

## League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Port of Whitman County Date: 09/17/20

Observer Reporting: Kimberly Thompson Length of Meeting: 50 minutes  
Members Present/Absent: Commissioners: John E. Love (District 1) Retired July 15  
Kristine Meyer (District 2)  
Tom Kammerzell (District 3)

Staff: Joe Poire - Executive Director; Kara Riebold - Chief Operating Officer  
Debbie Snell - Properties & Development Manager; Brenda Stav - Finance Director  
Sarah Highfield - Communications Director; Matthew Johnson - Port Attorney

### Others Present (i.e., media, public):

Linda Fowler - Whitman County Gazette  
Arlen James Babb—from Rosalia, applying for Commissioner District 1  
Nathan Weller – Pullman City Council, applying for Commissioner District 1

*CERB (Community Economic Revitalization Board)*  
*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)*

### Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:

(See below for full report of meeting)

#### \* Four people applying for the **District 1 Commissioner:**

- 1) Nathan Weller from Pullman
- 2) Carl Webber from Tekoa
- 3) Arlen James Babb from Rosalia
- 4) Chuck Petris from Farmington

These four applicants will each have an interview with 30 minutes allotted between 10 a.m.-noon on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

\* CFTA's (Central Ferry Terminal Association) **sale of assets and assignment of lease to Pomeroy Grain Growers** will have to wait until the new District 1 Commissioner is hired. Matt Johnson explained that a majority vote is needed and because Tom Kammerzell owns some interest in one of the parties involved, his vote cannot be counted.

\* **Pioneer Port Meeting** is scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup> in the evening. This meeting will be facilitated via Zoom by someone at the Port of Whitman.

\* **Port of Whitman donated \$500 to PNWA**

\* Someone (most attendees were via Zoom and I'm not sure who was speaking) mentioned **RTPO** (Regional Transportation Planning Organization) **bike trails** being interested in getting Washington trails on the map when there are bike rides coast to coast.

**Under New Business the Port added two additional items:**

1) A new tenant applied to lease an airport hanger at the Colfax air center.

2) There was a CERB meeting before today's Port meeting and during meeting Kara Riebold & staff were given enthusiastic support for their **ongoing fiber project**. CERB agreed to have the Port use the allotted money (\$2,000,000) to expand the fiber project to 5 more extensions. This is in addition to the 3 extensions and 5 towns already in process.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**Inland NW Partners** meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>: 2020 **regional economic forecast**: COVID'S impact on closing restaurants is looking to be as high as 60% of restaurants not re-opening  
NW Partners is having another virtual meeting on October 28th which is titled 'The importance of digital inclusion' which is about Zoom & other digital communication platforms.

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

<http://www.portwhitman.com/about/commissionmeeting>

**To view the Port meeting calendar:**

[http://www.portwhitman.com/pdf/Port\\_Calendar\\_2020.01.01-2020.06.30\\_Revised.pdf](http://www.portwhitman.com/pdf/Port_Calendar_2020.01.01-2020.06.30_Revised.pdf)