

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Port of Whitman County

Date: 12/8/20

Observer Reporting: Carolyn Joswig-Jones & Kimberly Thompson

Length of Meeting: 55"

Members Present: **Commissioners:**

Karl Webber (District 1)

Kristine Meyer (District 2)

Tom Kammerzell (District 3)

Staff:

~~Joe Poire – Executive Director~~

Brenda Stav - Finance Director

Kara Riebold - Chief Operating Officer

Sarah Highfield - Communications Director

~~Debbie Snell – Properties & Development Manager~~

~~Matthew Johnson – Port Attorney~~

WPPA (Washington Public Port Association)

POWBAC (Port of Whitman Business Air Center – airport in Colfax)

PIP (Pullman Industrial Parks East and West)

PNWA (Pacific Northwest Waterways Association)

NWRP (Northwest River Partners)

SWEDA (Southeast Washington Economic Development Association)

USACE (United State Army Corps of Engineers)

RCW (Revised Code of WA)

Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:

(See below for full report of meeting) **Highlight Comments**

- Port's new website is up. Looks great.
- Port supports Whitman County Chambers by paying membership dues and will hold them to standards by checking in with them to help if needed. Pullman Chamber gets more than just dues.
- "Recreation and Tourism – Updated policy, full draft attached below. Doing away with responsibility "to construct, improve, maintain, and operate public park and recreation facilities." Seems like Boyer Park is to be the only recreational park the Port will support. The Port will offer letters of support and human resource for tourism related projects.
- Gateway" Steam Plant – there is continuing discussion for Port, City and university representatives to explore development around the gateway connecting WSU and downtown Pullman.

To view Meeting Agenda, Minutes and all supportive materials follow this link:

<https://portwhitman-web.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/meetings/agendas/2020-12-08/2020-12-08%20Agenda.pdf>

Port of Whitman County Commissioners Meeting took place via **Zoom and teleconference**. The Port is back to all online meetings since Governor proclamation. Port staff, if in the office were behind closed doors.

Public comment: none to report

Commissioner and Staff Updates: none to report

OLD BUSINESS:

Valley Vision/Chamber Report

Commission discussed funding for Valley Vision (<https://lewis-clarkvalley.org>) and Whitman County Chambers. They approved \$2,000 for total funding: Whitman County Chambers' membership fees at the dues level for Palouse Chamber (\$25), Tekoa Chamber (\$75), Colfax Chamber (\$300), Roselia Chamber no longer exists, and for the Pullman Chamber (\$458 dues plus supplemented to the total of \$800). It was approved to support Valley Vision for \$800, lower than requested amount of \$2,000 because the Port of Wilma is the only Whitman County property that falls in the Valley Vision (Lewiston/Clarkston) region of support. Commissioner Meyer would like the Chambers and Valley Vision memberships "investment to be

relational” and to meet with them to hold them to a standard of service. Commissioner Webber thought it important to engage with the smaller organizations and help them get up to par.

Port Calendar-Resolution 20-24

Calendar for Jan-Mar 2021 was approved and will be posted on their website.

Port's Support of Recreation and Tourism – Updated policy was approved

Doing away with responsibility “to construct, improve, maintain, and operate public park and recreation facilities” except for Boyer Park.

Full rescinded and revised policy attached below, revised here in part...

1. The Port is primarily an industrial real estate developer measuring part of its success in terms of new jobs created and new tax bases developed. Although significant to the Port, the recreation and tourism provider aspect of the Port's mission is secondary to industrial and economic development.
2. Internal projects currently operated and supported by the Port of Whitman County satisfy the tourism and promotion aspects of the Port of Whitman County Comprehensive Plan. The Port of Whitman County has identified three areas of emphasis in the promotion of recreation and tourism in Whitman County but is not limited to:
 - Moscow Pullman Regional Airport
 - Port of Whitman Business Air Center
 - Boyer Park and Marina
3. Consistent with RCW 53.08.255 (tourism promotion) and other applicable statutes, the Port of Whitman County can offer letters of support and human resource time to all communities and organizations throughout the county to assist with tourism and tourism-related facilities projects in Whitman County.

FY 2020 SPRINT Challenge Grant – for technology-based economic development

“The City of Pullman submitted a grant application for the U.S. Economic Development Administration’s FY 2020 Scaling Pandemic Resilience Through Innovation and Technology (Sprint) Challenge. ... Several of the activities included in the grant were envisioned with a physical meeting space in mind, so there is still opportunity for synergy between the Port, City, Washington State University and the Small Business Development Center. ... there has been discussion of convening of group of Port, City and university representatives to explore development around the gateway connecting WSU and downtown Pullman. Last week, Port staff attended a meeting where a landscape architecture professor presented some of his students’ designs for this area surrounding the College Avenue Steam Plant in the year 2050.”

Petrichor Update

Petrichor Broadband LLC is “continuing to keep the focus of getting urban levels of service (1 gig) at urban pricing to rural areas.” Membership within this organization are impressed with Chief Operating Officer Riebold and Director Poire in their leadership role. A full report of the update given on November 16th is available in the Port’s meeting agenda and supportive material. (link above)

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Director Evaluation Form –

New evaluation forms were approved by the commissioners and are to be “used by the Port Commission to evaluate past performance and provide guidance to the Executive Director (after consultation with the Executive Director) for goals and priorities for the future period.”

Draft- 2021 Executive Director’s Authority Resolution

A draft of Resolution 21-01 which delegates administrative powers and duties of the executive director and designees and repeals prior resolutions dealing with the same was presented for review. It will be presented at the Jan 7th meeting for adoption. Full draft can be seen in the Port’s meeting agenda and supportive material. (link above)

It was discussed, within this drafted authority, that the Commissioners approve a budget for a group of salaries and benefits, but the Executive Director will have the authority to distribute.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (closed to public)

There was a 20-minute closed session

Upcoming Meetings

- Washington Public Ports Finance Seminar, December 9, 2020 via Zoom

RESOLUTION 20-26

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR MONETARY AND OTHER
SUPPORT REQUESTS FOR TOURISM AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS IN WHITMAN COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Port of Whitman County Commissioners recognize the value and benefit of tourism and recreation to Whitman County; and

WHEREAS, RCW 53.08.260 authorizes port districts to construct, improve, maintain, and operate public park and recreation facilities when such facilities are necessary to more fully utilize boat landings, harbors, wharves and piers, air, land, and water passenger and transfer terminals, waterways, and other port facilities authorized by law pursuant to the port's comprehensive plan of harbor improvements and industrial development; and

WHEREAS, RCW 53.08.255 authorizes port districts to expend moneys and conduct promotion of resources and facilities in the district or general area by advertising, publicizing, or otherwise distributing information to attract visitors and encourage tourist expansion; and

WHEREAS, the Commission wishes to rescind Resolution 03-03 pertaining to guidelines for monetary requests for tourism and recreation development projects in Whitman County and adopt a new guidelines.

NOW THEREFORE, the Port Commission of Whitman County does hereby resolve as follows:

Resolution 03-03 is rescinded in its entirety; and

The following guidelines for monetary and other support requests for tourism and recreation development projects in Whitman County are established.

1. The Port is primarily an industrial real estate developer measuring part of its success in terms of new jobs created and new tax bases developed. Although significant to the Port, the recreation and tourism provider aspect of the Port's mission is secondary to industrial and economic development.

2. Internal projects currently operated and supported by the Port of Whitman County satisfy the tourism and promotion aspects of the

Port of Whitman County Comprehensive Plan. The Port of Whitman County has identified three areas of emphasis in the promotion of recreation and tourism in Whitman County but is not limited to:

- Moscow Pullman Regional Airport
- Port of Whitman Business Air Center
- Boyer Park and Marina

3. Consistent with RCW 53.08.255 (tourism promotion) and other applicable statutes, the Port of Whitman County can offer letters of support and human resource time to all communities and organizations throughout the county to assist with tourism and tourism-related facilities projects in Whitman County.

The foregoing Resolution of the Port of Whitman County was duly adopted by its Board of Commissioners at its meeting of the 8th day of December, 2020.

DATED AND SIGNED this 8th day of December, 2020.

THE PORT OF WHITMAN COUNTY,
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By _____
TOM KAMMERZELL, President

By _____
KRISTINE A.K. MEYER, Vice President

By _____
KARL WEBBER, Secretary