



**MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 03, 2026**

PORT OF ASTORIA
REGULAR SESSION
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
422 GATEWAY AVE., SUITE 100
ASTORIA, OR 97103

Call to Order

Chairman Rohne called the Regular Session to order at 4:00 PM.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Dirk Rohne; Robert Stevens; Jim Campbell; and Tim Hill. Thaddeus Fickel was absent.

Staff Present: Executive Director Will Isom; Finance and HR Director Melanie Howard; Maintenance Director Joe Tadei; and Office Manager Dianna Delgado.

Port Counsel: Eileen Eakins was not present at this session.

Also Attending: Finance Committee members David Oser and Steve Kraske, Jay Corella of *The Daily Astorian*.

Pledge of Allegiance

Changes/Additions to the agenda

No changes or additions were made to the agenda. Commissioner Campbell noted interest in discussing concerns regarding Bornstein's outfall pipe during Commission Reports.

Public Comment for items on the agenda

No public comment was received.

Consent Calendar

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following:

- Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting 01/06/2026, Airport Advisory Committee Minutes 01/12/2026, Workshop Session 01/20/2026
- Financials – December 2025
- Event Calendar – February 2026

Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Commissioner Hill seconded. The motion carried 4-0 amongst the Commissioners present.

Votes were as follows: Stevens – Aye, Rohne – Aye, Campbell – Aye, Hill – Aye.

Advisory

7a. Oregon Commercial Dungeness Crab Petition

- Executive Director Will Isom presented a notice from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) regarding a petition submitted by several conservation groups proposing amendments to existing rules governing the Oregon commercial Dungeness crab fishery. The proposed changes are intended to reduce the risk of marine life entanglements. The public comment period is open through February 20, with a final decision anticipated on March 11.
- Commissioners expressed interest in submitting a letter of support. Executive Director Isom will prepare a draft letter for Commission review at the February 17 meeting.

Action Items

8a. Surplus – Dredge Felkins

- Deputy Director Matt McGrath and Maintenance Director Joe Tadei reported that prior efforts to sell the dredge as a complete unit were unsuccessful. The dredge, which is over 50 years old, has exceeded its useful life and was removed from the water due to significant deterioration and water intrusion.
- Tadei recommended selling individual components of the dredge — specifically two pontoons and four spuds — to WCT Marine for \$11,000.00. Commissioners discussed whether to re-advertise the dredge in its entirety, expressing differing views regarding feasibility and potential value.

Commissioner Rohne moved to approve the sale of surplus dredge equipment items 1-4, as listed in the “Dredge Equipment for Sale” document, to WCT Marine & Construction for \$11,000.00. Commissioner Hill seconded. The motion carried 3-1 amongst the Commissioners present. Votes were as follows: Stevens – Aye, Rohne – Aye, Campbell – Nay, Hill – Aye.

8b. Airport Advisory Committee Member Assignments

Three Airport Advisory Committee members’ terms are expiring: Steve Dillard, Wes Toland, and Mark Smith. A recommendation to extend their terms through June 30, 2028, was presented. *Commissioner Stevens moved to approve the terms of service for Steve Dillard, Wes Toland, and Mark Smith on the Airport Advisory Committee through June 30, 2028. Commissioner Hill seconded. The motion carried 4-0 amongst the Commissioners present. Votes were as follows: Stevens – Aye, Rohne – Aye, Campbell – Aye, Hill – Aye.*

8c. Sponsorship Opportunity – Commercial Fisherman Appreciation Lunch

- Isom presented a sponsorship request from FishHer, a nonprofit organization that supports commercial fishermen, for a Fishermen’s Appreciation Lunch scheduled for March 28. FishHer has previously assisted the fishing community by providing safety equipment, safety services, and support to families during times of hardship.
- Commissioners expressed support for FishHer’s mission of providing safety resources and assistance to fishing families.

Commissioner Campbell moved to approve a sponsorship in the amount of \$500.00 by the Port of Astoria for FishHer CPCA’s 2026 Commercial Fishermen’s Appreciation Lunch. Commissioner Hill seconded. The motion carried 4-0 amongst the Commissioners present. Votes were as follows: Stevens – Aye, Rohne – Aye, Campbell – Aye, Hill – Aye.

8d. Spectrum Contract

- Finance and HR Director Melanie Howard introduced the agenda item, explaining that in the previous year, the Port entered into two agreements to connect fiber internet service to the 10

Pier 1 Building and to the new fiber line at the 422 Gateway building. One of the agreements was not properly executed by Spectrum, which resulted in the Port overpaying for services over the past year.

- Spectrum has offered a \$2,500.00 credit to offset the overbilling, along with a new 36-month contract at \$500 per month, reflecting a \$50.00 monthly discount.

Commissioner Stevens moved to approve the Service Order with Spectrum in the amount of \$500.00 for 36-months and authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement. Commissioner Hill seconded. The motion carried 4-0 amongst the Commissioners present.

Votes were as follows: Stevens – Aye, Rohne – Aye, Campbell – Aye, Hill – Aye.

8e. Cable Huston Engagement Letter

Isom reported that Port Attorney Eileen Eakins has joined the law firm Cable Huston, requiring a new representation agreement. Although the agreement would be with a new firm, the Port would continue to retain Ms. Eakins as its legal counsel.

The hourly rate for attorney services has increased from \$285 per hour to \$350 per hour; however, additional efficiencies are anticipated through access to expanded legal support within the firm.

Commissioner Hill moved to authorize the Executive Director to sign the legal representation agreement between Cable Huston LLC and the Port of Astoria. Commissioner Stevens seconded. The motion carried 4-0 amongst the Commissioners present.

Votes were as follows: Stevens – Aye, Rohne – Aye, Campbell – Aye, Hill – Aye.

Public Comment for items not on the agenda

No public comment was received.

Commission Reports

Commissioner Campbell did not have anything to report.

Commissioner Rohne did not have anything to report.

Commissioner Stevens reported on the following:

- Attended the Columbia River Solutions Group meeting and noted that Environmental Compliance and Permits Manager Stacy Bandy's attendance and participation was appropriate and valuable.

Commissioner Hill did not have anything to report.

Executive Director Comments

- The Executive Director reported no additional updates beyond the items covered on the agenda.
- Commissioner Stevens raised questions regarding a recent news article referencing the Port's potential to become an embarkation and debarkation port for cruise ships. Isom clarified that any related discussions are conceptual in nature and tied to long-term Airport commercial service feasibility considerations. No decisions have been made at this time.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Workshop Session – February 17, 2026, at 4:00 PM
- Finance Advisory Committee – February 18, 2026, at 2:00 PM
- Regular Meeting – March 3, 2026, at 4:00 PM

Adjourned

Chairman Rohne adjourned the meeting at 4:36 PM.

APPROVED:



Dirk Rohne, Board Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Thaddeus Fickel, Secretary
Board of Commissioners

Respectfully submitted by:
Dianna Delgado, Office Manager
Katie Brown, Administrative Assistant

March 3, 2026

Date Approved by Commission