



WASHTO Board of Directors Meeting

AASHTO Fall Conference – Orlando Florida

October 23, 2022

1. Welcome/Call to Order by President Kristina Swallow

2. Connection question “What is something you wish people knew about our industry?”

Various responses including:

- crews are the highway heroes working 24/7
- we can anything, but we can't do everything
- how much they don't seem to know or take responsibility for traffic safety
- that we do not appropriate, nor do we set policy
- a driver's license does not make you a traffic engineer and safety is everyone's issue
- comparatively, people pay much less in taxes comparative to the value they receive
- our departments are full of dedicated people
- how amazing state employees are
- the ability to influence outcomes and bring ideas at a state level
- construction projects are not completed over night
- transportation builds quality of life
- we can do all the things, but not all at the same time
- we are always innovating toward better
- we care about all roads, even though not all roads are our roads
- we are passionate about safety

3. Statement from President - none

4. Approval of June 7, 2022, Minutes

Motion given: Executive Director Carlos Braceras (Utah)

Second: Director Mack Long (Montana)

Discussion/changes: none

Motion passed unanimously

5. Treasurer's report –Vice President Joel Jundt (South Dakota)

Vice President Jundt began by stating there would need to be discussion around what, if any, programs would be brought back after a suspension of all spending due to COVID. He then proceeded to outline the fiscal position of WASHTO currently. At the close of FFY 2022, the WASHTO treasury balance was about \$22,800. There was an inflow of interest in the amount of \$31 and the outflows totaled \$32,938. Also, at the end of the FFY 2022, the standing committee balances totaled \$155,932.

Texas revenues are reported to be \$62,326 surplus and they did not accept seed money, leaving a balance predicted to be approximately \$85,000.

On Sept 15, 2021, WASHTO adopted Resolution 02-21 temporarily suspending all unnecessary expenses including all programs. There are two Memorial requests from CalTrans that have not been filled.

From 2017-2019, there are the following expenses:

Quality awards –\$32,000

Travel reimbursements - \$31,000

Memorial requests - \$10,000

CEO retreat – \$9,000

Scholarship requests - \$6,000

TRAC/RIDES - \$5,000

Vice President Jundt ended the treasurer's report by stating if WASHTO has a current balance of approx \$85,000, are there any programs we want to bring back?

Director Swallow mentioned although we cannot do it all yet, perhaps we can do some.

Vice President Jundt recapped that after previous WASHTO conferences, Alaska had a surplus of approximately \$39,000, South Dakota a surplus of approximately \$70,000, and Texas a surplus of approximately \$62,000.

Executive Director Braceras thanked the board for their patience and suggested care in bringing programs back; but feels comfortable bringing the memorial fund back now with the suggestion to continue to watch the books to determine what other programs could be reinstated in the near future.

Secretary Millar stated that if that was a motion, he would second as he believes that is the first program that should be brought back. He also suggested the treasurer draft a resolution outlining a plan for the future of WASHTO finances.

Motion: Vice President Jundt made a motion to bring back the Memorial Fund at \$1,000 per person.

Second: previously seconded by Secretary Millar

Discussion: Clarification was requested to verify if this would include the two current requests that have been made by CalTrans. It was determined the motion would cover the two current requests.

Motion passed unanimously

Deputy Director Greg Byres stated he would take the resolution back to the resolution committee and work with Treasurer Matt Swift.

6. Report from AASHTO (Jim Tymon not present)

Although Executive Director Jim Tymon was not present, President Swallow briefed the board on her presentation to the AASHTO Executive Committee on the Emerging Leaders discussion on Friday, October 21 at the Executive Committee Meeting. She informed the board that NASTO has done something similar in 2014 for one year and encountered similar issues as WASHTO in moving this type of program forward. The idea was well received overall and AASHTO currently has the opportunity to review the current contract for the Leadership Institute as they are entering year 3 of a 5 year agreement. They will discuss further what components of the Emerging Leaders Program they may incorporate or what options could be created.

7. Upcoming Annual meetings update:

2023 Hawaii

2024 Nebraska

2025 Montana

2026 Nevada

Director John Selmer shared that Nebraska is planning to host the WASHTO conference on the 2nd – 5th of June in 2024.

8. Committee reports

a. Business Committees

- i. Resolution Committee – Deputy Director Greg Byres stated that no new resolutions requested but will start with the financial resolution as mentioned earlier
- ii. Auditing Committee – Deputy Director Ed Sniffen was not in attendance

b. Standing Committees

- i. Highway Transportation Committee – Chair not in attendance
- ii. Construction and Materials Committee – Deputy Director Greg Byers reported there was a conference at the end of March in Long Beach. It went well. Montana presented, as did Washington and CalTrans. It was well attended with extremely lively communication. And although there were no dedicated outcomes, the presentations were well accepted.
- iii. Maintenance Committee – Vice President Joel Jundt shared the committee met virtually on April 11th with 14 member states in attendance. There was an exchange and a sharing of reports and an intent to meet spring of next year.

iv. Civil Rights – Secretary Roger Millar shared the committee is active. They are pondering when and where the next conference will be as the previous gathering was pre COVID. Also looking to incorporate AASHTO equity task force.

v. TSMO Committee – President Kristina Swallow reported there have been no in-person meetings, but the committee has been meeting monthly virtually and rotating through the states providing updates and discussing the possibility of an in-person meeting at WASHTO in 2023. There are some states that are not currently participating but momentum is building.

Executive Director Braceras stated the value of WASHTO is community of practice due to the more informal structure of WASHTO versus AASHTO. The focus is not necessarily the number of products added but the development of people. President Swallow added the extreme value in conversations between border states especially when it comes to detours in one state that move into another and the importance of connections and opportunities for communication.

9. State issues:

President Swallow asked for states to share any challenges they are currently experiencing.

Secretary Millar brought forward Resolution PPR-22AM-02 that will be brought before the AASHTO board later in the afternoon. It began as a TPF but to bring it to a more centered presentation, NASTO asked Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez to lead an ad-hoc work group to bring the resolution back to the board as the board can take action outside a TPF. He expressed he is comfortable with the language as it is currently written and suggested the members of WASHTO review the resolution.

Vice President Jundt mentioned the proposed resolution is the tip of the iceberg as many locals have never participated in a federal program and could struggle to deliver, which is how this resolution began. How can we help them (local municipalities) deliver projects when they might currently be struggling to find the matching funds? He suggested the creation of a working group to assist in further developing this idea. Discussion continued throughout the group including the goal of the resolution to create an annual update to the whitepaper provide opportunities to engage more with the FHWA and help ensure local municipalities are in a position to successfully use the federal funds.

It was stated this resolution gives AASHTO staff broad license to engage in conversations with congressional staffers and the US DOT and create dialogue.

Further discussion was had on the difficulties encountered in working with local agencies who are not as well versed in submitting and navigating federal grants.

Discussion then shifted to management of vacancy rates and retention in preparation for winter and in general. Wyoming asks for volunteers with their department who have a CDL to help plow. Colorado has begun to offer free housing as an incentive for CDL hires. They are exploring how to convert maintenance stations into housing and currently using hotels. Other departments do this and/or are looking into this as a means of retention. Some departments have reached out to the contractor community for support.

President Swallow acknowledged the value of being able to share experiences and suggested a peer retreat for a day and half in the spring of 2023. A poll will be sent out to gauge interest and availability.

Secretary Ricky Serna from New Mexico introduced himself as the newly appointed Secretary of the New Mexico DOT. He solicited any advice or mentorship from the other board members.

Introductions were made for those sitting around the room.

A picture of the board was taken and the meeting adjourned.

ADDENDUM:

An email was sent out on October 31, 2022, after the AASHTO conference. The vote was taken to reinstate the Memorial Fund for \$1,000. However, it was pointed out that in 2020, the Board had approved to increase the Memorial Fund payments to \$2,000. The email requested the members to reply with any concerns to revert the decision to make payments in the amount of \$1,000 back to the earlier approved amount of \$2,000.

Also, the email requested a vote to approve forwarding the seed money for the 2024 WASHTO Conference to the Nebraska DOT in the amount of \$30,000.

As of November 10, 2022, thirteen members voted to approve the seed money and supported the increased amount for the Memorial Fund payments. (Nebraska abstained from voting regarding the seed money. Four states did not enter a vote).

Memorial Fund payments will remain \$2,000 and the seed money will be sent to Nebraska.

Attachment: WASHTO Treasurers Report 10.03.2022

WASHTO Treasurer's Report - Matthew Swift
Fiscal Year 2022 (2021.10.01 - 2022.09.30)
Report Date - 2022.10.03

BEGINNING BALANCE (10/01/2021)

Checking Account
Savings Account

\$55,717.11
\$53,601.14
\$2,115.97

INFLOWS

Checking Interest
Savings Interest

\$30.06
\$1.06

TOTAL INFLOWS

\$31.12

OUTFLOWS

Memorializing Workers Killed in the Line of Duty

Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Mexico
North Dakota
Oklahoma
Oregon
South Dakota
Texas
Utah
Washington
Wyoming

Quality Award

Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Mexico
North Dakota
Oklahoma
Oregon
South Dakota
Texas

Utah
Washington
Wyoming

Checking Balance	\$20,
Savings Balance	693.

ENDING TOTAL BALANCE
\$22,810.08

\$61,
764.
29
\$31,

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
\$185,932.88

WASHTO 2023 Seed Money	\$30,000.00
Standing Committee Balance	\$155,932.88
Civil Rights - 0982	
Construction/Materials - 2665	
Highway Transport - 6434	
Maintenance - 6437	
TSM&O	

* Balances reflect uncleared checks and payments.