

Washington State Real Estate Commission meeting transcript

February 13, 2025

Sandy Baur (00:04):

The recording has started.

Jennifer Clawson (00:06):

Great. Good morning. I'm Jen Clawson, the chair of the Washington State Real Estate Commission. It is now 10:00 AM on Thursday, February 13, 2025, and I am calling this meeting to order. This meeting is open to the public. We will take time at the end of the meeting for a brief public comment period. Participants will have no more than three minutes to address the commission. As a reminder, commissioners are not to engage in the conversation during the public comment.

(00:31):

As a courtesy, I ask that all participants keep themselves on mute to reduce the background noise. When a commissioner would like to comment on a topic, please raise your hand in the feature in Teams. Once I've called on you, unmute yourself and state your name before sharing your comment. Please remember to mute yourself again after you finish speaking. Thanks so much.

(00:52):

Now we'll move on to our roll call. Sandy Baur, will you confirm our role for us?

Sandy Baur (00:58):

Certainly. I will start with you, Chair Clawson.

Jennifer Clawson (01:02):

I am here.

Sandy Baur (01:03):

Vice Chair Chang?

Eddie Chang (01:09):

Here.

Sandy Baur (01:10):

Commissioner Balles?

Meg Balles (01:10):

Here.

Sandy Baur (01:10):

Commissioner Brazil?

Casey Brazil (01:10):

Here.

Sandy Baur (01:13):

Commissioner Bruce-Jones?

Keith Bruce-Jones (01:15):

Here.

Sandy Baur (01:16):

Commissioner Galano?

Sam Galano (01:18):

Here.

Sandy Baur (01:20):

Commissioner Schmitz?

Shelly Schmitz (01:22):

Here.

Sandy Baur (01:24):

All present and accounted for. Back to you Chair Clawson.

Jennifer Clawson (01:29):

Great. Thank you, Sandy. We'll now move into the approval of the agenda. Is there a motion to approve today's agenda as presented?

Casey Brazil (01:40):

So moved.

Shelly Schmitz (01:42):

Second.

Jennifer Clawson (01:43):

Thank you. Who was the second? Oh, there you are. Okay. Thank you, Commissioner Schmitz. We have the agenda approved and seconded. Is there any discussion around our agenda? Okay, then we'll go ahead and call for a vote. All in favor say aye.

Group (02:08):

Aye.

Jennifer Clawson (02:11):

All those opposed say nay.

(02:16):

Any abstentions? Great. The agenda has been approved.

(02:25):

We'll now move to item number four. Approval of our minutes of November 14, 2024. This is page six through 11 in your handout. Is there a motion to approve the November 14, 2024 minutes as presented?

Eddie Chang (02:42):

Vice Chair Chang, so moved.

Sam Galano (02:46):

Commissioner Bruce, second.

Jennifer Clawson (02:49):

Great. So we have a motion moved and seconded. Is there any discussion on the meeting minutes? I would like to call for a vote. All those in favor say aye.

Group (03:06):

Aye.

Jennifer Clawson (03:07):

All those opposed say nay. And any abstentions? The meeting minutes from November have been approved and we'll now head to agenda item number five, introductions of our new commissioners.

(03:26):

Since our last meeting, we have two new commissioners that have been appointed. Sandy, would you like to introduce them for me please?

Sandy Baur (03:33):

Of course. Thank you so much. We would really like to welcome our newly appointed commission members, Commissioner Meg Balles and Commissioner Sam Galano.

(03:43):

Commissioner Meg Balles is a managing broker with over 20 years of real estate experience in Yakima County. She has volunteered with several civic organizations to include Habitat for Humanity, Southwest Yakima Rotary Playground Build, and the Salvation Army Bell Ringing. Commissioner Balles also supports the Yakima Humane Society and Rod's House and currently serves on the board of directors for the Yakima area Arboretum.

(04:14):

In addition to her volunteer work, Commissioner Balles brings prior board experience from serving on the Yakima Association of Realtors and is familiar with the current issues facing the real estate industry. Her real estate experience combined with her involvement in the community outreach programs will bring a very valuable perspective to the Real Estate Commission.

(04:36):

Additionally, we'd like to welcome Commissioner Sam Galano. He's a designated broker in Walla Walla with over 22 years of real estate experience spanning multiple specialty areas. Commissioner Galano's career began in the Kitsap County and Seattle Metro Markets before he relocated to Walla Walla in 2011. He's passionate about serving diverse and underserved communities.

(05:02):

In addition to this, his deep industry expertise, Commissioner Galano has served on a range of boards, including the Seattle PrideFest Board and the Walla Walla Valley Association of Realtors. He was also a founder and executive director of the Seattle Red Dress Party, an organization dedicated to AIDS and HIV fundraising efforts. His broad perspective and commitment to advocacy makes him a valuable voice in the real estate industry.

(05:33):

Welcome to our new commissioners. Thank you.

(05:35):

Back to you Chair Clawson.

Jennifer Clawson (05:41):

Thank you so much Sandy and welcome to both of you. We're excited to have you on the commission with us.

(05:50):

We'll head to our item number six of old business, which we don't have any on the agenda today. So we'll move to item seven, our new business and our subcommittee. Sandy, would you like to lead us on this conversation?

Sandy Baur (06:06):

Sure thing. Each year we revisit the subcommittee membership to determine whether the work is still relevant, may discuss subcommittee membership and we want to make sure we allow opportunities for all members to serve in the subcommittees in which they are interested in.

(06:25):

We will discuss the membership of three subcommittees today. education, team names and transaction coordinator. Commissioners may self nominate or nominate others to serve for a period of one year on any of the subcommittees. In order to keep membership below quorum, each subcommittee can have a maximum of three members. As a side note, our record keeper

definition subcommittee will request to phase out their work during their report out later in this meeting. All right, back to you Chair Clawson to open the floor for nominations.

Jennifer Clawson (07:03):

Thank you. We will now open the floor for nominations. Once three candidates have been identified, we'll request a motion and move forward from there. Do we have any candidates or interest in the education committee?

Meg Balles (07:23):

This is Commissioner Balles and I would like to self nominate myself for the education committee.

Shelly Schmitz (07:31):

This is Commissioner Schmitz and I'd like to nominate myself to continue.

Jennifer Clawson (07:38):

Great. So we have two. Do I have a third?

Casey Brazil (07:42):

Yes, this is Commissioner Brazil. I would like to be on the education committee.

Jennifer Clawson (07:51):

Is there anyone else that would like to be on the education committee?

(08:01):

I have heard Commissioner Balles, Commissioner Schmitz, and Commissioner Brazil would like to be on the education committee. Can I call for a vote? Actually, I need a motion. Right Sandy? Yeah, she's going to keep me honest here.

Sandy Baur (08:15):

Correct.

Jennifer Clawson (08:17):

Do I have a motion for those three commissioners to move forward on the education committee?

Keith Bruce-Jones (08:26):

This is Commissioner Bruce. I move that we add those three names to the education committee.

Jennifer Clawson (08:33):

Thank you. Do I have a second?

Eddie Chang (08:36):

Vice Chair Chang. Second.

Jennifer Clawson (08:37):

Okay, the motion has been moved and seconded. Do all of those in favor say aye.

Group (08:43):

Aye.

Jennifer Clawson (08:47):

Any opposed? And any abstentions? Great. Well, it looks like we have our education subcommittee formed. Now we have our team names subcommittee. Do we have any either self nominations or nominations of others?

Eddie Chang (09:12):

This is Vice Chair Chang. I would like to serve on the team names committee.

Shelly Schmitz (09:15):

Okay, this is Commissioner Schmitz and I'd like to continue to serve on team names.

Jennifer Clawson (09:28):

Do I have a third?

Sam Galano (09:28):

This is Commissioner Galano and I would like to be considered for serving on team names.

Jennifer Clawson (09:39):

Anyone else? Okay, so we have Vice Chair Chang, Commissioner Schmitz and Commissioner Galano that are interested in serving on the team name subcommittee. Do I have a motion?

Eddie Chang (09:58):

Vice Chair Chang, move the three aforementioned names be appointed to the team name subcommittee.

Jennifer Clawson (10:07):

Thank you. Do I have a second?

Keith Bruce-Jones (10:09):

This is Commissioner Bruce. I second it.

Jennifer Clawson (10:12):

Thank you. I have a motion and a second. Is there any continuing discussion that we need on this motion?

(10:23):

Okay. Then we'll go ahead and move to a vote. All those in favor say aye.

Group (10:27):

Aye.

Jennifer Clawson (10:30):

All those opposed say nay. And any abstentions? Shelly?

Shelly Schmitz (10:42):

Nope, sorry. that was an oops. So sorry.

Jennifer Clawson (10:45):

No, you're fine. I just wanted to make sure we are good. So it sounds like we now have, according to our vote, we have a team name subcommittee. And our last subcommittee up for conversation today is our transaction coordinator subcommittee. Again, we're looking for three commissioners to either self nominate themselves or nominate someone else.

Meg Balles (11:14):

This is Commissioner Balles and I would like to self nominate myself for the transaction coordinator subcommittee.

Jennifer Clawson (11:23):

Okay, thank you.

Keith Bruce-Jones (11:24):

This is Commissioner Bruce and I would like to again serve on the transaction coordinating committee.

Jennifer Clawson (11:33):

Thank you. Do I have a third?

Shelly Schmitz (11:39):

This is Commissioner Schmitz and if you need a third I will do it, but I don't want to look like I'm a subcommittee hog.

Eddie Chang (11:50):

I will also do it if you don't want to do three Shelly, but if you want to three, go for it.

Shelly Schmitz (11:56):

I'll tell you what Eddie, you would be really good for the transaction coordinator committee.

Eddie Chang (12:01):

Okay, how about one of our newer commissioners? Are you two familiar with what the transaction coordinator committee's looking at?

Sandy Baur (12:11):

Commissioner Balles already volunteered.

Eddie Chang (12:15):

Okay, well yeah, but Sam's not familiar. Who's on it right now that [inaudible 00:12:22]

Sandy Baur (12:21):

We can absolutely move forward with two commissioners. That's fine.

Jennifer Clawson (12:26):

Can we [inaudible 00:12:28] talk about what it is?

Eddie Chang (12:28):

Yeah, talk about what it is. See if Sam is interested.

Sandy Baur (12:33):

Excellent. Would you like me to speak on that or would you like Commissioner Bruce-Jones to speak on that since he's a prior member?

Eddie Chang (12:44):

Yeah, Bruce, can you tell Sam what's going on there?

Keith Bruce-Jones (12:48):

Well, we've met a few times. Yep, my microphone's on. I feel like I'm a little lost today. It's been a long time since we've been together. We're looking at the roles of a license transaction coordinator and then working with other offices or coming up with new rules where they would just work in-house. Just in a short time I've been working on it, the past six months, and if any of you transaction coordinators are on this call, I really appreciate all the feedback we've been getting all year. But it's fascinating. Learning a lot and I love being on it.

Eddie Chang (13:31):

One of the big challenges, as pointed out by Annie Fitzsimmons, the attorney for Washington Realtors, is that if you have a transaction coordinator that's not licensed within your firm, there's no proper... oversight becomes complicated because they're touching a file in which the firm has absolutely no authority over and all that other, the liabilities and all that complications and this is what they're trying to, the commission is trying to look at and figure out how we can make this work and make it so that this industry can grow. Is that something you would be interested in, Sam?

Sam Galano (14:17):

I think it's one that I'm not as comfortable right now serving on as the team names, so I don't think this year. Maybe as I learn more I could participate.

Eddie Chang (14:28):

No problem. In that case, I will self nominate then.

Jennifer Clawson (14:32):

Okay. So we have Vice Chair Chang, we have Commissioner Bruce, and we have Commissioner Balles that have volunteered or have self nominated themselves for our transaction coordinator subcommittee. Do I have a motion?

Eddie Chang (14:55):

Vice Chair Chang. I move to nominate the three aforementioned commissioners to the transaction coordinator committee.

Jennifer Clawson (15:03):

Do I have a second?

Keith Bruce-Jones (15:05):

It's Commissioner Bruce. I second it.

Jennifer Clawson (15:08):

Okay, so the motion's been made and seconded. Any further discussion about the subcommittee? Okay, we'll go ahead and take a vote. All those in favor say aye.

Group (15:21):

Aye.

Jennifer Clawson (15:23):

All those opposed say nay. Are there any abstentions? The motion's been moved. We now have all three of our subcommittees filled. Thank you all for bringing your passion to those subcommittees so that we can continue to move forward on that work.

(15:48):

We will move to 7.2 on the agenda, which is our legislative updates. And Sandy, I will be turning this over to you.

Sandy Baur (15:55):

All right, thank you so much Chair Clawson. I just wanted to give a quick update about HB1552. This is a bill that extends the current fee on real estate broker licenses that funds the Washington Center for Real Estate Research. This bill also adjusts that fee to account for inflation. It proposes that the current fee is increased to \$20 and it also proposes to extend the contract for Washington Center for Real Estate Research until 2035. In your packet I included a link to the original bill, so feel free to look that up. And with that I am happy to answer any questions.

(16:48):

Okay, thank you very much.

Jennifer Clawson (16:49):

And Sandy, we're just bringing this to awareness, right?

Sandy Baur (16:52):

Correct.

Jennifer Clawson (16:52):

That this bill is out there, make sure you take a look at it.

Sandy Baur (16:55):

Exactly.

Eddie Chang (16:56):

Do we need to, I know this is not agency sponsored and stuff like that, but should we or are we able to take a position on this bill?

Jennifer Clawson (17:08):

That's a great question. As far as a commissioner representing the department, the department does not take positions on any bills and we do not have the permission from the governor's office to do that. So as a commissioner, no. But what you do outside of your commission duties is obviously up to you.

Eddie Chang (17:31):

Okay. [inaudible 00:17:32]

Jennifer Clawson (17:31):

Okay. Does that answer your question?

Eddie Chang (17:35):

Yes. And as a background on this for our newer commissioners and the public, the fee was \$10. It was set about, I believe it was 10 years ago, has never been adjusted and is now the proposals 20, which would track with inflation, continues the great work that the Real Estate Research Center does and it's another 10 year extension on this program.

Jennifer Clawson (18:11):

Now we'll head into our 7.2, our in-person in Arello conference update. And Sandy, I believe you're taking this one as well.

Sandy Baur (18:20):

Yes. At the November 2024 meeting, the commission approved the 2025 meeting schedule. Included in that schedule was one tentative in-person meeting. Now, unfortunately all planning efforts for any in-person option is on hold due to Governor Inslee's directive that implements a spending freeze that was effective as of December 2, 2024 and it's still in effect until further notice. This also includes any of the planning efforts that we had going for the spring Arello conference that was scheduled for April 14th through 16th in 2025.

(19:05):

Once we are authorized to resume our planning efforts, we will let you know. But until then everything has been placed on hold. That's just something we wanted to bring to the attention of the commission.

(19:21):

And with that I'm happy to answer any questions. Okay, thank you.

Jennifer Clawson (19:31):

Okay, thank you Sandy, we'll move on to eight, reports. So we have 8.1 is our education subcommittee report update and I believe Commissioner Schmitz, you'll be providing an update?

Shelly Schmitz (19:47):

I will. Good morning everyone. The real estate subcommittee is now preparing the CORE and so we are going to go through the curriculum and then we will also be having two listening sessions I believe. And I'm going to do this off of memory. So Sandy, if I get it wrong, correct me, but I believe the two listening sessions are scheduled for May and July or May and June, something like that. Our goal is to have the CORE program ready for the August commissioners meeting to present to the commissioners.

(20:34):

I don't know if we have the pass fill rate summary slide. I don't know, Sandy, is there a slide for that?

Sandy Baur (20:43):

That data was just included in the packet.

Shelly Schmitz (20:47):

Oh, okay. All right. Just my quick opinion on that. It seems like we seem to be doing okay in regards to pass and fail rates seem to be within the realm that they should be. That's my quick little education subcommittee. I'm sure we'll have more as we go into the year with the CORE curriculum.

Jennifer Clawson (21:16):

Thank you Commissioner Schmitz. Now we'll head into a record keeping definition subcommittee and Commissioner Bruce-Jones will provide an update.

Keith Bruce-Jones (21:25):

Thank you. We'd reviewed the WAC 308-124C-110 in response to questions about the DOL internal audit team. Basically discussing how we handle digital documents versus paper records or does it matter what type of formats are being used?

(21:48):

Long story short, the WAC does already include the option of electronic records, so the RCW may not need to be updated. However, there are questions about, especially for those of us in

property management with checks, do we take a copy of the front and back? So we're looking for a little bit more specifics on how the records should be kept because the WAC right now allows for the auditors to have a pretty wide net. And what I'm finding, what we're finding I should say, is that brokers are looking for more of that sort of checklist, formatted itemized list, to make the record keeping process easier. I'm noticing, especially with the small brokerages, they're a little concerned that they're spending a little too much time on maintaining their records versus being out there working.

(22:45):

Commissioner Brazil recommended that the DOL auditors work hand in hand with the MLS to determine what kinds of documents are the most relevant and then post the expectation on the DOL website in an easily accessible form. I can tell you, after working on the, excuse me, committee for almost a year that the DOL does have everything posted on their website in a nice little formatted, go look at it. But I think what we would like to see is just a little bit more clarification and maybe some postings on the MLS to help out the smaller firms keep up their records. That's it.

Jennifer Clawson (23:32):

Thank you.

Sandy Baur (23:34):

I also just wanted to add, I think they also, the subcommittee wanted to wind down their efforts for 2025. Am I correct on that Commissioner Bruce-Jones?

Keith Bruce-Jones (23:45):

That is correct, but I wanted to save the best for last. So yes, we're going to be winding it down so we can jump on other committees.

Jennifer Clawson (23:54):

Great. Thank you for your work, all of you on the subcommittee. Okay, now we're going to move to 8.1 .3 and the team names some committee update and Vice Chair Chang. You'll be providing a report out.

Eddie Chang (24:10):

Thank you. For the new commissioners, the team sub name committee was formed in order to address the concept of teams within the state. Teams have been very prevalent in our industry. However, they are not even defined in the RCW, so rulemaking and oversight on teams has been wild and crazy to say the least. We've tried to do it within the current RCWs but have failed to come up with a way to actually do this. So we are going to have to look at some type of legislative effort in order to change the RCWs in order to include teams and everything else.

(24:55):

Given the scope of the work that the legislature has in front of them this year this was something that we had determined was not feasible for this year. So after legislative session ends in April, we will get back together and we will start working with the legislature on trying to create a necessary legislative bill in order to address teams within the state. Any questions?

Shelly Schmitz (25:30):

This is Commissioner Schmitz. Eddie, or Commission Chang, were we also talking about educating regarding the oversight on teams and maybe putting that in the CORE?

Eddie Chang (25:48):

I would love that. But that's for the education committee and not the scope of this committee.

Shelly Schmitz (25:55):

Okay. So I'll take that to the education committee since I sit on it.

Eddie Chang (25:59):

Perfect, thank you.

Jennifer Clawson (26:07):

Thank you for your report outs. I believe that was our last one.

Shelly Schmitz (26:13):

Oh, you got me again. Sorry. Can we switch [inaudible 00:26:16]

Jennifer Clawson (26:16):

I am so sorry.

Shelly Schmitz (26:18):

No, you're good.

Jennifer Clawson (26:20):

Let's talk about the transaction coordinator subcommittee.

Shelly Schmitz (26:26):

With transaction coordinators, I'm just going to do a recap just like Eddie did for his committee. We were seeing in-house transaction coordinators, some of them are licensed, some are not. Some transaction coordinators are working with multiple brokers that are in multiple firms. So there's been some confusion out there as far as do you need to be licensed, not licensed, how does this work when you are helping brokers that are with a different firm than you?

(27:05):

We are working on trying to educate everyone as far as what that looks like, because a licensed transaction coordinator is not a role within any of the RCWs. So what we felt is that maybe there needs to be more education in regards to transaction coordinators, especially the ones that are licensed as basically you are a licensed broker assisting another licensed broker. So what we are going to do is ask the help of the education committee to help roll out, probably within the CORE, how that would look and just the rules or things for people to think about as they are doing that.

(28:01):

One of the things we did realize is that as far as complaints regarding transaction coordinators, from the DOL side, they're not even in the top five of the main topics that they hear, but yet within the industry we do hear complaints on that and there are some concerns. Our next steps will be to help with the education and look at what the typical transaction coordinator does so that we can start addressing, from an education standpoint, where the guidelines are. That's all for my update.

Jennifer Clawson (28:54):

Great, thank you.

(28:58):

Now we're going to move into where we typically share our report outs for our central investigations and regulatory compliance as well as our licensing numbers. We did put this data in your packet, but we are going to move to more of an annual report out because the information doesn't really change, the same top complaints that we receive that are coming in are there. We are processing, I believe, within a 14 day time period of our applications that are coming in and we can definitely answer any questions about the information that's provided in your packet. But Sandy, was there anything I was missing?

Sandy Baur (29:43):

No, that's everything.

Jennifer Clawson (29:49):

Are there any questions from the commissioners about either one of those reports or is there something specific that you would like to hear at each commission meeting, on either one of those topics?

Shelly Schmitz (30:06):

This is Commissioner Schmitz. Is there anything within the complaints that as a commission we need to address or talk about? Is there anything from DOL side that they would like from us?

Jennifer Clawson (30:22):

Let me ask, I believe we have a couple of our managers on. Nathan Buck are you on our call with us today?

Nathan Buck (30:31):

Yes I am.

Jennifer Clawson (30:33):

Can you address-

Nathan Buck (30:37):

Sorry about that.

Jennifer Clawson (30:37):

That's okay, go ahead.

Nathan Buck (30:40):

As far as your question, we do not have anything that's necessarily changed at this time based off the stat that Chair Clawson has previously mentioned. So I don't believe there is anything at the moment, however, we'll continue to work with our board section and Sandy to continue to assess that.

Jennifer Clawson (31:03):

Commissioner Schmitz, one of the things we can commit to is if we see a new trend, we will definitely bring it to the commission. But we were reporting on... there wasn't really anything new that was happening and so we felt like we could put it in the packet, we have no problem sharing the data and we can answer any questions about it, but it might not need to take up valuable commission time.

Shelly Schmitz (31:22):

Sure. And that's perfect.

Jennifer Clawson (31:24):

Great.

(31:26):

Commissioner Balles?

Meg Balles (31:29):

Yes, being a new commissioner and not being aware of the data or the information, are we able to get that provided to us so we can get up to speed with that information?

Jennifer Clawson (31:41):

Absolutely. Sandy, can you share where she can find that?

Sandy Baur (31:45):

Sure. We have included all of this data in the packet so you should be able to flip through the packet and see all of the data we felt- oh, go ahead.

Jennifer Clawson (31:57):

I was just going to give a page number. It looks like page 26, 27 and 28. And at any time, Sandy can help offline or chat with you offline about if you have any questions and we can definitely entertain any of your questions here at the commission meeting as well. So whatever works best for you.

Meg Balles (32:20):

Thank you.

Jennifer Clawson (32:21):

Yeah. Thank you. We do like to be really transparent about it but we want to make sure that we're also spending the time the best for all of you.

(32:34):

We'll move to our 8.4 .1 and Sandy, I believe I turn it over to you for this report out?

Sandy Baur (32:44):

Yes. A little bit earlier, I gave the report out on the House Bill 1553 about extending the contract for the Washington Center for Real Estate Research and this is an example of the reports that they give.

(33:01):

This is just the highlights of the third quarter for 2024. We don't have the fourth quarter available yet In your packet there is a link to the Washington Center for Real Estate Research where there is this report and many other reports that they publish.

(33:20):

So just some of the highlights for Q3 is, existing home sales rose by 0.1% compared to this time last year or last quarter, but they fell 8.9% compared to this time last year. And permit activity rose 1.4% from this time last year as well.

(33:46):

The medium home price was 652,700, which is 2.6% higher than it was at this time last year. The housing affordability index has stayed consistent. It is above 100 in only three of Washington's 39 counties. So that remains consistent.

(34:13):

As far as the supply of housing, we currently, for Q3 last year, had 2.4 months supply of housing. The prior quarter was 2.2 and this time last year it was only two, so it's steadily increasing. There were just over 16,000 homes available for sale at the end of Q3, which is a 9.9 increase from this time last year or last quarter and 24.5% increase from this time last year.

(34:50):

And with that, are there any questions about the housing market report?

(35:02):

Excellent. Like I said, in the packet there's a link, I encourage you to go to the website to look at the data that they produce. It's some really interesting reports.

Eddie Chang (35:15):

Just a highlight for people. Who compiles this data?

Sandy Baur (35:21):

That's a great question. And the Washington Center for Real Estate Research is an independent think tank that is from the University of Washington.

Eddie Chang (35:32):

Funded by a-

Jennifer Clawson (35:33):

It is completely independent of the department.

Eddie Chang (35:38):

And funded by the legislature through our licensing piece.

Sandy Baur (35:42):

Correct. This is what that \$20 fee increase would be going to, to fund this research.

(35:55):

All right. Thank you so much.

(36:00):

And I believe this is still me.

Jennifer Clawson (36:02):

Yes it is.

Sandy Baur (36:04):

All right. This is just a quick recap of the master action items list, and the only thing that we had on the list was we had a recruitment open to fill two vacant seats. That is now complete.

Welcome to our two new commissioners and that is all of the master action items. I can't believe that we finally have a list of zero, for now.

Jennifer Clawson (36:27):

Good place to start the year off. Okay, great. So we are moving in to the public comment portion of our agenda. So I will now open the floor for the public to address the commission and share their thoughts, concerns, and requests. Written comments may be submitted at least two days prior to the meeting by email or DOL boards at dol.law.gov. Members of the public, while we are addressing the commission, please remember each member of the public is limited to one three minute comment. Comments submitted in writing count as your three minutes. Comments must be on the matter within the commission's jurisdiction. Commissioners are limited to directing staff to study the matter further or requesting the matter be scheduled for a later discussion.

(37:14):

Sandy, I would like to ask, were there any written comments submitted ahead of time?

Sandy Baur (37:19):

There were not.

Jennifer Clawson (37:23):

Okay. I will now open the floor and ask any public members that have their hands raised, they can raise their hands and then we will call on them to speak in the order their hands come up.

Sandy Baur (37:42):

I don't see any hands raised.

Eddie Chang (38:06):

This is a first time in my tenure that I haven't seen no public comment.

Jennifer Clawson (38:12):

I was just thinking that myself.

(38:22):

Sandy, how long do we typically keep public comment open waiting to see?

Sandy Baur (38:29):

I feel like you can close the floor whenever you're ready. We've left it open for over a minute. Maybe, is there anyone on the telephone who doesn't have the raise hand capability? Feel free to come off mute and give us your comments.

(39:06):

I don't hear anyone coming off mute.

Jennifer Clawson (39:09):

Okay, at this time I'm going to close the floor for public comment and we'll move to agenda 10, the conclusion. First we move into announcements. Are there any announcements that would like to be made? Sandy, it looks like you have one. I also have one so I can go before or after you. You just let me know.

Sandy Baur (39:34):

I'll go ahead and go first.

Jennifer Clawson (39:36):

Great.

Sandy Baur (39:36):

Staff would just like to announce that program specialist Saundra Schaefer has left DOL, a very big hole, while she pursues other opportunities. We really wish her well and we will miss her. For now, Alyssa Woods will be stepping up and assisting me. So be on the lookout for emails from Alyssa, and as always, feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any questions.

Jennifer Clawson (40:07):

Thank you, Sandy. The only additional announcement that I have is, many of you over the years had worked with one of our customer service specialist, Michael Leonard and he has retired state service and left really quietly. But I just wanted to share with all of you that he did. He's

headed to hang with his grandkids, so we're sad to see him go, but we're very appreciative of his service of the real estate licensees and I thought you all would want to know that.

(40:39):

That's all I have for announcements. Are there any other announcements from any commissioners? Okay, well we'll move to our agenda item 10.2 and request for future agenda items. Do any of our commissioners have a future agenda item that they would like to be considered?

Eddie Chang (41:07):

This is Vice Chair Chang. Is PSI's contract coming up? Are we going to be starting to talk about the review of the licensing stuff? The licensing tests?

Jennifer Clawson (41:21):

Their contract is coming up for review. How about if I put that on the agenda for our next commission meeting? Is that what you're wanting to do, Commissioner Chang? [inaudible 00:41:34].

Eddie Chang (41:35):

I'm just wondering what the timing of that is because we've had our struggles with PSI, not only with transfer information, testing, as well as that terrible personal information lapse last year. Wanted to see about what we're doing moving forward. And I know that we don't have great options, but at the very least when we're doing a review of contracts, maybe we can have a set of requests on the RFP.

Jennifer Clawson (42:07):

Yes. We are very much working on that, the agency side of things and we can definitely bring an update to our next meeting and provide an opportunity for you all to provide some feedback.

Eddie Chang (42:23):

Thank you.

Jennifer Clawson (42:30):

Any other future agenda items?

(42:40):

Okay Sandy, is this you reviewing our action items?

Sandy Baur (42:45):

Yep, this is me for right now, but I'm also going to maybe tag in Alyssa if I missed something. So for action items I got, Sandy will schedule subcommittee meetings with the new subcommittee members to review the scope of work for 2025. Staff Reports will move to an annual basis, but we will still include quarterly data in the packet, and as an agenda item added to the next meeting, a PSI contract update. Alyssa, did I miss anything?

Alyssa Woods (43:23):

No, I don't believe so. I just remember Chair Clawson had said that we would continue to bring information to the commission if anything arises surrounding complaints. But I believe that will be an ongoing effort. That's something that we try to do.

Sandy Baur (43:41):

Excellent. And commissioners, did I miss any agenda items or action item topics? Okay, thank you. Back to you, Chair Clawson.

Jennifer Clawson (43:58):

Okay, well we're now at the end of our meeting. I would just once again like to welcome our new commissioners. Thank you for applying and committing your time to the commission. We definitely appreciate all of our commissioners in this space. So at this time it's 11... No, it's 10:44 on February 13th and I'm going to adjourn this meeting.

(44:23):

Our next meeting will be via Teams on May 15, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. And a question. I think I said that it was February 13, 2024. It's 2025, for the record. Apparently I'm still slow there. Thank you all. Have a great day.

Group (44:43):

Thank you.

Sandy Baur (44:45):

And we can stop recording.