

## League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

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

**Date:** 03/25/21

**Observer Reporting:** Kimberly Thompson

**Length of Meeting:** 55 min

**Members Present:**

**Commissioners:** Karl Webber (District 1)  
Kristine Meyer (District 2)  
Tom Kammerzell (District 3)

**Staff:**

Joe Poire - Executive Director (ED) Brenda Stav - Finance Director  
Kara Riebold - Chief Operating Officer (COO) Sarah Highfield - Communications Director  
Debbie Snell - Properties & Development Manager  
Seth Woolson / Frank Chmelik - counsel from Chmelik, Sitkin & Davis Attorneys at Law

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

<https://portwhitman-web.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/meetings/agendas/2021-03-25/2021-03-25%20Agenda.pdf>

Port of Whitman County Commissioners Meeting took place via Zoom and teleconference. The commissioners and Director Poire are together in conference room all wearing masks. Port staff, if in the office were behind closed doors.

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)  
Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)

**Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:** (See below for full report of meeting)

- Sent a letter in response to Simpson Dam Breaching Plan
- 2021 Snake River Family Festival, May 1-31 at Boyer Park & Marina
- Approved \$10,000 to support to PNWA 2021 River Values Media Campaign
- Approved \$2,500 to support to the 2021 Northwest River Partners' Our Power is Water Media Campaign
- \*\*\*Funding Request for \$45M for Power Plant cleanup and rebuild in response to Senator Murray Infrastructure Request

**Commissioner and Staff Updates:**

PNW meeting was discussed and change of Palouse Knowledge Corridor meeting to Friday.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**FAA contract documents**

Commission appointed the **Port COO**, Kara Riebold, to sign all **FAA contract documents**.

**Rep. Simpson Lewis-Clark Valley Community Letter**

Commission sent letter to the Washington and Idaho Delegation Members **opposing Rep. Mike Simpson's Snake River dam breaching concept** on March 25 with additional signatories in Whitman County: Port of Garfield County, The McGregor Company, Pomeroy Grain Growers, Pacific Northwest Farmers Cooperative, Mayor Dennis Palmer (Town of Oakesdale), Mayor Steve Salzman (Town of Endicott), Mayor Randy Camp (Town of LaCrosse), Mayor Bob Falkenstein (Town of Lamont), Mayor Troy Wilson (City of Tekoa), Mayor Lee Root (Town of Rosalia)

## **2021 Snake River Family Festival**

May 1-31 at Boyer Park & Marina, free ice cream and goody bags. For more information go to the festival Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/snakeriverfamilyfestival/>

**Port Calendar**--Shared information on Port Calendar and Open Public Meetings Act

## **Wilma Road Project**

**Petrichor Broadband was added & discussed**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Phase 3 of Healthy Washington Plan** – following phase 3

### **PNWA “River Values” 2021 Campaign**

Commission approved \$10,000 to support to Pacific Northwest Waterways Association 2021 River Values Media Campaign for the Columbia-Snake River System as budgeted in 2021. Campaign flyer attached below.

### **NWRP “Our Power is Water” 2021 Campaign**

Commission approved \$2,500 support to the 2021 Northwest River Partners’ Our Power is Water Media Campaign as budgeted in 2021. Media ad can be viewed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsvNVcdln4U&t=3s>

“The 2020 Our Power is Water campaign reached about 2 million younger adults and shifted perspectives on the hydropower system,” as seen below in the attached graph.

There is an extensive letter from Kurt Miller on subject Hydropower Needs Your Help! that can be seen in full in the Port meeting agenda and supported materials using the link at the beginning of this report.

### **Pioneer Ports**

The Port of Clarkston was a scheduled to host a Pioneer Ports meeting in January and the Port of Lewiston is next scheduled in May.

### **Senator Murray Infrastructure Request**

“Senator Murray requested infrastructure projects in Washington State for possible upcoming legislation. Port staff worked with Washington State University to fill out the attached form for the **proposed College Avenue Steam Plant project**. If funded, this would complete all phases of the proposed Steam Plant renovation.”

“The project entails cleanup up and remediation of petroleum and PCB contamination. Following remediation, the space will be developed to advance a variety of functions, including: 1) lab and education spaces, 2) co-work and clean tech incubation space, and 3) commercial enterprise.”

Funding Request:

Cost estimate for cleanup and remediation \$14.875M

Cost estimate for development and buildout \$30.125M

Total \$45M

Full request form can be seen in full in the Port meeting agenda and supported materials using the link at the beginning of this report.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

- Washington Public Ports Association 2021 Spring Meeting, May 19-21 via Zoom
- Pacific Northwest Waterways Association 2021 Summer Conference, June 22-24

# THE COLUMBIA-SNAKE RIVER SYSTEM

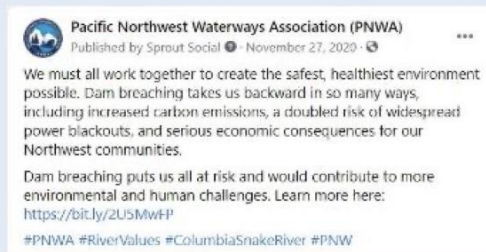
Supporting a secure future for all Pacific Northwesterners

JOIN US ►

## River Values: Columbia Snake River System Campaign 2021

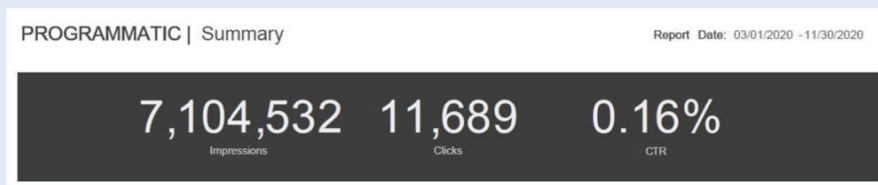
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association and our members have always believed that we can have healthy rivers that sustain our Northwest economy, environment and culture. Our region's residents deserve to hear the facts that support this belief – especially now, when well-organized and -funded groups continue to falsely tie the Columbia and Snake rivers to a variety of salmon, orca and other environmental problems.

In 2020, a subset of the PNWA membership initiated an **intensive communication campaign** to spotlight the critical roles our region's navigable rivers and hydroelectric dams play in supporting both the economy and our environment. This campaign included:



- Website display ads and videos targeting politically active and moderate outdoor enthusiasts, environmentalists, wildlife lovers, and others.
- Social media ads targeting politically moderate Pacific Northwest residents who are not highly aware of the river system's benefits.
- Intensive outreach to both federal and state legislators and their staffs.

**Our 2020 campaign was both a tactical and strategic success.** Our digital marketing campaign delivered over 7.1 million ads, driving over 11,000 people to the [River Values web page](#) for further information.



And most federal and state legislators indicated at least moderate and often enthusiastic support for maintaining the river system and its many benefits to the region.

**The Columbia Snake River System 2021 Campaign will build on this work**, maintaining a tightly targeted digital marketing effort while putting an even sharper focus on federal and state government relations. We also plan to add proactive community outreach and both earned and paid media relations to reach key thought leaders and influencers throughout the region, making clear what PNWA members have known all along:

*Outside environmental groups do not understand or represent what our river system means to us.*

**Join us!** Your financial contribution will help PNWA continue this campaign through 2021, ensuring a Columbia Snake River System that supports clean energy, efficient and cost-effective transportation, jobs, and a bright future for us all. Contact Scott Clemans at 503-234-8551 or [scott.clemans@pnwa.net](mailto:scott.clemans@pnwa.net) to get involved.

# Our Power is Water

How Do You View Hydropower?

