



Board of Directors Meeting MINUTES January 21, 2026 – 9:00 A.M.

The Washington Counties Risk Group (WCRG) Board of Directors conducted a regular meeting via Zoom on January 21, 2026, at 9:01 a.m.

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTION & ROLL CALL

<u>Board Member Name:</u>	<u>Board Member Entity:</u>	<u>Attendance:</u>
Scott Hutsell	Lincoln County Commissioner	Present
Cindy Carter	Grant County Commissioner	Present
Tom Handy	Whitman County Commissioner	Present
Charles Whitman	Asotin County Commissioner	Present (<i>left at 9:25 am</i>)
Justin Dixon	Garfield County Commissioner	Present
Marty Hall	Columbia County Commissioner	Present
Montgomery Stobart	Stevens County Commissioner	Absent
Mark Letham	Wahkiakum County Commissioner	Present
Robert Dean	Ferry County Commissioner	Present
Brian Nichols	Skamania County Commissioner	Present

Clear Risk Solutions:

Wes Crago	Becca Kirsch
Jessika Tempel	John McMillan
Frank Andrus	Claire Hanberg
Byron Riche	Jenny Gunderson
Rick Templeton	Zac Berryman
Peter Wyatt	Grant Sutherland
Patti Ferguson	Mark Sherwood
Lisa Holterhoff	Mary Mirante Bartolo
Michael Johnson	Steve Whetstone
Taylor Montgomery	Rachel Huffman
Sarah McDonnell	Dave Kosa
Rick Doehle	Angela Eloff

Guests:

Jeff Evans – Stevens County Risk Manager
 Sara Slack – Skamania County HR Administrator
 Fran Jenne – Broker, HUB International
 Shane Heston – Broker, Acrisure
 Blair Kok – Grant County Risk Manager

Hutsell welcomed all in attendance and noted that a quorum was present.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES

- i. None.

ITEM 2: EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION

- i. None.

ITEM 3: CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda items were reviewed by all board members. Hutsell called for a motion on all consent items. Whitman moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and seconded by Dixon. With all in favor and none opposed, the motion passed.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- i. Approval of Minutes (October 22, 2025)
- ii. Approval of the Claims Vouchers (November 2025, December 2025, January 2026)
- iii. Approval of Financials
- iv. Approval of Claims Audit Service

ITEM 4: PUBLIC HEARING & INPUT

- i. None.

ITEM 5: BOARD RESOLUTIONS

- i. None

ITEM 6: ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION

- i. WCRG 2025-2026 Final Renewal Report
 - a. Holterhoff discussed the WCRG 2025-2026 Final Renewal Report. She noted a couple changes in coverage pertaining to auto physical damage. With no additional questions or concerns, Hutsell called for a motion to approve the WCRG 2025-2026 Final Renewal Report. Dean moved to approve as presented and seconded by Handy. With all in favor and none opposed, the motion carried.
- ii. WCRG 2025-2026 Final Budget
 - a. Crago discussed the WCRG 2025-2026 Final Budget and overall, the pool budget increased 3.9%. He wanted to remind everyone that this is the pool budget and not factoring in if the county has added any additional exposures. There were no changes from the preliminary budget, he went through the budget line items. With no additional questions of concerns, Hutsell called for a motion to approve the WCRG 2025-2026 Final Budget. Hall moved to approve as presented and seconded by Whitman. With all in favor and none opposed, the motion carried.
- iii. CMS Representative Designation
 - a. Crago discussed the CMS representative designation and how this is something we haven't ran into yet. He explained that it's the center for medicated services and mostly in jails if there is a claim in Medicare between the contractor and our board. Hutsell offered his service to be a representative on behalf of the pool with consensus from the rest of the board. The board gave consensus for Hutsell to be CMS representative. There were no questions and no motion was needed.
- iv. Support for Bill to Allow LOEFF retirees to serve as Chief of Police
 - a. Crago discussed that when you retire as a police chief you are prohibited from working as a chief and draw from your retirement. A gentleman is looking to change this to be able to allow retired chiefs to be able to draw from their retirement and be able to be a chief for smaller counties/cities. He noted that he mainly wanted to inform the board of this and see if the board would want to see if the board wants CRS to keep looking into this or drop it, just looking for consensus from the board. There was conversation between board members, and the consensus was that the board leaves this in the judgement of CRS. Crago noted that CRS will continue to work on this and report any updates to the board. There were no questions and no motion was needed.

ITEM 7: STAFF REPORTS

The following items were discussed, and updates were given regarding the following topics. All questions were answered, and no action was taken.

1. Underwriting
2. Marketing
3. Pre-Litigation Program
4. Claims

5. Membership & Retention
6. Financial
7. Risk Management & Zywave
8. Communications

ITEM 8: EXECUTIVE REPORT

- i. Administrator Report
 - a. Andrus wished everyone a happy new year and noted staff's focus on organizational and department goals.

Templeton provided an update to the Board on the Brown & Brown parent company acquisition, the creation of the Arrowhead Program Division led by Eric Homer, and his acceptance of the President position at Clear Risk Solutions. Templeton emphasized that there will be no changes to pool operations and that leadership continuity will remain in place.

Tempel provided brief updates on upcoming events, including the CRS Member Education Summit on June 16 and the September retreat, encouraging Board members to watch for additional information.

Crago thanked the Board for their service, expressed optimism for pool growth, and shared that staff hope to hold the July board meeting in Ephrata at the new building.

Commissioner Hutsell ended with a welcome to new Commissioner Mark Letham.


ITEM 8: UPCOMING MEETINGS

- i. February 18, 2026 – Fiscal Meeting via Zoom at 9:00 AM
- ii. March 18, 2026 – Fiscal Meeting via Zoom at 9:00 AM
- iii. April 29, 2026 – Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom at 9:00 AM

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Tempel



Scott Hutsell, Chairman

04/18/2026 11:30:16 AM PDT