

TOPIC	DISCUSSION / ASSESSMENT / FINDINGS	ACTION
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Commissioner/Staff Present:</b> Port Commissioners (PCs) James Herman, William Schmitt, Wayne Vinyard; Executive Director (ED) Marc Thornsby; and Administrative Assistant/Port Auditor (AA/PA) Margie Ziegler. <b>PC/Staff Absent:</b> None. <b>Guests Present:</b> None.	Meeting called to order by PC Vinyard at 4:35 PM.
<b>Administrative Matters</b> Approval of Minutes  Approval of Vouchers  Resolution No. 9-2016 Dallesport Industrial Park Water Rates	Minutes – November 22, 2016  Payroll Vouchers – December 5, 2016, D11653-D11667, #26819-26820, \$12,159.55.  Vouchers – December 08, 2016, #26821-26837, \$14,220.82.  ED Thornsby noted the 2017 rates represent a 3% increase over those charged in 2016 and pointed out that this has been the practice of the Port for several years to bring its rates into line with others. He added that a recent, limited assessment showed the Port's rates are in the bottom half of those charged by other regional water system operators.	PC Schmitt M to approve the minutes, PC Herman S, MP 3-0.  PC Herman M to approve the vouchers, PC Schmitt S, MP 3-0.  PC Schmitt M to approve Resolution No. 9-2016, PC Herman S, MP 3-0.
<b>Old Business</b>	None	
<b>New Business</b> Columbia River Systems Operations EIS Scoping	ED Thornsby noted the PC had requested an agenda item to discuss providing public comment regarding the Columbia River Systems Operations (CRSO) environmental impact statement (EIS) scoping process. He suggested the PC consider the draft letter provided at the prior PC meeting that urges the agencies involved to apply a balanced approach when evaluating possible dam removal and to broadly consider the resulting negative impacts to the transportation, flood control, power generation, irrigation, recreation, and environmental benefits dams on the Columbia-Snake River system provide.	By consensus, the PC directed ED Thornsby to submit public comments on behalf of the Port consistent with the draft letter.

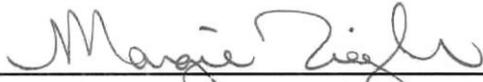
<p><b>New Business cont...</b> Columbia River Systems Operations EIS Scoping cont...</p>	<p>PC Vinyard said he believes removing any dam and the slack water behind it would have a negative environmental impact on the estuaries along the Columbia River. PC Herman expressed concern that consideration of dam removal would not adequately take into account the negative impact on the flood control capabilities of the entire system.</p> <p>Thornsbury stated he would like to see the comments provided by the Inland Ports and Navigation Group (IPNG) of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA) before submitting any public comments on behalf of the Port. He added that he had hoped the IPNG comments would be available for the meeting, but they have not been issued yet. Thornsbury suggested that a draft letter might be available at the next PC meeting depending on timing.</p>	
<p>DIP Rail Repairs</p>	<p>ED Thornsbury presented a staff report assessing the condition of the rail spurs at the Dallesport Industrial Park (DIP) and noted that it was in better shape than he had expected. Thornsbury explained that a preliminary inspection was recently conducted by Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) staff and stated the inspector was satisfied with the repairs and progress made by Port staff to date. Thornsbury said the remaining repair work, comprised primarily of crosstie replacement and/or straightening as well as replacement of a switch heel block, should be conducted by a capable rail contractor as Port staff does not have the time, skills, or equipment necessary.</p> <p>Thornsbury explained that while there is no immediate demand for rail spur use, the Port has received three separate inquires regarding their use since they were taken out of service. He also pointed out that it is difficult to engage with potential users without an idea of when the spurs could be returned to service.</p> <p>PC Vinyard asked if the spurs could be repaired to a condition where they could be maintained entirely by Port staff. Thornsbury stated that</p>	<p>By consensus, the PC directed ED Thornsbury to seek bids for the remaining DIP rail spur repairs.</p>

DIP Rail Repairs cont...	<p>this could not be achieved immediately without a significant financial investment, but could be realized over time. He explained that some work is best handled by contractors, but regular, on-going maintenance can be handled by staff. He added that proper repairs will help avoid the need for substantial future repairs and offered rail anchors as an example, explaining how they are intended to work and that their improper initial installation had allowed substantial slewing of the crossties.</p> <p>PC Herman said the rail spurs are part of the Port's infrastructure and the Port should have them repaired and in usable condition. Vinyard concurred, stating his belief the Port should "bite the bullet" and get the rail spurs repaired. He added that Port staff could then maintain the rail spurs. PC Schmitt said it's time the Port get the rail spurs reopened for use. Thornsbury noted that the cost for replacing and straighten crossties would likely be \$15,000 to \$20,000.</p>	
Vacation Buyout	ED Thornsbury provided statistics concerning his working hours in 2016 and noted they represent an excess of nine weeks.	PC Herman M to pay ED Thornsbury for 160 hours of unused vacation, PC Schmitt S. MP 3-0.
January Meeting Schedule	The January PC meetings were discussed and left unchanged.	
<b>Executive Director's Report</b>	No report.	
<b>Commissioners Reports</b>	<p>PC Vinyard said the Klickitat County Public Economic Development Authority (KCPEDA) meeting was canceled due to the inclement weather and will be rescheduled for a date in January. Vinyard noted a draft Economic Development Strategic Plan that includes revisions based on the comments received will be presented at the meeting.</p> <p>PC Schmitt said the Bingen Point Incident Response Plan has been completed and added that it is long and difficult to understand. ED Thornsbury said he has not yet reviewed it, but will do so to insure the Port's own safety plan is consistent with it. He suggested a future meeting with PC Schmitt to review the Port's safety plan.</p>	

<b>Commissioners Reports cont...</b>	<p>PC Schmitt said he attended the last Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) meeting via teleconference and one item discussed was the state of the MCEDD loan program. Schmitt stated the loan program has been successful and they are looking for other companies that need capital and have a good business plan.</p> <p>PC Herman said he attended the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (SWRTC) meeting on December 6. ED Thornsbury said he also attended the meeting and explained concerns that traffic data collected by SWRTC in October would not take into account the increased summer recreation traffic. He added that the Port and city of Bingen would likely request additional traffic data collection next summer to address this shortcoming.</p>	
<b>Public Comment</b>	None	
<b>Adjournment</b>	PC Vinyard adjourned the PC Meeting at 5:36 PM.	

Approved on February 28, 2017  
 (Date)

  
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 Marc Thornsbury, Executive Director

  
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 Margie Ziegler, Administrative Assistant

  
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 Wayne Vinyard, President