

PORT OF NEWPORT
COMMERCIAL FISHING USERS GROUP COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 8, 2018
Regular Committee Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Heather Mann called the Regular Meeting of the Port of Newport Commercial Fishing Users Group Committee to order at 9:00 am at the OSU Extension Office, 1211 SE Bay Blvd., Newport, Oregon.

Committee Members Present: Clint Funderburg (Pos. #1); Heather Mann, Chair (Pos. #5); Ted Gibson (Pos. #6); Bob Aue (Pos. #8); and David Jincks (Pos. #11).

Alternates Present: Cari Brandberg (Alt. #3); and John Holt (Alt. #7).

Committee Members Absent: Mike Pettis (Pos. #2); Mark Newell (Pos. #3); Ernie Phillips (Pos. #4); Gene Law (Pos. #7); Bob Eder, Vice-Chair (Pos. #9); and Dave Thalman (Pos. #10).

Port Commission Liaison: Sara Skamser.

Management and Staff: Aaron Bretz, General Manager Pro Tem; Don Moon, Interim NIT Supervisor; and Karen Hewitt, Administrative Assistant.

Members of the Public and Media: John Moody, Pacific Seafood; Rex Capri, Newport Resident; Dietmar Goebel, Newport City Council; Bill Olivera, Pacific Bio Meal Plant; and Dennis Anstine, Newport News-Times.

II. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the Agenda. Mann commented that since the prior meetings minutes were not included in the Agenda or Meeting Packet, they will be reviewed for approval at the next Committee meeting. Committee members, staff and audience members introduced themselves.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

IV. HALL PROPERTY UPDATE

Bretz introduced the excerpt from the draft minutes of the Port of Newport Board of Commissioners' Work Session on December 15, 2017, which captured the presentation and discussion with Evan Hall regarding Rony's Inc. Bretz said that Hall had briefed the Commission on Rony's plans for McLean point, which they want to start developing in 2018. They will be focusing on storage space, intended to be available to the marine industry including commercial fishing. Hall asked for feedback on the commercial fishermen's ideas or needs for the future. Bretz said that Hall said anyone could call him to provide that feedback. Jincks asked if there had been discussion about gear storage. Bretz said that he had discussed this with Hall, who said gear storage could probably be accommodated. Jincks said the Port needs to consider that gear storage generates \$80K in income. Jincks added that this issue had been looked at a few years before, including considering storage on Port property and reducing the gear pile; there needs to be a plan so that storage can still generate funds. Bretz said the Port has been looking at reducing the pile, but some decisions depend on what happens at the Terminal. Skamser asked what the fishermen thought about stacking storage. Gibson said it works well at the Commercial Marina for outriggers. Moon said he was looking into building a rack on the back of the Terminal lot. Skamser said it would be helpful if the fishermen identified the types of gear that would be stored.

Mann said she was contacted by a researcher who was recycling nets, who was looking to recycle gear. Skamser asked if the Terminal had a recycling container. Moon said yes, and it fills about every two months. Bretz asked if the recycler paid for transport. Mann said the receiving company in Denmark pays for the shipping. This may need to be done out of

Astoria, since it is shipped by containers. The company breaks down the material into recyclable plastic. Mann said there are some recyclers on the West Coast, but they only want nylon. Jincks asked about the dredge disposal site on the Hall property. He said that the Port currently has only two disposal sites; others in the past had been filled. Jincks said it was important for the Port to have and protect disposal sites. Bretz commented that Toledo also has issues with dredge disposal and could perhaps partner with PON. He added that the Port had sold a lot of sand this year, but material will be added to the South Beach disposal site from the Army Corp's dredging of the South Beach Marina.

Mann asked how the Committee could provide input to Hall and the Commission on this topic. Bretz said Hall could use a recommendation on the needs of the commercial fleet. Some concerns may be cold storage or more places to land catch. Mann said she would like the Committee to be presented with specific questions. Gibson asked if there had been discussion about docks. Bretz said there was consideration of a floating dock or pier. Skamser said Hall had made a point that he was part of a fishing family, and they wanted to include the City and the Port to enhance what is there. Mann suggested a concern for development on private property could arise if the property were sold. More docks are needed. Jincks said floating docks won't work because of the tide, current, breakwater, and eel grass. Bretz said there was also a concern about keeping access to an area for staging barges, which Hall said would be open in the short term. Mann suggested inviting Hall to a CFUG meeting to help the Committee provide input to the Commission. Jincks said the Committee could review some, but not all, of the issues. He suggested input would be better based on infrastructure on what is needed by fisherman; the overall lease will be left to the Port. Brandberg said Hall wants to help the community, and it would be more helpful to identify needs before the Port meeting. Bretz suggested that the Committee could create a unified voice. Mann said it would be important to have the right people in the room when the Committee made a decision. Bretz will contract Hall to arrange for him to come to a CFUG meeting.

Gibson said a t-pier has been useful. Jincks said the cost of floating docks goes up, and mitigation goes up. Bretz said the advantage of something low is the ability to do work alongside the hull. Jincks agreed moorage is needed. Capri said he has seen barges tied off a bulkhead on shore and anchored, that are removed to the shore when the water freezes. Bretz said he had looked into barges, but they were very expensive. Jincks said adding docks would also require discussion with ODFW for things like daylight issues.

A motion was made by Jincks and seconded by Gibson that the Committee agrees additional moorage is needed. There was no opposition to the motion.

V. PORT DOCK 5 PROJECT UPDATE

Bretz referenced the engineering plans included in the Meeting Packet. He said it was too late to start the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMCG) process since it was not declared in the beginning. Next the plans can be sent to a General Contractor to do some value engineering. It is clear that access to the pier needs to be maintained throughout the project. Jincks said it was an oversight that the CMCG process wasn't initiated for this project, but should be done for any project over \$1MM. He also asked how much ODFW was involved since the plan involved pulling pilings, which could result in creosote release, vs. snapping off pilings which could be considered mitigation. Bretz said OBEC was working with ODFW. Skamser asked if anything had been done similar to when Kent Gibson changed the angle of piers in the Port Dock 7 drawing for ADA requirements. Bretz said that for the Port Dock 5 pier project, the pier was made shorter and the ramp was made longer to comply. Funding has not yet been found. The next step would be final engineering, then look to fund the project.

Jincks said it wouldn't hurt to start seeking grants as soon as possible. If the Port waits until the engineering is done, there is a chance permits would be lost. Bretz said the financial analysis of the Port showed that PON is underperforming with grant revenue. Hewitt has a diverse background as will be attending a grant writing seminar. It will also be important to know where to watch for grant availability.

VI. CHAIR/COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no reports. Bretz said if there was ever a gap in service to please let him know, and provided his cell phone number to Skamser to pass on if needed. Mann noted that insurance for people doing work on Port property was not on the agenda. Bretz said he had just met with the Port's insurance agent. The Port does ask if a person is operating on Port property that they be properly insured. Holt asked about the sea lion problem. Bretz said that ODFW needed to be contacted about options. Skamser said that the Port could find out about what was done in Monterey to get rid of the sea

lions. Jincks said most of California's problems have moved up here. Capri said there is one male sea lion who has been charging people at PD5. Mann suggested there may be additional options if an animal is threatening. Brandberg said she had called ODFW when threatened at the Patty Mae barge, and they told her she could use a slingshot. Holt asked if the Port was liable for tourists. Bretz said the Port wants to make the docks as safe as possible legally. Jincks said the sea lions have a huge impact both in danger and damages. There are a lot of people working on this issue.

VII. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- A. Discussion about change of meeting schedule and possible restructure to align the Committee better with the Port Commission

Mann said she had a discussion with Bretz about perhaps changing the schedule for meetings so that CFUG met once a month on Friday's after the Port Commission Agenda was published and before the Commission meeting the next Tuesday. She said she also planned to attend almost all of the Commission meetings. Jincks said he thought this was a positive step but it may not be necessary to meet every month. Port projects all rely on money. The Committee can identify needs but funding has to be found. Bretz agreed that the Committee and Commission need to work better together. It would be hard to get a meeting scheduled between the agenda and the meeting because of staff time required surrounding the Commission meetings. Pushing the preparation of the Agenda back would not be a solution since changes would likely need to be made. He said the Commission does read the Committee minutes and has responded. Hewitt suggested both Commission and Committee make an effort to engage back and forth, through formal recommendations from the Committee to the Commission, and specific requests for feedback from the Commission to the Committee.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Bretz said the City has a Vision 2040 project, which he will bring up at the next Port Commission meeting. The Vision 2040 Committee is looking for a representative of the Port with a global view. Mann said she went to the Parking Committee meeting. She was surprised that the plant workers and commercial fishermen were pushed off. Goebel said the City Council does not necessarily take that position; there are lots of people concerned about the fishing community. Holt suggested the triangle at the corner of Bay and Fogarty may be a good location for some parking. Jincks said it would be nice to have the parking plans for review. Hewitt will send a link to the draft on the City's website. Brandberg said the Fishermen's Wives were contacted with parking concerns as well. Jincks said that fishermen's parking was the main reason the Port joined the Parking District, and needs to use its voice on the Committee better. Bretz said it would be helpful for CFUG to generate something specific.

There was a discussion about where on the Agenda the Committee's communication would fall. It was requested that CFUG be added to Presentations/Correspondence, to include a report from the Chair or other representative, the meeting minutes, and any decisions made.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at **10:10 am**.

ATTESTED:

Heather Mann, Committee Chair

Bob Eder, Committee Vice-Chair