

LWV – Pullman

Observer Corps Report

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

May 23, 2019

Observer Reporting: Bobbie Ryder Length of mtg: 2 hrs plus 1.25 hour travel time

Members Present: Bruce Ensley, Tom Kammerzell, John Love, Kristine A.K. Meyer, Joe Poire, Brenda Stave (WC Port)

Guests: Jana Matchia (Colfax Gazette), Bobbie Ryder (LWV Observer Corps)

What was being discussed:

Kristine Meyer opened the meeting with review of vouchers and a discussion of what funds were spent on which projects. Most of the questions were prompted by Commissioner Kammerzell. All vouchers were approved.

The meeting was closed at 10:20 so that the Commissioners could **drive to Boyer Park & Marina for their annual site meeting at the Boyer Marina restaurant**. I drove separately because I was going back to Pullman afterward. While waiting for the van to arrive I walked around the marina docks and could see why they are eager to start repairing the docks.

After a beautiful trip down the Snake River Canyon, the meeting reconvened at 11:30 am.

Public Meetings of interest to League –

- Washington Public Ports meeting was attended by C. Kammerzell on May 15-17.
- Pullman Chamber of Commerce was attended by C. Kammerzell on May 14
- 2019 Spring Meeting of WA Public Ports was attended by C. Meyer and C. Kammerzell on May 6.
- The Palouse Coulee City (PCC) mtg was attended by C. Meyer. Omaha Track was selected as a contractor to manage the PNL rail line.

Old Business:

United Cargo and Bennett Lumber Assignment of Lease and Consent of Assignment:

United Cargo is doing land trading with Bennet Lumber which requires approval from the Port to transfer between the two entities. Staff recommends approval. Motion and Consent approved.

Value Added Ag Update:

Brian Kraft at WSU Pullman has taken over the leadership of the **Food Science Corridor** project. Both WSU and UW are trying to fund faculty positions for the program. The focus is around baking and flours as well as the enterprise of sprits and malting micro brew beers.

There will be a **“Cascadia Grains” Conference** in Moscow & Pullman on July 12-13 that is sponsored by the Port of Whitman County.

Mader to Port Land Purchase:

This was a boundary line adjustment that was surveyed and approved by the City of Pullman.

Snake River Family Festival:

Saturday, June 8th, 11am – 3pm at Boyer Park.

500 people are expected to attend. WSU is catering the event.

Brandon Chapman, Joe Schmick, Mark Bringham (Parks Commission) will attend.

Broadband Subcommittee – LLC Formation Update:

This committee is working toward presenting a draft document to be used as a starting point to form an LLC to provide broadband infrastructure across the state. It is being driven by 10-12 Ports.

New Business**Resolution 19-08 – WSDOT Airport Aid Grant**

This is a funding assistance drainage project. The Port will pay about 5 cents on the dollar.

Approved.

Eastern Washington Legislative Tour – End of September. This is considered a “pay-to-play” kind of tour. SEL and Avista committed \$5K. Kristine Meyer suggested that if the Port decide to pay, the Legislators should get bussed to the Port of Wilma and to see pieces of Snake River projects. Tom Kammerzell would like the Legislators to see Granite Dam. Port approved \$5K for the Legislative Tour.

Media Contract: Approved for \$5,400 to create a message for 12 ports (other ports are paying in same amount) about Ports, Shipping, Bar Pilots, Crop Growers, and other associations. PNW Waterways will manage the contract.

Process & Protocol (Observations about participants, conduct, and procedures of the meeting):

The Commissioners have been consistently welcoming and willing to answer questions for clarification. They tend to use acronyms; however, they are always willing to explain what questions I may have.

Reminders

- Memorial Day, May 27- Office Closed
- Snake River Family Festival, Saturday, June 8, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m., Boyer Park & Marina
- Palouse Commercial Real Estate 2019 Market Review, June 14, 2019, 12-1 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15.