

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: **Port of Whitman County Commission**

January 10, 2019

Observer Reporting: Bobbie Ryder

Length of mtg: 1.75 hrs

Members Present: Bruce Ensley, Tom Kammerzell, John Love, Kristine A.K. Meyer, Joe Poire, Debbie Snell

Guests: Kara Davidson (Gazette), Linda Fender, Bobbie Ryder (LWV Observer Corps)

What was being discussed:

Kristine Meyer is the new Chair of the Commissioners. My observation is that she is well-liked and fair-minded. She is an attorney by trade. John Love is the VP and Tom Kammerzell is the Secretary. Minutes from previous meeting were approved. Slate of officers approved. Banking resolution 19-01, vouchers and receivables approved.

Old Business:

Commissioner Updates: **Inland Ports and Navigation Group (IPNG) accelerated the EIS Study** which is being done because of concern with the ability of Bonneville Power Authority (BPA) to produce enough power. The interests in navigation should be paramount according to this group. An economic impact study of the Snake River will be conducted by WSU. They have started with a questionnaire survey. The final WSU study is expected by 2020. There will be an "Our Columbia-Snake River" meeting on January 17 in Lewiston where this subject will be discussed.

Kristine reported on a **SWEDA** (Southeastern Washington Economic Development Association) meeting on January 8th. There is a new member, Rachel Anderson, who works with aging and long-term care. SWEDA approved the 2019 calendar. Columbia County is no longer part of SWEDA. They reviewed the new "opportunity zone", but does not seem as promising as they had hoped due to challenges with grant rules.

Joe Poire reported on the **Port Broadband Working Group** held January 9th in Tacoma. There was discussion about broadband legislation, the formation of a new Ports Broadband Sub-Committee as part of the Economic Development Committee of WPPA and the benefits of interlocal agreements versus the formation of an LLC.

Boyer Park Marina: Drawings from the consultant and permitting is moving along. They will permit the entire project. McDonald will review the docs in January and report to the Commissioners.

New Business:

The Commissioners reviewed the **2018 Executive Director Grant of Authority**. This prevents the Executive Director from moving forward on a decision without resolution. This will continue.

Newspaper subscription access; The Port will still get internet access, but a hard copy of the paper will be on the front counter for public service. It is no longer necessary to clip articles from the paper for the archives.

Reminders:

- Columbia-Snake River System Update, (Lunch) Lewiston Red Lion, January 17, 2019
- Strategic Planning Meeting, January 28, 2019, 10:00 a.m., Henley Court Building, Pullman, WA.
- WPPA Port Day, January 29, 2019, Olympia, WA
- Port/County Joint Commission Meeting, February 4, 2019, at County Commission Chambers.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50.