

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Port of Whitman County

Date: 06/18/20

Observer Reporting: Kimberly Thompson

Length of Meeting: 60+ minutes

Members Present/Absent:

Commissioners: John E. Love (District 1)
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
Bruce Ensley, attorney in for Matthew Johnson-port attorney

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

Evan Ellis-Pullman Radio

Following are topics covered in the meeting of possible interest to League:

Old Business:

*WPPA(Washington public ports association) meetings were attended in Olympia and **concern for lack of traffic/transportation funding** was expressed with an expected 20% budget cut. The port was given the OK to get broadband to rural areas. The port continues to reach out to small towns to see their interest in **obtaining broadband**.

***Port of York** is purchasing a property(Locust Grove) and an extension on their proposal was approved

*CERB(community economic revitalization board) Grant for the **Wilma Road rehabilitation project** was approved

*RCO(recreation conservation office) Grant Update: last section of **permit was received from National Marine Fisheries Services**

***Website Maintenance & reconfiguration** was approved

*RDOF(rural digital opportunity fund) **auction** update: Reid is consulting group helping port with the auction. Reid will reach out to telecommunications companies for bids

*Commissioner Meyer requested a thank you be sent to **Rep. Cathy McMorris** for her help in expediting the RCO Grant from NMFS. A thank you note will also be sent to The McGregor Company who supplied free face masks to the port.

New Business:

***.09 Fiber Extension Request:** \$1,000,000 approved for this optic cable & extension was requested of port for the laying of the cable. Port agreed to extend the placement of the cable past 12/31/20.

***Wilbur Ellis Lease Extension Request & Expansion Project:** WE requested help from port with SEPA(state environmental protection act) as well as permission to put trailers on additional sites while they are doing

construction. It was suggested that work the port wants done & has already been budgeted for be done at same time as Wilbur Ellis for cost effectiveness.

*TMDL(total max daily load) Report Consultant-the study of the **heat pollution in the river** before and after the dams is being done by a Mr. McKern from Oregon State University. "The EPA will accept public comments on the TMDL from May 21 through July 21, 2020 by email to ColumbiaRiverTMDL@epa.gov."

Before the Port had their Executive Session(covering personnel, real estate & security) which was not open to the public; **Commissioner John Love gave his resignation which will be effective 7/15/20**. Appreciation for his long-time service & mentorship was voiced and his resignation was accepted.

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

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

Port meeting calendar: http://www.portwhitman.com/pdf/Port_Calendar_2020.01.01-2020.06.30_Revised.pdf

Port of Whitman County Commissioners Meeting took place via video and teleconference. Participation could be **online or by phone**. Commissioner Meyer & Kammerzell, Kara Riebold & Bruce Ensley were present in the port's office for the meeting. Public are muted during the meeting except during public comment periods at the beginning and before the end of the meeting. All people present were accounted for before the meeting continued.