

PORT OF THE DALLES COMMISSION  
Regular Session Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 14, 2024, 4:30 p.m.  
U.S. Forest Service Barlow Ranger District, Dufur, Oregon

The Regular Session Meeting of the Port Commissioners was called to order by President Wallace at 4:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL Executive Assistant Toepke

- o COMMISSION Robert Wallace, President; Greg Weast, Vice-President; John Willer, Secretary; Mary Hanlon, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Absent: Staci Coburn, Treasurer
- o STAFF Andrea Klaas, Executive Director; Jennifer Toepke, Executive Assistant; Bill Dick, Attorney, Dick, Dick & Corey
- o COMMUNITY PARTNERS Kameron C. Sam, East Zone District Ranger & John Bowers, Deputy District Ranger, Forest Service Mt. Hood National Forest, Barlow and Hood River Ranger Districts; Merle Keys, Mayor & Kathy Bostick, City Recorder, City of Dufur; Kathy Bostick City Recorder, City of Dufur, on behalf of Ann Ferguson, Dufur Recreation District; Jack Henderson, Superintendent, Dufur School District #29; Steve Kramer, Wasco County Commissioner
- o GUESTS Connor Reed, Dufur City Mayor Elect; Jeff Justesen, Wasco County Commissioner Elect; Jeff Kaser, General Manager, Mid-Columbia Producers, Inc.; Brenda Thomas, President Orchard View Farms

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Commissioner Willer

AGENDA ADDITIONS *None*

PUBLIC COMMENT OR QUESTION *None*

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS *As included in meeting packet.*

REGULAR SESSION ADJOURNED AT 4:44 P.M. & EXECUTIVE SESSION COMMENCED AT 4:44 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION as allowed by ORS 192.660(2)(e) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions, and ORS 192.660(2)(h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed \*Media representatives are instructed not to report or disclose matters discussed in Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNED AT 5:02 P.M. & REGULAR SESSION RESUMED AT 5:02 P.M.

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION *None*

ACTION ITEMS

1. September 11, 2024, Regular Session Meeting Minutes *Stand as presented*
2. September 2024 Financial Reports Motion to table until December's Port Commission Meeting when Commissioner Coburn (Treasurer) is present.: M/G. Weast, S/J. Willer; Motion passed unanimously by four Commissioners \*Commissioner Coburn not present to vote.
3. October 2024 Financial Reports Motion to table until December's Port Commission Meeting when Commissioner Coburn (Treasurer) is present.: M/G. Weast, S/J. Willer; Motion passed unanimously by four Commissioners \*Commissioner Coburn not present to vote.
4. The Dalles Marina Rules & Regulations Motion to accept as presented.: M/G. Weast, S/J. Willer; Motion passed unanimously by four Commissioners \*Commissioner Coburn not present to vote.
5. Public Meeting Policy Motion to accept as presented.: M/G. Weast, S/J. Willer; Motion passed unanimously by four Commissioners \*Commissioner Coburn not present to vote. \*Executive Director Klaas is required to keep a list of interpreters; Commissioner Willer recommended Genie as a possible resource.

REPORTS

1. Director's Report Executive Assistant Toepke on behalf of Executive Director Klaas *As included in meeting packet, plus: The Port has been included in the emergency management plan for Wasco County; Congressman Bentz came to Wasco County to tour all of The Dalles Community Outreach Team (COT) project sites; The Urban Renewal Agency is having a meeting in December, the Port thinks it is important that there are specific projects, not just to give it more money. Impact to the Port would be roughly \$20,000.00 per year, so it seems like the benefit is worth the contribution.*
2. Concessionaire Report: The Dalles Marina, LLC, Q1/FY 2024-2025 Written report submitted by Angie Macnab, Owner/Operator

3. Dock Committee Commissioner Willer Born from an idea to rebuild the old storage docks. A rather large structure: 120 feet across and 1,000 feet long. The rebuild would be considered renovation of an existing structure. The first meeting with potential partners was with Yakama Tribe representatives; they were excited about the possibility of collaborating on the Native American representation; imagining the boardwalk like a walking history tour. Executive Director Klaas added that herself, Commissioner Hanlon, The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce President Lisa Farquharson and a couple of local business owners, attended the groundbreaking of a waterfront project at Port of Camas-Washougal. It took them 10 years to get to the groundbreaking stage of the project.
4. Wasco County Economic Development Commission Executive Assistant Toepke As included in meeting packet, nothing to add.
5. The Dalles Community Outreach Team Executive Assistant Toepke on behalf of Executive Director Klaas Executive Director Klaas included this report as part of her Director's Report. Commissioner Weast added that it is key that all the agencies follow up on their meetings.

COMMISSION CALL Commissioner Weast thanked the Port's government community partners for their presence and gave a special thanks to the outgoing elected officials: Merle Keys, Mayor City of Dufur and Chair of Board of Wasco County Commissioners, Steve Kramer for their service; and welcomed the new incoming elected officials, Dufur City Mayor Elect Connor Reed and Wasco County Commissioner Elect Jeff Justesen.

#### COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATES

- Merle Keys, Mayor, City of Dufur: Sewer system update is underway. South Basin residents need an upgrade to their water system. Thankful that Greg Smith got money allocated for new sidewalks. \*Commissioner Wallace thanked Mayor Keys for his many years of service as an elected official.
- Kathy Bostick, City Recorder, City of Dufur: June 24<sup>th</sup> the construction started on the new sewer system. The sidewalk money was from Covid and Christmas Tree money. The Fire Department got a \$200,000.00 grant to purchase an ambulance, we are \$100,000.00 short. It takes 540 days from start to finish to build the ambulance. The total cost is \$284,000.00. We could secure a power lift for \$17,000.00 because it was a display model, but it costs \$27,000.00 to install it. So basically \$300,000.00 is needed. Wamic got a new ambulance. Fire Trucks were donated from Gresham, we must get rid of one. We just purchased a structure truck from Sherman County for \$8,000.00; it needs repairs but will be a good addition.
- Kathy Bostick City Recorder, City of Dufur, on behalf of Ann Ferguson, Dufur Recreation District: Brief update given on the swimming pool and splash pad.
- Jack Henderson, Superintendent, Dufur School District #29: Retiring this year, but still planning on coaching football. We hosted fire camp this summer, 800 people - every classroom of the school was filled during the day -- at least the elementary school. I am happy to help with that and it generates revenue locally. The school received a \$2.5 million grant from the Oregon Department of Education to do some seismic upgrades. I thought it would cover everything that we need but we have two more projects left to make Dufur School completely seismically protected, so we still need another \$2.5 million. Preschool Promise: Dufur School's had the Dufur Sprouts program for preschool. We applied for 18 spots for the Federal Preschool Promise Program. We were awarded all 18. We should have applied for 30 spots! We received \$337,500.00 for that grant. We raised all the money for the School-Based Health Center. They are open two days per week. And there is a mental health person there as well. Community One Health is running the center. It's great for students and staff. The question is still hanging if it will be open to the community or not. It is not urgent care but can provide great services. The project cost \$600,000.00 total. We had a pipe break last winter; it ruined the gym floor. So, \$250,000.00 for a new gym floor; insurance is paying for it. In October we held an all-class reunion during homecoming. It was an amazing weekend. Exchange students even came back, one from Germany and one from The Netherlands. Dufur School is a tiny school but managed to raise \$9,000.00 that weekend.
- Kameron C. Sam, East Zone District Ranger & John Bowers, Deputy District Ranger, Forest Service Mt. Hood National Forest, Barlow and Hood River Ranger Districts: Kameron has been in Dufur and Parkdale locations for 11 years, John for 1.5 years. Glad that fire season is over, now we are burning – burn piles – the slash from the fires. Super excited that Dog River Pipeline is completed and operating. Today the DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement for Old Growth was released. One of the key areas of how we manage national forests is old growth. So, they did an analysis to amend how we deal with the Old Growth, now we are taking Public Comment. The original plan has a lot of updates needed. One is fire resilience. Economic opportunities. We are not doing too much in old growth, but we want to see what we can do – potentially have marketable timber. The amendment will have more input and information from the tribes. More flexibility in managing it. Lastly, the ski resorts are already open. One timber sale is operating out near Sportsman Road. Christmas Trees are up for sale. Go online and get your permit and go cut your own Christmas Tree. The most work was getting the Christmas Trees online. Kameron to send the link of the DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement should the Commission wish to read and/or comment.
- Steve Kramer, Chair, Wasco County Board of Commissioners: Soon to relinquish my position to Jeff! I've worked with Kameron for the last 11.5 years. The Senate passed bipartisan SRS funding today. Now it goes to the House. 2-year funding package right now. The Resolution Center is still in negotiations. Working with our Federal and State partners. Definitely a much needed facility in our region. Moving forward with the 159 acres, the old Hodges project. We are trying to revitalize the RV-Park. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Street project is moving forward. We're still working on the Urban Growth Boundary. Commissioner Brady entertained some friends for a tour. Google's Phase 1 looks like it will get its occupancy in 2025. So, tax revenue from that in 2026. City and County will split the money. I am pushing for an endowment on the County side, to grow the funds for future use. We have been good stewards of our county money, so we feel we do not need to operationalize those dollars. Hopefully this year we will get an endowment set up.

Commissioner Kramer asked ODOT for a review of the speed on Highway 197. Slow the speed down on 197 because we are going too fast. Anything you can do to affect that change. There have been 5 fatalities between The Dalles and Dufur between 2017 and 2024 and 159 accidents. We need to slow down. \*Commissioner Wallace thanked Commissioner Kramer for his 37 years of service as an elected official.

\*Commissioner Weast left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

\*Before adjourning the meeting, Commissioner Wallace asked the above listed guests (that would be informally speaking during dinner) to introduce themselves.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE PORT COMMISSION, the meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

PORT OF THE DALLES:



Robert Wallace, President  
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



John Willer, Secretary  
Board of Commissioners

DATE APPROVED: December 11, 2024

Prepared by: Executive Assistant Toepke