

**MINUTES
PORT OF ASTORIA
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 30, 2011
PORT COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

Chairman Dan Hess called the Special Meeting to order. Roll call was taken.

Commissioners present: Dan Hess, Larry Pfund, Bill Hunsinger, Floyd Holcom. Jack Bland excused.

Staff present: Executive Director Jack Crider, Deputy Director Herb Florer, Terminal & Administrative Services Manager Rita Fahrney and Property Manager Mike Weston.

Special guests: Ex-Port Attorney, George Fulton, Ex-Deputy Director Ted Bugas.
Department of State Lands (DSL) members: Louise Solliday, Gerry Hutson,

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Chairman Hess called for public comment.

Past port attorney, George Fulton and Past Deputy Director Ted Bugas were introduced.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS (DSL) – ASTORIA LAND ACT DISCUSSION

Executive Director Jack Crider explained the purpose of this meeting is to begin a series of special meetings to sort through Port of Astoria property challenges and find some conclusions to land ownership issues.

DSL Louise Solliday began discussion with a review of history of how the State of Oregon came to own lands, Astoria quitclaim activities and the "New Lands Act" process for creation of new lands. Discussion items included:

- Astoria Quitclaim Act – created in 1969 giving window for quitclaim deeds for lands filled prior to 1963.
- Astoria Land Act
- Tideland Grant Acts in 1870's – window of opportunity to sell tidelands to adjacent property owners
- Wharfing Act
- Port authorization under ORS 777 statutes
- Submersed/Submersible lands
- Pier head line definition
- Common School Fund issues
- Mean low water, Mean low- low water, Mean high tide, tidal ranges and ownership lines
- Port's first right of refusal on certain lands

The meeting was summed up by the Port of Astoria Commission members voicing concerns about how to get to the bottom of land ownership issues. The current commission members question state-claimed land ownership and deals made by previous boards and the importance of the current commission being accountable to the citizens of Clatsop County, who they represent. Local citizen's perception of Department of State Lands is that they are treated aggressively and are condescending to small businesses. Louise Solliday advised the State is willing to be corrected if ownership records are incorrect. She went on to explain she believes the State is positioned to be a partner to help ports achieve their objectives with local entities for economic development. DSL agreed to share a map of all the listings of quitclaims granted to DSL in the past 10 years – it would answer questions from the constituency and can be shared with the County.

Louise Solliday and Gerry Hutson were thanked for coming to the Port of Astoria to meet with the commission. There being no further business, the special meeting was adjourned.