

PORT OF THE DALLES COMMISSION
Regular Session Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Port Administrative Office

The Regular Session Meeting of the Port Commissioners was called to order by President Greg Weast at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL Executive Assistant Toepke

- **COMMISSION** Greg Weast, Robert Wallace, Staci Coburn, David Griffith, John Willer
- **STAFF** Andrea Klaas, Executive Director; Jennifer Toepke, Executive Assistant; Bill Dick, Attorney
- **GUESTS** Jeff Renard, Airport Manager, Columbia Gorge Regional Airport

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Commissioner Weast

AGENDA CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS Executive Director Klaas None

PUBLIC COMMENT OR QUESTION None

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS Stands as included in meeting packet

ACTION ITEMS

1. **February 16, 2022, Regular Session Meeting Minutes** Approved by Consensus
2. **February 2022 Financial Reports** Approved by Consensus
3. **Reappoint Budget Committee Members Steve Kramer, Position #1 & Ryan Bessette, Position #5, for another 3-year term expiring 06/30/2024** Approved by Consensus

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. *Strategic Investment Program/Community Service Fee*
 - Should schools be included or excluded in the CSF distribution method? 4 Yes and 1 No
 - Should there be an allocation (proposed at 50% right now), for a set aside for a community project? This is estimated to be about \$840,000.00/year. 5 Yes and 0 No
 - Should the distribution follow the tax rate percentages, or some other method? 0 Yes and 5 No *Perhaps no decision should be taken, and it should be sent to the State (Business Oregon) to decide

REPORTS

1. *Staff Report* Executive Director Klaas Stands as included in meeting packet.
2. *Committee Reports*
 - *Community Outreach Team* Commissioner Weast Meeting for Washington, D.C. travelers only on March 25th, then the group leaves on the 26th. Most meetings will be in person, some are still virtual – each agency has its own interpretation of the Hill Physician’s current recommendations concerning Covid-19
 - *Urban Renewal* Commissioner Coburn New strategic plan is in process. The City of The Dalles met concerning The Dalles 2040. Working with a financial consultant to find out how we want to work, attract businesses, etc. There is a grant for the Tony’s Building – hopefully getting it demolished will be paid for by grants only – the Brownfields Program was also helpful in mitigating some of the tanks in the sidewalk.
 - *The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce* Commissioner Griffith The Chamber has not met for a while. Lisa and her team are busy at sports and tourism shows around the State. Government Affairs is weekly on Zoom. The Cherry Festival is back and set for April 22-24th in downtown The Dalles. There is going to be a Bass Tournament in May. The Cascade Locks Port has a 40,000 square foot area in their business center that will be available next month.
 - *Dufur* Commissioner Wallace ED Klaas coordinated a meeting with the City of Dufur, the City’s Engineer, Business Oregon, and the Governors Regional Office, to discuss the what’s needed for the freshwater system in Dufur. They are in the very early stages of the design – it is unclear where/how the Port might

be able to help – we’ll wait to see what the City suggests. Concerning wastewater, the City is receiving \$1 million from Senator Merkley’s Office. They are probably one year out to finish the whole project and unfortunately the project price is increasing every month. WyEast received a \$100,000 for groundwater storage for the creek – protecting the endangered Steelhead from the Columbia River. The money will mainly go to the conservation district – they and the watershed are behind the project. The main question now is, who is going to operate and manage the facility. Wasco County Broadband Committee: the talk is always on fiber – so I posed the question, what about wireless? We had a healthy discussion about that. Emergency Communication is cell phone based – lower 15 mile don’t have cell phones – so how do you communicate? My suggestion was to look at an overlay for the fiber going into the County – then see how to service. Lastly, the Dufur Threshing Bee – is set to happen in August, as previously scheduled.

- *Wasco County Economic Development Committee* EA Toepke Reviewed the final Community Enhancement Project Ranking: 1) Dog River Pipeline 2) Deschutes Rim Health Clinic Expansion 3) Mosier Joint Use Facility 4) Dufur Drinking Water System Improvements 5) Cascades East Interconnection Colocation Facility 6) Columbia Gorge Childcare Center (CGCC) 7) Deschutes Rim Athletic Complex 8) Sorosis Park Redevelopment 9) South County Fiber Expansion 10) Dufur Rural Innovation Hub Continued on to highlight main areas of Strategic Planning Strategies: Robust Infrastructure/Community Capacity/Information Source and Advocacy/Vibrant and Diverse Local Economy/Strong and Sustainable EDC. EA Toepke has volunteered to specifically be involved in the areas of Vibrant and Diverse Local Economy and Robust Infrastructure

REGULAR SESSION ADJOURNED AT 8:01 P.M. & EXECUTIVE SESSION COMMENCED AT 8:02 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNED AT 8:11 P.M. & REGULAR SESSION RESUMED AT 8:12 P.M.


ACTION REQUIRED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION None

COMMISSION CALL

- Happy to be meeting in person again!
- Commissioner Wallace to forward information on two grants that the Port may qualify for: agriculture and creating markets for sustainable products

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE PORT COMMISSION, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

PORT OF THE DALLES:



Greg Weast, President
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



David A. Griffith, Secretary
Board of Commissioners

DATE APPROVED: April 13, 2022

Prepared by: Jennifer Toepke, Executive Assistant