committee Reports**

**a. Business Committees**

**i. Nomination Committee** – Executive Director Carlos Braceras (UT)

Braceras thank Jundt for his year and half term and noted that the committee will be looking for possible nomination for president and vice president at the April 2024 meeting with final consideration at the July 2024 meeting.

**ii. Resolution Committee** – Deputy Director Greg Byres (AZ) for Director Jennifer Toth (AZ)

Byres read the WASHTO TSMO Committee Activities resolution numbered 02-22. Director Tracy Larkin Thomason (NV) asked for an amendment to the dollar amount to increase it to \$5000 from \$3000. It was also noted the resolution number should be 04-23.

A motion was made by Secretary Roger Millar (WA) to approve with the edit to the resolution number and the increase the requested amount to \$5000 and seconded by Executive Director Carlos Braceras (UT). All present voted aye by voice vote. The motion carried.

Byres read the 2026 WASHTO Annual Meeting resolution numbered 02-22 to provide Nevada seed money and give authority to Director Larking Thomason on behalf of WASHTO. It was noted the resolution number should be 05-23.

A motion was made by Director Ed Sniffen (HI) to approve with the corrected resolution number and seconded by Director Ron Henke (ND). All present voted aye by voice vote. The motion carried.

Byres read resolution 02-23 to recognize the contributions of Colton Snelling to WASHTO.

A motion was made by Executive Director Carlos Braceras (UT) and seconded by Director Mack Long (MT) to approve resolution 02-23. All present voted aye by voice vote. The motion carried.

**iii. Auditing Committee – Director Ed Sniffen (HI)**

Sniffen shared there was an audit and there were no adverse findings.

**b. Standing Committees**

**i. Highway Transport Committee – Commissioner Ryan Anderson (AK) was appointed by President Jundt**

Keith shared there was a meeting on October 31, 2023 and that she had nothing more to report.

**ii. Construction and Materials Committee – Matt Linneman, Deputy Director ND --- for Director Tony Tavares (CA)**

Matt shared that the next meeting is in Fargo ND April 9 – 11, 2024. It will include tech tours and hopes to bring contractors to the round table again. He noted that Tisha Clark of New Mexico DOT is the chairperson for this committee.

**iii. Maintenance Committee** – Secretary Joel Jundt (SD)

Jundt shared the committee met in Boise, ID on August 14-16, 2023. He noted a lot of the discussion was workforce issues. The next meeting is scheduled for April 2024 in Washington.

**iv. Civil Rights Committee** – AASHTO Chairman Michael O'Brian (TX) for Secretary Roger Millar (WA)

O'Brian noted that WASHTO is the most active amongst the regions. Currently, things have been more active within the sub-regions but he is hoping to schedule a conference in the near future to help promote leadership and peer exchanges within civil right leaders.

**v. TSMO Committee** – Director Tracy Larkin Thomason (NV)

Larking Thomason shared the committee plans to meet again in March to have a peer exchange to discuss maturity models. The details are still being worked but steps are definitely moving forward in incremental steps.

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**X. State Issues**

President Jundt asked the state representatives around the table to share some significant items/issues that they are dealing with.

Wyoming – Director Darin Westby

- Big issues are employee vacancies and state funding
- Safety is always the focus / the big question is how to change behaviors
- State employees received increases for 2 years / used vacancy money to pay for hire incentives and hopefully gain and/or bring back some of the experienced employees who left

Utah – Executive Director Carlos Braceras

- Rate of growth continues to be an issue / congestion becoming tough to manage based on additional mandates
- Using capital funds for transit, land use/housing, and homelessness

Texas – Chief Engineer Lance Simmons

- Looking at traffic speeds / systematically setting / looking at vast areas going from 85 to 75 mph
- Legislature lukewarm on automated speeds in construction and school zones
- Setting speeds limits in ways other ways than using the 85%

Oregon – Director Kris Strickler

- Speed zones – disregarding the 85% practice
- Safety focus – adapt to crash increases
- Maintenance staff is down by 10%, lots of plow drivers / recreate the paradigm to show the legislation “here is the need” based on number of vacancies

Oklahoma – Secretary Tim Gatz

- Work Zone Safe – interactive program in school to educate young drivers/ for those students that enroll, there is a \$500 scholarship available if completed. The legislators made this mandatory as of November 1, 2023 - part of requirement for a driver’s permit

North Dakota – Director Ron Henke

- Same struggles as above
- Vision Zero – still working to get into high schools to educate students on safe driving habits
- Additional funding – experiencing less competition on bids
- Federal Motor Carrier – petitioned them to reconsider rule about hours of service / days of an emergency

New Mexico – Secretary Ricky Serna

- Construction zone safety – speed zone caps with DPS/ revenue is invested back
- Securing grants is difficult/ largest project won’t meet the threshold / spending money on grant applications is getting costly
- EV not going well/ no policy support

Nevada – Director Tracy Larkin Thomason

- Same struggles
- Vacancies are up 25% / 40-60% in field are now outsourced at triple the cost of doing business

Nebraska – Director Vicki Kramer

- Echo statements above
- Infrastructure Coordination/ university grant writing in curriculum of MBA/ bring more grant writing to focus on discretionary grants supported by the university

Montana – Director Mack Long

- Echo statements above
- Stressed the need for flexibility with FHWA / carbon reduction/ if locals don’t succeed, we won’t succeed
- Grant writing in local communities

Idaho – Chief Engineer Blake Rindlisbacher

- Inflation / bid prices / some projects receiving no bids
- Legislature provided additional funding to the local governments. IDT is working though how to administer these funds to local governments / plan to be finalized in December
- Safety – internal / safe perspective / engage employees
- Drivers' services are 50% online/ customer service

Hawai'i – Director Ed Sniffen

- Nothing new to report

Alaska – Deputy Commissioner Katherine Keith

- Project bundling / integrated with broadband
- Snow/ ice control – update plans / airport and roads/ modernize

Arizona – Deputy Director Greg Byres

- Growth = vacancy issues
- Phoenix project drew down their funding availability/ \$1 billion projects
- 30% increase in construction costs

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m. EST.