

MINUTES  
PORT OF ASTORIA  
WORKSHOP SESSION  
NOVEMBER 7, 2007  
PORT COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Chairman Dan Hess called the Workshop Session to order and took roll call.

Commissioners present: Dan Hess, Larry Pfund, Bernie Bjork, Kathy Sanders and Bill Hunsinger.

Staff present: Ron Larsen, Esther Jones, Colleen Browne, Lora Eddy, John Hord, Harold Culver, Bruce Conner, and Ken Smith.

Others present: See attendance sheet.

STAFF REPORTS:

Harold Culver, maintenance supervisor reported:

- Dredge up and running; in best condition ever
- Running two shifts
- Has hired 2 new maintenance (full time)
- Pier repairs included all new timbers on south end of pier 2; removal of asphalt and timbers awaiting price quotes.

The crew was commended for the work involved in getting the dredge work ready on time.

Ken Smith harbormaster reported:

- \$25,000 worth of damage (up river dock) at east basin when a sardine boat hit dock; awaiting construction and insurance details
- Handrail at the east end nearing completion (up-to-code)
- New marina staff, Herb Florer, hired to replace Janice Burk who moved.
- Boatyard sees 2.5 boats per day; very busy month, stands supply dwindling.
- Need new electrical system in yard; needs to extend spaces due to winter storage.

More discussion followed on Chinook Room at the Red Lion on whether to turn power off. Making room for an overflow of business at the boatyard.

Colleen Browne, finance manager, explained audit is underway. She also explained the project on lease work files organization. She has been working on it for the last two months as she works on CPI increases. Discarding old files will take time. Shredding and discarding of items unnecessary also needed. While working with files on a daily basis items have a tendency to become unorganized.

Lora Eddy, permit compliance officer reported:

- Her move to the port main office complete
- Reviewing permit conditions with the dredge crew, including forms needing to be completed; daily operational logs
- Working with computer software ensuring it is running correctly; some issues being worked out with help from Corps of Engineer Hollis Fletcher
- Port docks dredging material submitted modifying authorization; timeframe process involves state and federal statutes in order to remain compliant.

Also, timeframe to receive permit could be by the end of December (135 days) in turn needing to arrange schedules and handed out to the board an outline reviewing agencies' processes. Application for an extension, if needed, should be done by February. Permits are five-year authorizations, from 2008 to 2013; modification of the permit required by NOAA. New numbers allowing the port to flow lane dredge required the new application. According to the statutes, they have until February 29, 2008 for early completion.

- Concerns with the ODOT grant concerning the area-wide contamination, still on-going, has come to the point that we will have to avoid those areas in order to keep the grant. The area in concern between Hamburg and Portway St. from the river to Marine Drive for the River Walk Trails Extension project. We are still able to use the existing river walk. Construction and exposure risks are the only roadblocks.
- Application to Department of State land to purchase land on west side of pier 3; the land in the coffer dam is a separate application on the eastern side of the pier, since submerged land compared to historically filled land are different.
- Renewal of conditional use permits for material stored on pier 3.
- Completed uploading of infrastructure improvements to the web, excluding the USS Ranger

Commissioner Hunsinger had questions on the purchase of land Oregon LNG leases on the east bank of Skipanon. It is not yet done. Surveys and an appraisal still need to be completed; Ron Larsen added those items are already done. With those documents in hand she can now go forward with the application process.

John Hord, chief of security reported:

- Last cruise ship visit for the year yesterday; people very happy with every detail.
- Hazmat drill scheduled for 11/20/07 on Pier 2 involving city agencies in the annual disaster drill. The Astoria Regional Airport will be included in the drill.
- USCG doing inspection of paperwork 11/27/07; the cutter Alert is in port after the cutter Steadfast has departed.

Bruce Conner, cruise ship coordinator reported:

- May 18, 2008 will be the first time for ship boarding here in Astoria. This will allow people to come to Astoria and start their cruise here bound for Alaska; working with companies promoting ticket sales for the "milestone" event.

Ron Larsen reported:

- The deteriorating condition of the Red Lion annex building is leaving tenant of Tiki Charters without office space. Parties are looking at possibilities for Oly Olson, owner. His business is an important service for fishing season.

PRESENTATIONS:

Bornsteins Seafoods: Andrew Bornstein, project manager for the Fish Factory, asked the board to consider finding extra parking needed for their expansion. Not all commissioners were convinced a parking lot on waterfront property was the best use of water accessible land. Commissioner Sanders added the completion of a strategic plan for the port in order to set priorities is first needed. The project began when the port and the Community Seafood Initiative along with Bornstein, in efforts to build the educational fish processing center, following the model of the Tillamook Cheese Factory, popular with tourists on U.S. Highway 101. Parking is one of the biggest limiting factors.

Warrenton Trails Association/Skipanon Watershed Council: Jim Scheller, leader of the council and the trails association presented the details for the Oregon Department of Transportation grant currently being applied for. It would improve sections of the trail running along the Astoria Regional Airport in Warrenton. The port applied for larger grant that was rejected for the same 4.9-mile section. Scheller added he just wanted to keep the doors open and renew partnerships, furthering development on port property, where wetland are now being damaged by ATV's and dirt bikes.

With no further business to discuss, the workshop session was adjourned.