

**Regional Sports Complex**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Friday, February 2, 2024 – 11:00 am**

**Meeting Minutes:**

Committee Members Present: *Jerrilea Crawford, Jim Fletcher, Kevin Overbay, Marc Straub, Jim Huffman, Mike Poirier, Steve Wilkinson, Ruben Betancourt, Jeff Sutton and Stacie de Mestre (non-voting)*

Consultants: *Jeffrey Milkes, Pat O'Toole and Tom Diehl*

Guests: *Mike Mackey, Jason Grover, Mauricio Sanchez, Kirk Willet, Emily Thornton and Bart Clennon (Zoom)*

Minutes By: *Brooke Lammert*

**Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m.**

**Introductions:** Mayor Crawford welcomed everyone, and introductions were made.

**Public Comment:** An opportunity for public comment was provided. No public comments were received.

The project's history was reviewed, along with the current phase of work. The Phase I Report for the Feasibility Study has been completed, and the objectives for Phase II are to be solidified during this meeting.

BerryDunn consultants Jeffrey Milkes, Pat O'Toole, and Tom Diehl gave a presentation comparing the merits of focusing the study on a 25-yard stretch pool development versus a 50-meter pool development. Following the presentation, the floor was open for questions.

Mike Mackey, a Douglas County citizen, inquired about whether the new community center in Chelan had been considered and included in the Phase I report. Jeffrey confirmed that it had indeed been included, and interviews were conducted as part of the process.

Jeffrey Sutton of Velocity Swim pointed out that a 50-meter pool is the standard for swim meets, while 25-yard sized pools have already been adequately addressed through recent developments. He emphasized that with the impending loss of the Wenatchee City pool within the next 5-10 years, the Valley will have a pressing need to accommodate the demand for a 50-meter sized pool.

Wenatchee City Mayor Mike Poirier raised doubts regarding the validity and research behind the stated \$500,000 in economic ramifications related to building a 50-meter pool. Jason Grover from the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce and Sutton elaborated

on how that figure was determined. The consultants were requested to gather hard data to support this during Phase II of the Feasibility Study.

Both Grover and Sutton emphasized their belief that anything less than a 50-meter sized pool would limit the potential of a Regional Sports Complex, should it be built. Sutton further suggested that Swim USA would show strong interest in hosting Olympic qualifying meets if a suitably accommodating 50-meter pool were constructed.

Steve Wilkinson of the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce echoed Mayor Poirier's earlier sentiments regarding the necessity for more concrete data on the economic returns.

Discussion ensued on the feasibility of conducting a cost analysis and economic impact analysis comparing a 25-yard stretch pool to a 50-meter pool, taking into account various factors such as seating, locker space, and meeting rooms. O'Toole suggested that arriving at an exact figure might not be feasible and that the best estimate would be a ballpark amount.

Douglas County Commissioner Marc Straub expressed his strong belief that he will face difficulty selling the Regional Sports Complex to his constituents unless it includes a 50-meter pool. Mayor Poirier emphasized the necessity for the city's participation to be contingent on the development of a facility with a community focus, rather than solely a competitive aquatics facility.

Chelan County Commissioner Kevin Overbay proposed conducting a comparison between a 50-meter pool exclusively for competitive use and a 50-meter pool that incorporates community recreation amenities.

It was agreed to center the Phase II aquatics objective on conducting a cost comparison analysis between a 50-meter pool that integrates both competitive swimming and leisure/family swim activities and a 50-meter pool with separate, smaller recreational pools.

Furthermore, it was confirmed that sports groups, particularly soccer, are interested in seeing further analysis of an indoor facility with synthetic turf to address concerns related to winter weather and smoke seasons.

Wilkinson raised the question regarding the necessity of a Public Facilities District for the project. It was clarified that this is just one potential funding tool that may or may not be utilized.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.**