

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Port of Whitman County of March 20, 2008.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Port office in Colfax, Washington. Present were all Commissioners, the Executive Director, the Properties and Development Manager, Tammy Lewis of the Palouse Economic Development Council, and the Port Attorney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A **MOTION** was made to approve the Minutes of the meeting of March 6, 2008, as mailed and entered in the minute book. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: A **MOTION** was made to approve Claim Nos. 17995 through 18008 totaling \$57,364.41. The motion carried.

VOIDED CLAIMS: A **MOTION** was made to void Claim No. 17970 to the Health Care Authority in the sum of \$3,718.02 and Claim No. 17993 to McLeod U.S.A. in the sum of \$155.05. The motion carried.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF PEDC AND ADO: Ms. Lewis presented a report on activities of PEDC and as ADO consultant to the Port.

Palouse Knowledge Corridor Request for Funding: Ms. Lewis recommended that the Port pay a share for placing an ad for the Palouse Knowledge Corridor in "Washington CEO" magazine, the cost of which would be shared with other "sponsors." The Executive Director informed the Commission that the ADO budget included funds for advertising. A **MOTION** was made to approve up to \$3,100 of ADO funds for the advertisement of the Palouse Knowledge Corridor with the "Washington CEO" magazine featuring the project. The motion carried.

Affordable Housing Program: Ms. Lewis reported that the PEDC was conducting the annual Palouse Housing Forum on "Affordable Housing in the Palouse," scheduled later in the day starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Gladish Building in Pullman, Washington.

WSU Business Plan Competition: Ms. Lewis reported that the WSU business plan competition is scheduled for April 11, 2008. . The Port is sponsoring cash awards for the open class portion of the competition. This year the competition will include a "league" for high school students, as well as for the other competitors. It is expected that there will be four high school entrants in the competition. Commissioner Gronholz and Commissioner Boone will attend the open competition as observers

and Commissioner Boone and the Properties and Development Manager will attend the open class awards dinner.

At 10:20 a.m., Joe Smillie of the Whitman County Gazette joined the meeting.

At 10:25 a.m., Georgie Leinweber joined the meeting.

Ms. Lewis left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

POWBAC - FEE SCHEDULES/USE ISSUES: Ms. Leinweber, representing TLC Flying Service, based at POWBAC, and the Commissioners discussed the recently adopted fee schedule and permit policy for agricultural aerial applicators using POWBAC. She presented an outline of concerns that the company has with the newly-adopted policies. The Executive Director responded that the primary goal was to achieve greater efficiency and safety in the use of the airport. He also noted that substantial federal, state, and port funds have been expended in upgrading the facilities at the airport and that the new policies were also intended to protect the public investment. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Leinweber for attending the meeting. The Executive Director indicated he would take note of her comments and hoped to keep an open dialogue with users at the airport. He further noted that over the past three years the Port had conducted a series of meetings seeking input on the arrangements and uses at the airport and all applicators had been invited to attend. He also indicated if the newly adopted arrangements are proving to be unfair or unworkable, he was willing to entertain alternative proposals. Ms. Leinweber indicated that TLC does plan to execute the recently-adopted permit and user agreement.

At 11:05 a.m., Ms. Leinweber left the meeting.

INLAND NORTHWEST PARTNERS MEETING: Commissioner Boone reported on attending the Inland Northwest Partners meeting on March 19, 2008. The Executive Director spoke at the meeting primarily on the Port's Green Grid project. Commissioner Boone complimented the Executive Director on a presentation "well done".

POWBAC - POLE BUILDINGS: The Properties and Development Manager reported that the concrete floors and ADA-compliant concrete entry area pads will be completed at the pole buildings at POWBAC as soon as weather conditions permit. She further reported on discussions with potential new tenants for POWBAC. The interested parties are considering leasing sites and constructing buildings for various uses. She also noted that the

county has scheduled paving of Flight Line Drive and Heglar Drive at POWBAC this summer.

RAIL GOVERNANCE GROUP: The Executive Director noted that the newly formed rail governance board for the state-owned regional railroad, consisting of the counties of Lincoln, Spokane, and Grant, and the Port of Whitman, have a meeting scheduled for March 31, 2008. Discussions are planned with WSDOT rail on governance arrangements between the state and the new rail board.

REPORT ON PNWA MISSION TO WASHINGTON: Commissioner Love and the Properties and Development Manager reported on the recently-attended Pacific Northwest Waterways Association Mission to Washington as follows:

1. As usual, the four days of meetings were fully scheduled. The group met with nearly all of the Congressional delegation from the Pacific Northwest and/or staff persons from each of the offices, as well as various agency officials.

2. The President has included \$36 million in his proposed budget for completing the Columbia River channel deepening. Preserving this funding in a tight budget year was the primary message sent to Congress from the PNWA delegation.

3. Public infrastructure needs in the United States, including highways, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure, are receiving considerable attention from Congress. Budget constraints are an overriding concern with regard to all projects.

While the Mission to Washington was in progress, a report from the Texas Transportation Institute Center for Ports and Waterways was released on comparing relative costs and efficiencies between barge, rail, and truck movement of commodities. Not surprisingly, the study demonstrates that barging has considerable advantages over the other two modes of transportation. PNWA will refine the data to reflect the larger barges used on the Columbia-Snake river system and incorporate some of the findings in the study into future discussions with legislators, Congress, and agencies. The data will also be accessible from the PNWA web site in the near future.

REGULAR MEETING RECESSED: At 12:00 p.m., the Port President called for a lunch recess, with the regular meeting to reconvene at 12:30 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED: At 12:30 p.m., the regular meeting of the Port of Whitman County was reconvened following

lunch recess. Present were all Commissioners, the Executive Director, the Properties and Development Manager, and the Port Attorney.

MEETING OF REGIONAL ELECTED OFFICIALS: It was noted that the quarterly meeting of regional public officials was scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on April 2, 2008, at the Hilltop Restaurant. All Commissioners will plan to attend. Discussion on the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport is on the agenda.

SEARCH FOR SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER: The Executive Director reported that the Small Business Development Center is looking for a new coordinator.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES - 50TH ANNIVERSARY: It was reported that on April 17, 2008, the Department of Natural Resources will be celebrating its 50th year anniversary. All Commissioners are invited to attend. The program starts at 6:00 p.m. at Spokane Community College.

RPTO MEETING: Commissioner Gronholz reported that on April 15, 2008, the RPTO will be meeting in Pullman, Washington, at 10:30 a.m. The meeting presents an opportunity to discuss local transportation issues. Commissioner Gronholz will plan to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 12:55 p.m., the Port President called for an executive session to be briefed on a potential litigation issue, with the regular meeting to reconvene at 1:00 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED: At 1:00 p.m., the regular meeting of the Port of Whitman County reconvened following executive session. Present were all Commissioners, the Executive Director, the Properties and Development Manager, and the Port Attorney.

MEETING ADJOURNED: There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

PORT OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION

DANIEL W. BOONE, President

JOHN E. LOVE, Vice President

ROBERT F. GRONHOLZ, Secretary