

**PORT OF NEWPORT**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 5, 2009**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Commission President Ginny Goblirsch brought the special meeting of the Port of Newport Board of Commissioners to order on Wednesday, August 5, 2009, at 12:00 p.m., in the Port Conference Room, the same being within the boundaries of the Port District.

The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Operations Center-Pacific Homeport Project.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

**Commissioners Present:** Ginny Goblirsch, President; Dean Fleck, Vice-President; JoAnn Barton, Secretary; Don Mathews, Treasurer; and David Jincks, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

**Port of Newport Management and Staff:** Don Mann, General Manager; Pete Dale, Project Manager; Kent Gibson, Port Operations; Maureen Keeler, Special Projects Manager; Gina Nielsen, Marina Office Supervisor; and Patty Benjamin, Administrative Assistant.

**Others:** Don Andre and Lee Fries, Newport residents; Bill Bain, Mayor of Newport; Dr. George Boehlert; Director, Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC); Jean Cowan, State Representative; Terry Dillman, News Times; Katie Gauthier, Senator Jeff Merkley's office; Pete Gintner, Port legal counsel; Fritz Graham, Senator Ron Wyden's office; Kiera Morgan, KYTE radio; Lloyd "Oly" Olson, Harbor Crescent Home Owner's Association; Patricia Patrick-Joling, Newport City Council, and Loren Joling; Dr. Hal Pritchett, OSU Engineering Department (ret.); Pat Ruddiman, ILWU Local 53; Jim Shaw, South Beach resident; Trevor Sleeman, Congressman Kurt Schrader's office; Grant Snyder, Wiggins Towboats; Terry Thompson, Lincoln County Commission; and Lori Tobias, Oregonian.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

Speaking on behalf of the commission, President Goblirsch said the board was well aware that the NOAA MOC-P Project was not just a Port of Newport project but a massive community effort, which she credited with making Newport's offer stand out.

**A. Resolution 5-2009 Approving Lease for Real Property with the United States of America.** President Goblirsch called for a motion on the resolution, which authorized the General Manager to sign all lease documents relating to the offer for real property between the Port of Newport and the United States of America for the homeporting of NOAA's MOC-P. Commissioner Jincks asked Commissioner Barton to make the motion, since she had devoted an enormous amount of time to the project.

Commissioner Barton moved to approve the Resolution 5-2009 approving the lease for real property between the United States of America and the Port of Newport. Commissioner Jincks seconded the motion. The chair asked Commissioner Barton to read the resolution aloud, which she did. The chair called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously with all five commissioners voting aye.

The signing of the resolution was followed by a round of applause, and the General Manager expressed his appreciation for the collaborative effort of everyone. He then excused himself to initial several hundred pages of lease documents in time for the 2:00 p.m. deadline for overnight express.

President Goblirsch asked for comments.

Commissioner Jincks described a conversation he had at Lazerquick that morning about Newport's existing infrastructure that formed the building blocks to where we are now. Citing the Hatfield Marine Science Center, Performing Arts Center, Oregon Coast Aquarium, and Oregon Coast Community College, Jincks said we should thank past, present, and hopefully future citizens for their foresight as we continue to build.

Lincoln County Commissioner Terry Thompson suggested organizing a local team to help NOAA personnel and families transition into the community. He noted that the Chamber of Commerce is very good at helping tourists but NOAA people make their careers on the ocean, which gives them a different perspective on things. He compared it to the perspective fishermen have and said the team should include people with experience in that area. He urged organizing the team right away, because people would be coming into town early to have a look at the community.

Mayor Bill Bain pointed out that some NOAA people have already been in Newport and related a story about two NOAA visitors at the Chamber office.

Representative Jean Cowan said she appreciated what Commissioner Jincks said about the effort that had gone into building Newport's infrastructure, including the marine research that was key to making the project come together. She said bringing NOAA to Newport had the support of the entire state, which was made clear when state money was found for the project during an extremely difficult legislative session. She said it had seemed impossible at first, but enthusiastic of individuals within the legislative body and the state of Oregon recognized a huge opportunity, not just for Newport and this district but for the whole state, and made it happen. She said those folks stand ready to continue working to make the homeport project a success.

Newport Mayor Bill Bain cautioned against selling the Chamber short because they specialize in the "welcoming business". He said to look at the existing resources and combine those elements, like the Port had done when it reached out to the community to put the NOAA package together, because there was no need to create something new if it is already in place.

Commissioner JoAnn Barton stated that this would not have happened without the community's involvement and without the support of Rep. Jean Cowan and Senators Joanne Verger and Betsy Johnson, who "believed in us" and weren't going to give up until they had "wrung out" \$19.5 million through what was possibly the most difficult legislative session in Oregon's history. She said she had felt all along that if NOAA's decision was merit-based and not about politics, Newport stood as good a chance as anybody and better than most. She added that, in the end, she believed it was a merit-based decision and her faith in the American government was restored.

Commissioner David Jincks agreed on the merit-based decision and added that it was a "no-brainer" because he "could never figure out what a world class oceanographic research fleet was doing sitting in a frog pond."

Dr. George Boehlert, HMSC, recalled that he and General Manager Don Mann had worked through the Yaquina Bay Economic Foundation (YBEF) to position Yaquina Bay as an infrastructure base for an observing system, and that too had been a wide, community-based effort. He went on to say that in the next couple of weeks there would be an announcement of a \$400 million award from the National Science Foundation to the Consortium for Ocean Leadership to fund infrastructure around the United States and in some international waters for cable and moored observatories. Many of those observatories would be off the Pacific Northwest. Boehlert said there had been a meeting with research people from Woods Hole, Scripps, and OSU about six weeks ago to talk about what their infrastructure needs would be in Newport, and another meeting would be planned following NOAA's home port announcement, to discuss how they could collaborate with the NOAA facility to make Newport a real center for marine science in the future. A discussion followed between Dr. Boehlert and Rep. Cowan about HMSC's application for the Marine Mammal Institute, which Cowan

called a “last piece of unfinished business for the legislature.” Boehlert said the application would be re-submitted.

Newport resident Don Andre complimented the Port Commission on keeping focused and moving forward and representing what was best for the community. He said he appreciated Commissioner Jincks’ comments about those in the past who had built the infrastructure for the livability and quality of life Newport enjoys today.

Commissioner Fleck said he had personally enjoyed talking with the people who thought Newport had no chance of winning the NOAA homeport, and thanked the community for making it happen.

South Beach resident Jim Shaw complimented the commission and said there would be one week to celebrate and then it would be time to get to work.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the special meeting of the commission, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

ATTEST

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Ginny Goblirsch, President

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JoAnn Barton, Secretary