

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
TRI-PORTS LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

PORT OF KENNEWICK

DECEMBER 19, 2006

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Commission President David Hanson called the Special Commission meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. in the Project Design Room of the Pasco Red Lion located at 2525 North 20th Avenue in Pasco, Washington.

Members Present:

David Hanson, President
Gene Wagner, Vice President
Linda Boomer, Secretary

Staff Present:

Tim Arntzen, Executive Director
Dan Cryer, Director of Operations/Airport Manager
Larry Peterson, Director of Planning and Development
Sherrie Bowers, Administrative Assistant/Records Manager

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Port of Pasco Executive Director Jim Toomey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES

Mr. Toomey thanked the legislators for taking the time to attend this event. He thanked the attending members of various governmental agencies and community organizations for their participation and thanked Port of Pasco Executive Assistant & Public Information Vicky Keller, Port of Benton Executive Secretary Kelly Thompson and Port of Kennewick Administrative Assistant Sherrie Bowers for organizing the event.

Members of the Washington State Legislature introduced themselves as did everyone attending the breakfast.

Legislators present included Representative-Elect Steve Hailey, 9th Legislative District; Senator Jerome Delvin, 8th Legislative District; Senator Mike Hewitt, 16th Legislative District; Representative Bill Grant 16th Legislative District; Representative Maureen Walsh; 16th Legislative District and Representative Larry Halder, 8th Legislative District.

EIGHTH, NINTH AND SIXTEEN DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES PERSPECTIVE OF LEGISLATURE

➤ Key Challenges

- Senator Mike Hewitt stated he would speak briefly but felt it was more important to hear comments and take questions from the audience. He stated one of the major issues in 2007 would be the “rainy day” fund, explaining interest from the fund benefited the education fund. He also felt health care and the pension system would be challenges in 2007. He encouraged the pursuit of grant funding for projects in Eastern Washington.
- Senator Jerome Delvin also felt the goal for this meeting was to hear from the audience and how he could help area ports. He stated he would be working on local issues including Washington State University -Tri-Cities, and economic

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PAGE 2 OF 3

development for area ports. He acknowledged Port of Kennewick for their economic development efforts on Clover Island and the Spaulding Business Park. He also acknowledged Port of Benton for their economic development efforts in Prosser.

- Representative Grant stated upcoming challenges would be agriculture and education issues as well as the clean up of Puget Sound. He agreed this forum was more about what the ports needed to discuss.
- Representative Walsh wished everyone a Merry Christmas. She felt 2007 would prove to be difficult for the Republican Party, but she announced she would remain on the Children and Family Services committee as the ranking minority member. She explained this committee had been broken into two sub-committees and she had been selected to chair the Early Learning Education sub-committee and looked forward to the challenges ahead.
- Representative Haler wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He reiterated that challenging issues for 2007 will be health care and education. His primary goal for 2007 will be to eliminate the high school graduation requirement of passing the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) and replace it with an assessment test that would allow the school districts to take back control of their curriculum.
- Representative Hailey thanked everyone for coming and stated he was one of eleven freshman representatives for the upcoming session. He looked forward to the challenges ahead.

WASHINGTON PUBLIC PORTS ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2007

Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA) Government Affairs Representative Ginger Eagle reviewed several Washington Port priorities for 2007 including funding toxic cleanups, Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) infrastructure funding, increasing rail system capacity with state leadership, funding for Municipal Research Services Center (MRSC) and mandatory vessel insurance.

Ms. Eagle also discussed economic development funding, alternative public works contracting and instituting tourism development. She also hoped future legislation would allow the formation of countywide ports, and was working on increasing the per diem rate for commissioners stating the rate had not increased for several years.

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PORT OF KENNEWICK

DECEMBER 19, 2006

MEETING MINUTES

PAGE 3 OF 3

There was extensive discussion regarding rail issues, CERB funding and the allocation requirements for Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding.

Port of Kennewick Executive Director and Tri-Ports President Tim Arntzen thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and thanked Mr. Toomey for moderating the event. He felt this was good opportunity to address common issues with our legislators.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to bring before the Board the Regular Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m. No action was taken.

APPROVED:

**PORT OF KENNEWICK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

David Hanson, President

Gene Wagner, Vice-President

Linda Boomer, Secretary