

**Port of Hood River Commission
Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2024 Regular Session
Via Remote Video Conference & Marina Center Boardroom
5:00 p.m.**

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL until approved by the Port Commission at the next regular meeting.

Regular Session

PRESENT: Commissioners: Kristi Chapman, Heather Gehring, Mike Fox, Ben Sheppard, and Tor Bieker. **Staff:** Kevin Greenwood, Debbie Smith-Wagar, Ryan Klapprich, and Patty Rosas. **Guests:** Justin Doornink, HDR; James Scheer, Kiewit; Scott Reynier, Columbia River Insurance; Noah Noteboom, Columbia Gorge News.

ABSENT: Daryl Stafford, staff

1. CALL TO ORDER: President Kristi Chapman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

a. Modifications, Additions to Agenda:

1. Add Election of Officers to Consent Agenda item 2(b).
2. Add Oregon Special Registration Plates discussion to Action Item 7(a)

b. Public Comment:

1. Written comment provided in packet.
2. Mitchell Teisber, a resident of Hood River, has proposed placing a transportable sauna on Port property. The sauna, mounted on a trailer, would be available for use during both summer and winter months. Teisber is seeking the Commission's approval to station the sauna trailer at one of the requested locations on Port property.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approve Minutes from the June 11, 2024 Regular Session, and June 30, 2024, Special Meeting
- b. Affirm Commission Officers and Committee Assignments for FY 2024-25
- c. Approve 2023 Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners
- d. Approve Reappointment of Auditor, Legal Counsel, Insurance, and Record of Change for Health Plan Services.
- e. Ratify Contract with Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. for Emergency Repairs to the Hood River Bridge
- f. Approve Accounts Payable to Beery, Elsner & Hammond, LLP

Motion: Move to approve Consent Agenda.

Move: Sheppard

Second: Bieker

Discussion: None

Vote: **Ayes:** Chapman, Gehring, Fox, Sheppard, and Bieker

MOTION CARRIED

3. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

- a. **Bridge Replacement Project Update** – Commissioner Mike Fox highlighted a significant change in the bridge construction, transitioning from concrete to steel. This new approach is expected to be faster and more cost-effective.

4. PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. **Bridge Incident Report** – Kevin Greenwood, Executive Director, presented the bridge incident report, which included corrections and updates on previous findings. Greenwood then turned to Justin Doornink from HDR Engineering for a brief update. Doornink discussed the progress and recommendations made in the previous meeting, emphasizing the importance of keeping the existing bridge lift span in place until all portal bracing was repaired and expediting the design of

the final bridge repair plans. He also outlined the activities undertaken by the engineering team since the last meeting, which included daily coordination with the contractor, procuring materials, and issuing final designs. Doornink mentioned that the team had entered a construction support phase, working closely with the contractor to ensure smooth communication and decision-making.

James Scheer from Kiewit then discussed the construction activities, detailing ongoing repairs at six different locations and the process of repairing one portal at a time. Specialists in lead paint abatement were brought in to remove lead paint so the construction team could replace rivets with temporary bolts. The team also identified areas needing extra attention, such as spots requiring welding. Scheer highlighted the challenges of managing equipment and ensuring the bridge's capacity.

Commissioner Fox praised the collaborative efforts of everyone involved. Greenwood then discussed the estimated costs for the emergency repairs, totaling \$1,135,000. He turned to Scott Reynier from Columbia River Insurance for an update on insurance. Reynier noted that the vehicle owner's insurance carrier had acknowledged coverage for the first time. He highlighted the progress of the project, mentioning that while some roadblocks remain, the overall direction is more positive than 48 hours ago. Reynier recommended that all future communication include the Port's legal counsel, the vehicle owner's attorney, and adjusters from both sides.

Greenwood reviewed the final recommendations following the incident, which include implementing staff coordination training courses and updating the emergency action plan, with a specific focus on the bridge, in collaboration with the University of Oregon. The Commission deliberated on the scheduling of the 12-hour work period, considering seasonal changes and the impact on different industries. Commission felt that staff should rely on hours with the least amount of traffic. Furthermore, Reynier reaffirmed the January decision on insurance coverage, stating it remains the best policy in light of recent events. Lastly, there was a discussion about the ongoing issue of violators disregarding traffic control measures and compromising bridge safety.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT: Written report provided in packet, no discussion.

6. COMMISSIONER, COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. **Lot 1** – Commissioner Ben Sheppard noted a scope change for the Lot 1 project, which would move from Anchor Way work to roundabout work. This change will be further discussed at the next Board meeting and will be a no-fee amendment.
- b. **Airport Advisory Committee (AAC)** – Commissioner Tor Bieker mentioned a possible change in the AAC meetings schedule.
- c. **Centennial Bridge Event** – Commissioner Chapman provided a brief update on the Centennial Bridge event. The event is scheduled to take place on October 6. The event will include a control point with pre-registration and a variety of activities, including a possible flyover by WAAAM. A suggestion was made to contact the Coast Guard to participate in the event.

7. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. **Oregon Special Registration Plates Discussion** – Commissioners Heather Gehring and Chapman proposed the creation of a special license plate for the Columbia River Gorge. They outlined the process and associated costs, suggesting that funds generated from the plate sales could support the Port parks. The Commission discussed the proposal and reached a consensus to move forward

with the idea, appointing Gretchen Goss to lead the effort. Further details will be provided at the next meeting.

8. COMMISSION CALL: None

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS: No Discussion. Next meeting is August 20, 2024

10. CONFIRMATION OF DIRECTIVES: None


11. ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:22 p.m.

ATTEST:

Signed by:

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Kristi Chapman, President

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Michael Fox, Secretary