



**MEETING MINUTES
JULY 19, 2022**

**PORT OF ASTORIA
WORKSHOP SESSION
PIER ONE BUILDING
#10 PIER 1, SUITE 209
ASTORIA, OR 97103**

Call to Order:

Chairman Rohne called the Workshop Session to order at 4:05 pm.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Dirk Rohne; Robert Stevens; Frank Spence; Jim Campbell, and Scott McClaine.

Staff Present: Executive Director Will Isom; Deputy Director Matt McGrath; Terminal and Customer Support Manager Susan Transue; and Executive Assistant / Administrative Coordinator Stacy Bandy.

Port Counsel: Eileen Eakins was not present for this session.

Also Attending: Rob Seitz; Cary Lewin; and Mike Haggren.

Pledge of Allegiance

Changes/Additions to the Agenda:

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

Public Comment:

- Rob Sietz, boatyard customer, and owner of the South Bay fishing vessel and restaurant comments that the boatyard is an asset. He appreciates the nature of the independent haul-out facility. He and his son have been able to work on their boat themselves, making improvements affordable. He also appreciates the vendors available to hire for services. Sietz adds that in the area, there are a lot of boats bigger than Seitz's that would benefit from a larger TraveLift. A larger lift would employ more people and be a great asset to the community. Seitz concludes that the boatyard manager, Brendon Stock, is a great person to run the facility.
- Mike Haggren comments that the boatyard is a good facility but too small. Haggren urges the Port to reconsider the scope of the expansion. September through June, boatyards are packed. There is no place between Reedsport and Port Angeles to haul out a boat. He has spoken with Bob Dorn at Tongue Point (years ago), and the facility at tongue point is not for commercial fishing boats. A 330-ton lift would work for most vessels. Due to demand, he currently needs to make haul-out appointments six months in advance.

Action Items

6a. Commission Committee Assignments 2022-2023

Executive Director Isom explains that he met with Commissioner Campbell to discuss the committee assignments. In the past, some organizations were assigned to all Commissioners; attendance for those organizations will now be on an as-needed basis. Commissioner Campbell

recommended to no longer have a representative for Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District (Col-Pac) and, the Columbia River Estuary Taskforce (CREST). Isom explains that in the past, he worked with Col-Pac to develop the Port's strategic plan. Isom includes that traditionally assignments are carried over from the prior year and asks the Commissioner if they are interested in serving on different committees.

- The Commission discusses membership with Col-Pac. Commissioner Spence notes that Col-Pac is a valuable group to be a part of; he has been attending Col-Pac meetings for the past five years. The Commission will continue the Port's membership in ColPac.
- The Commission discusses membership with CREST. Commissioner Spence explains that the Port has been working with CREST for 50 years. Spence is currently the chairman of CREST. Commissioner Campbell discusses the damage to the airport infrastructure from the Vera Slough Tide Gate installation. Commissioner Rohne asks to hear from the Executive Director. The Port belongs to a number of organizations whose values align with our district. Isom explains that this matter is outside the confines of the Port's day-to-day business operations, and he would lean on the Commission as to which determination to make.

The 2022-2023 assignments are as follows:

- NWACTION – Commissioner McClaine
- COLPAC – Commissioner Stevens
- WFOA – Commissioner Stevens
- LCSG – Commissioner McClaine
- CEDR – Commissioner Rohne
- Clatsop Cruise Committee / Cruise Hosts – Commissioner Spence
- OPPA – Commissioner Spence and Commissioner McClaine
- Columbia River Salmon Advisory – Commissioner Rohne
- OCZMA – Commissioner Spence
- Regional Solution Group – Commissioner Spence
- Airport Advisory Committee – Commissioner Campbell
- Budget Committee – All Commissioners
- Marina Advisory Committee – Commissioner Stevens and Commissioner Campbell
- City of Cannon Beach – As Needed Basis: Staff/Commissioner
- City of Seaside – As Needed Basis: Staff/Commissioner
- City of Gearhart – As Needed Basis: Staff/Commissioner
- City of Astoria – As Needed Basis: Staff/Commissioner
- City of Warrenton – As Needed Basis: Staff/Commissioner
- Clatsop County – As Needed Basis: Staff/Commissioner
- Fish Expo – As Needed Basis: Staff/Commissioner
- LCTC – As Needed Basis: Staff/Commissioner

6b. Finance Committee

Executive Director Isom explains that John Lansing and Cliff Fick's terms on the Finance Committee expired in June. Finance, HR, & Business Services Manager Melanie Howard has reached out to Lansing and Fick, and both have agreed to extend their membership for another two years. Isom notes that the Port has not done any outreach for these vacancies though it was challenging to recruit the existing members in 2020.

Commissioner Campbell moved to extend John Lansing and Cliff Fick's terms on the Finance Committee to June of 2024. Commissioner McClaine seconded. The motion carried unanimously 5-0 amongst the Commissioners present.

Advisory Items:**7a. Executive Director Update**

- The CDC has discontinued its formal COVID-19 program for cruise ships.
- Isom invites Terminal and Customer Support Manager Susan Transue to discuss the recent North West Marine Terminals Association (NWMTA) meeting. Transue explains that the NWMTA is a voluntary association comprised of deepwater ports and marine terminal operators in Oregon and Washington. The group typically meets several times a year, though this past meeting was the first in-person meeting in two years. The meetings are an opportunity for members to exchange information and to facilitate long-range industry planning on issues that affect terminal operations. Several ports have received a letter from the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) regarding their deep water status, which affects Port's antitrust protections. NWMTA has responded to this letter and sought legal counsel; a response has not been received from FMC. Transue discusses the recent Ocean Shipping Reform Act signed on June 13th. For details, please see the meeting audio. The NWMTA thanks the Port and the Commission for hosting the group, as well as the Columbia River Bar Pilots and Dan Jordan for taking the group on an Astoria waterfront tour. Lastly, the first fall cruise ship is expected on September 6th.
- The City of Astoria will be hosting the Astoria Waterfront Zoning Kickoff call next Friday with consultants Walker Macy to begin the formal process of zoning and code amendments.
- Audit firm Talbot, Korvola, & Warwick (TKW) will be onsite next week for interim fieldwork for the annual audit.
- Thanks to Commissioner Stevens for completing the Special District Association of Oregon (SDAO) Board Training. All Commissioners need to complete the training for the Port to receive an insurance credit. Additionally, two Commissioners are needed to sign up for the Board Leadership Academy.
- The Port has not had a holiday party since the pandemic began. This year the Port will resume the tradition; staff will have a date set soon. It's important to have an end-of-year gathering to reflect upon the year's challenges and progress.

Commission Comments:

Commissioner Spence commented on the following:

- Commissioner Spence would like the demolition of the Chinook building to be pursued; it is low-hanging fruit, and can be completed without planning.

Commissioner Campbell commented on the following:

- Would like to invite potential customers waiting to build to the Port.

Commissioner Stevens commented on the following:

- Inquires if there are updates as to the status of the Brim negotiations. Deputy Director McGrath answers that he met with Gary Lewin last Monday; the plan is to have weekly meetings until the matter is resolved.
- Attended a Zoom meeting with the Oregon Forestry Department. They did not discuss timber fund allocation in the meeting. They are still in the process of defining terms.
- The SDAO training is easy to complete; there are videos available on the SDAO website featuring George Dunkel.
- *The Astorian* reported on the Columbia River Basin in terms of exports. The article claimed that \$4.2 billion annually comes through the basin.

Commissioner McClaine commented on the following:

- Encourages all Commissioners to attend the Clatsop County Fair and observe the marketing potential for the Port.

Commissioner Rohne commented on the following:

- Excited that Walker Macy is helping coordinate the zoning amendments. It is beneficial to have a third party facilitate the process to move the City and the Port in the same direction.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- Regular Session – August 2, 2022 at 4:00 PM
- Workshop Session – August 16, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Adjourned:

Chairman Rohne adjourned the meeting at 4:58 PM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Dirk Rohne, Board Chairman
Board of Commissioners

Frank R. Spence, Secretary
Board of Commissioners

Respectfully submitted by:
Stacy Bandy
Executive Assistant / Administrative Coordinator

September 6, 2022
Date Approved by Commission