

December 17, 2024

6:00 P.M.

Newport, OR

PORT OF NEWPORT COMMISSION MINUTES

This is not an exact transcript. The video of the session is available on the Port's website.

The Port of Newport Commission met on the above date and time at the Administration Building, 600 SE Bay Blvd., and virtually via Microsoft Teams. In attendance were Commissioners Sylvia, Lackey, Ruddiman, Chuck, and Retherford. Also in attendance were Executive Director Paula Miranda, Director of Business and Finance Services Mark Brown, Operations Director/Deputy Executive Director Aaron Bretz, Administrative Assistant Gloria Tucker, PR Representative Angela Nebel, and Assistant Harbormaster Cameron Brockway.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION was made by Chuck, seconded by Ruddiman, to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Employee Anniversary Recognition – 5 Years – Cameron Brockway. Sylvia introduced the agenda item. The Commission and staff thanked Brockway for his service.

OLD BUSINESS

Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation Member Renewals/Nominations. Sylvia introduced the agenda item. Miranda reported the Port has liaisons for this commission, Gil Sylvia and Walter Chuck. She recommended reappointing them. She noted this is an important board because ODOT does listen to these regional boards. Sylvia stated if there were any Commissioners who would like to be on this committee, he is willing to step down. He noted it's not too difficult because they meet remotely. He added over the years they have commented on a couple different state projects.

MOTION was made by Retherford, seconded by Lackey, to reappoint Commissioners Gil Sylvia, as the primary member, and Walter Chuck, as the alternate representative of the Port, on the CWACT Board. The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director's Report. Miranda presented her report included in the packet. She announced she has bad news regarding the ConnectOregon grant. She stated there is an administrative rule that requires all the [project funding] is available at the time of the grant award. She noted the state was willing to wait a few months if the Pot had been awarded funding from the federal government. She explained in this case, the Port did not get either of the federal grants, and even though the Port is reapplying, it will take six months to a year to know if those are awarded. She indicated the RAISE grant application is due at the end of January, and the PIDP notice of

funding is due at the end of this month. She added RAISE is funded in the summer, and PIDP is funded in the fall.

Miranda reported the Port is more likely to get the PIDP grant. She stated there is a new ODOT grant called Federal Grant Match, a \$10 million program that is funded every two years. She noted the state suggested the Port apply for that, break the project into phases, or get other programs to add funding. She indicated they are willing to award \$5 or \$6 million from the Federal Grant Match program, but they don't want to hold \$9.5 million. She added after working with Bretz, phasing the project would not be a good idea for the federal requests.

Miranda reported the Port is closer to understanding the dredge costs, and the money allocated for that could be decreased. She stated the other possibility is to separate the mitigation from the rest of the project, and fund that through a NOAA fisheries grant with DLCD. She explained staff are going to come up with what is the least amount the project can cost. She noted if the Port needs to get another million, the Port can get the funding from the Legislature or Business Oregon. She added worst comes to worst; the Port could get a million-dollar loan.

Lackey stated this will be a work in progress. He noted a lot of times the cost of projects go up from the unexpected and inflation. He indicated there is a decent chance inflation takes off again. He asked what happens if the project ends up costing \$5 or \$10 million more. Miranda replied that is always possible. She noted there is a cost estimate that put in a 20 percent contingency.

Lackey asked if at some point a refresh of the estimate would be appropriate. Bretz replied the numbers were refreshed a year ago, and it is coming to the time to do it again. He added one of DOWL's specialties is cost projection, so it is not difficult to update the numbers. Miranda added if the costs increase, then she would request more from the federal grant.

Chuck asked if the Port could use its own funds as a 20 percent match for the ConnectOregon grant and keep the ConnectOregon funds. Miranda replied that is not how the grant is set up. Sylvia asked if these are new administrative rules or if staff knew this going into the application. Miranda and Bretz replied they did not know about that detail. Sylvia added it concerns him a little bit that the state wouldn't recognize the challenge of securing funding in a short window of time and allow some flexibility. Miranda replied the state does want to work with the Port to fund this project.

Chuck asked if the Commission could tour the Rogue Seawall. Miranda replied Tucker can set up a time, and Bretz can guide the tour. Chuck stated he is also interested in what is going on with PacSeafood. He asked if it would be possible for the Commission to meet with them. He added if the Port does go through with a project, it would be a big commitment. Discussion ensued on the issue between DEQ and Pacific Seafood. Miranda stated staff would set up a work session. She explained the difference between other Oregon ports and the Port of Newport is they have land to build facilities on, while the Port of Newport does not. Sylvia confirmed with staff that if the Port was to get funds to do a preplanning assessment, that does not involve a final commitment. He suggested the Port provide the Coos Bay plan as background information for the meeting. Miranda added she will provide the issue from DEQ and a staff report as well.

Lackey requested the one-year cash flow be reviewed at the next Commission meeting.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chuck reported on the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association meeting and its new management.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Gil Sylvia
Gil Sylvia (Jan 29, 2025 20:33 MST)

Gil Sylvia, President

ATTESTED:
Walter Chuck
Walter Chuck, Secretary/Treasurer