



# Department of Commerce

Washington Tourism Marketing Authority  
Special Meeting  
September 6, 2019; 11 am to noon  
Conference Call

## Attendees:

**Washington Tourism Marketing Authority (WTMA):** Chair Judy Tuohy, Vice Chair Anthony Anton, Secretary Jodi Kayler, John Eminger, Representative Bill Jenkin, Marsha Massey, Senator Dean Takko, Todd Tatum, Cindy Verge, Senator Maureen Walsh, Robb Zerr

**Guests:** Sandra Adix, AAG; Lynn Longan, Commerce; Rebecca Connolly, JLARC; Jasmine Vasavada, Commerce

## Excused:

Kris Rietmann, Tiffany Turner, Representative Ryu, Donna Sbarra

## Absent:

Vijay Patel

## Meeting Objectives:

Review and discuss draft legislative request  
Discuss upcoming meeting in Walla Walla

The meeting was called to order by Judy Tuohy at 11:02 pm. Attendees and those absent are noted above.

Jasmine Vasavada, Legislative Director for the Department of Commerce talked about the changes that Commerce is proposing on behalf, and at the direction of, the WTMA. The department is looking for a general consensus and desire for Commerce to submit the request on behalf of the WTMA.

Three items were discussed for the proposed legislative request:

### **Change the Federal Recognized Tribal position from an ex-officio advisory member to a fully voting board member.**

Commerce explained that they would like to see this change to make it easier to recruit a tribal representative. It was mentioned that this would create an even numbered board and there could be an issue of tie-breakers. There was also mention that tribes should want to be on the board because they gain from tourism in their hotels as well as casinos.

### **Remove the 2:1 match requirement from the administrative portion of the dedicated funds.**

There was a general consensus that the Board wishes the match requirements be removed from the administrative portion of the dedicated funding.

**Increase the authority of dedicated funds, changing it from \$3 million to \$3.5 million to include Commerce's portion for program support.**

There was discussion regarding the implications of raising the lid. The general feeling from the board is that the Director of Commerce should go to the governor and request SGF for Commerce support functions. It makes it uncomplicated and keeps funding separate.

The conclusion from the board is that Commerce funding should not come out of the dedicated funding.

Cindy Verge made a motion to delegate authority to Judy Tuohy, Chair of the WTMA for the final approval of the legislative request regarding the request to remove the 2 to 1 match on the administrative portion of the dedicated funds.

Senator Dean Takko seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call and it passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am.