

PORT OF THE DALLES COMMISSION
Regular Session Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 5:00 p.m.
Port Administrative Office
3636 Klindt Drive, The Dalles, Oregon

CALL TO ORDER The Regular Session Meeting of the Port Commissioners was called to order by Commission President Coburn at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL Executive Assistant Toepke

- COMMISSION Staci Coburn, President; Greg Weast, Vice-President; Jill Amery, Treasurer; John Willer, Secretary;
- ABSENT Ed DeVlaeminck, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
- STAFF Andrea Klaas, Executive Director; Jennifer Toepke, Executive Assistant/Bookkeeper,
- ABSENT Ashley Byers, Office Assistant
- LEGAL Bill Dick, Attorney, Dick, Dick & Corey, LLP
- GUESTS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Commissioner Weast

AGENDA CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS Addition: Dufur School District #29 Strategic Planning handout distributed; submitted by Community Partner, Kristin Whitley, Superintendent, as she was unavailable to attend the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT OR QUESTION None

DISCUSSION ITEMS None

REGULAR SESSION RECESSED AT 5:02 p.m. & EXECUTIVE SESSION COMMENCED AT 5:02 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions, and Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection *Media representatives are instructed not to report or disclose matters discussed in Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNED AT 5:10 p.m. & REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED AT 5:10 p.m.

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION None

CONSENT ITEMS Motion to approve Consent Items as presented: M/J. Willer, S/G. Weast, Motion passed unanimously. Voted Yes: S. Coburn, G. Weast, J. Amery, J. Willer Voted No: None; Abstained: None

1. March 11, 2026, Regular Session Meeting Minutes Executive Assistant Toepke

ACTION ITEMS None

REPORTS

1. Director's Report Executive Director Klaas Stands as included in meeting packet, plus highlighted that the Gorge PitchFest is coming up and it is disappointing that there are not many Wasco County businesses involved. Also, there is a free AI literacy course one can take from their cell phone. It is an easy way to receive quick lessons about AI. Executive Director Klaas stated that AI is here to stay, so we should know how to use it.
2. Financial Report: March 2026 Bookkeeper Toepke Stands as included in meeting packet.
3. The Dalles Community Outreach Team Executive Director Klaas Stands as included in meeting packet, plus Executive Director Klaas shared that they were under a tornado watch when they were in D.C.! A highlight of the trip was meeting with U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD). It was the first time that the

COT met them in D.C. The meeting was scheduled to discuss waterfront development. MARAD wants to help the folks that are working and learning on the water. They do have planning dollars available. Accordingly, POTD, City of The Dalles, and Wasco County will be meeting with Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC) to see if it is something that they might be interested in. Another highlight was meeting with CFM Advocates. The COT really liked their angle and representation of the Pacific Northwest. CFM will be sending over a proposal of how we could work together. Executive Director Klaas will be recommending that POTD be the point on this project. Commissioner Coburn added that a long conversation was held about H.R. 655 The Dalles Watershed Development Act and what we can do to see it get passed. There was also talk about the Portland Superfund Waste possibly being transported and disposed of in Wasco County. Though there is no way to affect the decision whether it comes to the County or not, we can watch and monitor safety on 5-Mile Road.

4. Columbia Gateway Urban Renewal Agency Board Commissioner Amery The meeting was exciting as the agency nears its sunset. The big question is what is the board going to do with the remaining money? Accordingly, the agency requests the POTD Commission's (individually) feedback on the subject. Let's schedule that for the June meeting as President Coburn will not be present for May's meeting. Lastly, it is exciting to have a Stelzer on the board now, she brings a great perspective.
5. Wasco County Economic Development Commission Executive Assistant Toepke No meeting, no report.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS *Stands as included in meeting packet*

COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATES

- Kathy Bostick, City Recorder, City of Dufur Ms. Bostick explained that the next project City of Dufur will take on is water, likely within one year. She continued to say that most likely the City will be on water restrictions this summer. The City is looking for some funding sources to buy generators and purchase new entry signs for the City of Dufur. Upcoming Events: Oregon Gravel Grinder is on April 26th and the Road Rally is on May 17th.
- Ann Ferguson, Dufur Recreation District Ms. Ferguson spoke of also taking a pause from grants and projects for the next year. The Recreation District is currently upgrading their campsites to make at least three of them ADA compliant. The swimming pool may open on Memorial Day Weekend. Executive Director Klaas offered Ms. Ferguson POTD letter(s) of support for grant applications, should they ever need them.
- Kameron Sam, District Ranger, Forest Service, Mt. Hood National Forest, Barlow and Hood River Ranger Districts Mr. Sam's position has an office in Dufur and Parkdale. He began with the fire season forecast. Low snowpack will make a for a challenging season. Currently the preparedness levels are being worked on, as they are every pre-season – with the difference being that fire activity is likely to start early this season – so preparedness is high for all the crews. Commissioner Weast asked Mr. Sam how the slash piles are going. The answer: there were 16,000 acres of piles last season – they managed to cut that in half. Another indicator of the hard season coming up, is that they are usually able to burn well into March – this year they could not, as there was not enough snow. Commissioner Weast then asked if Mr. Sam is aware of H.B. 655. He responded by saying that they are aware of it, however, they are in the Executive Branch, so they do not comment – they execute. Commissioner Coburn asked if they are allowed to hire more help to be better prepared. Mr. Sam said they were able to hire 5 extra people per crew for Mt. Hood Forest & ZigZag Hotshot's. Also, last year due to the budget, they could not hire non-fire seasonals; but this year they were able to hire 12 people. These seasonal employees primarily handle trail maintenance. Concerning the Forest Service reorganization, the agency will change from a regional model to a State based model. This will take a couple of years to implement. Currently there are 9 regions, these will be changed to 15 State Directors. The National Forests/Districts structure will remain the same. There are 15 non-fire employees at the Dufur Office, with fire around 27; the Parkdale Office has 12 employees, including a 6-person engine crew. These employees make sure that the public can enjoy the public forest without having roads closed. Firewood season opens April 13th; up to 6 chords are free with a permit.
- Robert Wallace, Executive Director, Wy'East Resource Conservation & Development Water & Energy Started by saying that he would be talking about items related to Mr. Sam's briefing: Fire, snowpack, water. He went on to say that the Oregon Water Conditions Report came out on April 6th, and the county is 49% less than normal in Oregon. Hood/Sandy/Deschutes counties are 20% less than normal. Compared to the last worst year, 2015 – when the county saw more rainfall but no snowpack. This year, there was no snowpack and no rain. The cherry and blueberry harvest may be 20 days ahead of schedule. With fuel costs up, labor challenges, and the water issues, they are trying to figure out how best to assist the farms and farmers. It is Mr. Wallace's forecast that this season will prove to be quite disastrous for these reasons. Concerning

energy, the County is lucky to have power from Northern Wasco County PUD; the only cheaper power is in Coulee Dam, Washington. Throughout the State utilities are selling off their utilities to others. Mr. Wallace went on to list different power companies around the state and who is buying them. The price of fuel, which is well over \$6.00 per gallon in areas of Nevada and Oregon, is fueling the electric vehicle market – as they tout 3-5 cents per mile. The diesel fuel prices are going to affect every business. There are still substantial struggles with Federal funding, specifically USDA-RD. There are a lot of frustrations with Federal programs as they are being reorganized and reprioritized. Mr. Wallace provided the Commission with a handout concerning solar power – Wasco County Resilience and Innovation Network. The goal is to create some energy efficiency throughout the County. There are more electric vehicles in the rural area, especially when there are charging stations available. In turn, that supports the local economy – as well folks wait for their vehicles to charge, they buy some beers or snacks at the local pub or market. In 5 different locations around the County Wy'East is installing 5 new switches for different types of outlets – in an emergency one could get 240-volt and 110-volt power. The battery pack is designed to run with a diesel pump. Battery technology allows for dramatic savings and stretches the fuel. There is one in the Port District at Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District.

COMMISSION CALL

- Vice-President Weast praised President Coburn for doing a very good job.
- President Coburn reminded the Commission that the deadline to file their Statements of Economic Interest (SEI) with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGE), is April 15, 2026.

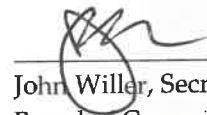
ADJOURN There being no further business to come before the Port Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

PORT OF THE DALLES:



Greg Weast, Vice-President
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



John Willer, Secretary
Board of Commissioners

DATE APPROVED: June 10, 2026

Prepared by: Executive Assistant Toepke