

Port of Anacortes

Special Commission Meeting January 10, 2012

The Port Commission of the Port of Anacortes held a special meeting at 9:00 A.M. on the morning of January 10, 2012. This was an annual joint Commission Meeting with the Port of Skagit held as part of their regular meeting at the Commission Hearing Room at the Port of Skagit offices, 15400 Airport Drive, Burlington, Washington.

In Attendance for the Port of Anacortes: Commission President Mooney, Commission Vice-President Short Commission Secretary Niver, and Commissioner Rubin. Commissioner Eberle was excused.

Also in attendance: Executive Director Hyde, Director of Finance & Administration Johnson, Director of Operations & Facilities Hachey, Marina Manager Fowler, Accounting Manager Behan, and Executive Assistant Lindsey.

In Attendance for the Port of Skagit County: Commissioner Ware, Commission Omdal, and Commissioner Shuler.

Also in attendance: Executive Director Botsford-Martin, Director of Facilities & Operations Peterson, Director of Finance Garcia, Harbormaster Mattos, Manager of Planning & Environmental Services Young, Port of Skagit legal counsel Furlong, Airport Supervisor Nord, Grants & Contracts Coordinator Haslip, Senior Accountant Gardner, Communications Manager Molesworth, and Communications Coordinator Hamilton,

CALL TO ORDER

Following the Port of Skagit's call to order, Commission President Mooney called the special meeting of January 10, 2012, to order at 9:02 A.M. and thanked the Skagit Port Commission and staff for hosting the joint meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Port of Skagit Commissioner Shuler led the Pledge of Allegiance, following which the Commissioners and staff of both Ports introduced themselves. Commissioner Shuler welcomed all in attendance and wished everyone a happy New Year.

CONFIRM OR AMEND AGENDA

Port of Skagit Executive Director Botsford-Martin requested an amendment to the agenda, an action for Commission consideration for a change of meeting time. This met with the consensus of the Port of Skagit Commission.

PORT OF SKAGIT CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Shuler read the items on the Port of Skagit's consent agenda, which included Public Communications, the Minutes of the regular meeting of December 20, 2011, and a Fiscal Report. Commissioner Ware moved to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Omdal. Commissioner Shuler called for a vote on the motion, which carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Commissioner Shuler opened the forum for public comment. Hearing none, the floor was closed.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Envision Skagit 2060 Recommendations - Presentation

Mr. Kirk Johnson representing the Envision Skagit 2060 project for Skagit County thanked the Port of Skagit for the opportunity to address both Commissions. He explained Envision Skagit 2060 was a Citizen Committee, funded by a 4-year planning and land use modeling grant via Skagit County, looking to achieve improved environmental outcomes. The Committee met from September 2010 through June 2011, and consisted of 12 citizen volunteers who were selected from a larger pool of applicants by a committee of county commissioners and city and town mayors. Mr. Johnson noted among their primary tasks was to listen to the community and determine what people value. The Committee approached the project in three phases, including a study of industrial land and the industry job base including information from Port of Skagit's Executive Director Patsy Botsford-Martin along with Manager of Planning and Environmental Services Sara Young, Port of Anacortes Executive Director Bob Hyde, Economic Development Association of Skagit County (EDASC) Executive Director Don Wick, and Executive Director Botsford-Martin all gave presentations to the Committee.

In addition to meeting with local, regional, and national experts, the Citizen Committee hosted community meetings in Edison, Anacortes, La Connor, Concrete, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, and Burlington. Envision Skagit 2060 held additional listening sessions with specific groups, including the agricultural community, the Latino and Spanish-speaking community, and youth from local schools. The committee also received comments through the project website and from presentations to a wide variety of service and interest groups. In total the committee heard from well over 400 residents.

Mr. Johnson introduced Committee members Peggy Flynn and Tim Rosenhan who assisted in providing a summary of the project. They and Mr. Johnson responded to questions and elaborated somewhat on the studies of population density, urban expansion, industrial growth and diversity, and farmland preservation within the report. Executive Director Botsford-Martin noted that tenants at the Port of Skagit were working to identify value added products and services, such as a commissary kitchen located at the Port and the Northwest Agricultural Research Foundation.

Commissioner Moony observed that the Port of Anacortes' industrial areas were closely impacted by residential zones, making it difficult to expand in terms of properties. Executive Director Martin noted the Port of Skagit had a great deal more acreage, but also a lot of wetland areas that were not suitable for development, as well as land that was forested, agricultural, or in the flood plain.

Commissioner Ware and Commissioner Omdal inquired what role the Port of Skagit might have in the 2060 project. Mr. Rosenhan noted the Port's industrial lands could play a strong role in establishing infrastructure and observed the Port could conceivably aid in bonding capacity for that infrastructure. He noted there was an elected official's summit, Skagit Alliance, being planned for March to discuss the report and possible next steps.

Commissioner Niver believed the discussion should not be limited to government entities and should include private industry, which could prove to have a major impact. Commissioner Omdal agreed, noting that revenues come with business development.

Commissioner Shuler observed the Port of Skagit's goals included setting a framework and parameters for development in the future. He further observed that agricultural land was still critical to the Skagit Valley.

Ms. Flynn noted the idea of the Skagit Alliance was to bring together a group of stakeholders that included more than just the governmental sector.

Port of Skagit legal counsel Furlong questioned the Envision 2060 presenters regarding the industrial tax base, forecasted population increases and how this will impact school systems and capital expenditures. Mr. Rosenhan explained this was inherent in getting more industrial workers and identifying tax revenues.

Commissioner Short noted the Port of Anacortes' industry is primarily on the waterfront with shipping and recreational vessels. Anacortes does not have any big box stores or the revenue they can produce.

Commissioner Niver explained that government entities may have to purchase property to preserve zoning. Commissioner Ware believed that to say public purchase was more accurate. He agreed there was need to protect and expand industrial land in preparation for future growth, and to balance the desire for short term economic growth with future forecasts and industry trends.

Mr. Johnson noted he also wished to acknowledge Cory Ertel, and Anacortes resident for his work on the Committee. He thanked both Commissions for the opportunity to speak, noting he was encouraged by the conversation. He provided printed copies of the report to all Commissioners.

The Citizen Committee's report is available at the following libraries: Anacortes, Burlington, Concrete, La Conner, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley, and at the Skagit County Up River Services office. The report is also available on disk, at no charge, by contacting Linda Christensen at lindac@co.skagit.wa.us, or (360) 336-9410, ext. 7620.

Commissioner Rubin thanked the Envision 2060 Committee for their presentation and hard work on the project.

RECESS

Commissioner Ware thanked the presenters as well and at 10:18 A.M. called for a brief recess.

RESUME

The Commissions resumed the joint meeting at 10:32 A.M.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION, CONTINUED

Swinomish Channel Dredging Project

Executive Director Botsford-Martin provided a brief historical background and an update on the present need for dredging in the Swinomish Channel. She explained that funding for dredging of this public waterway came from a Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, and the federal government

has taken a portion of those funds each year since 1996 with only a small portion set aside and available for shallow draft dredging. Pacific Northwest Waterways has put forward an omnibus bill at the division level, but with little funding, only a few projects qualify each year. The Channel silts in continually and needs dredging, at least in places, every three years.

Executive Director Botsford-Martin reported that local entities are now taking a regional approach with she and Executive Director Hyde working with LaConner's Mayor Hayes, other city leaders, Skagit County, and the Swinomish & Samish Indian Nations to find a regional solution. Executive Director Botsford-Martin and Executive Director Hyde head the group's Technical Committee (how to do the dredging), while Mayor Hayes heads the Financial Committee (how to fund the dredging). The Port of Skagit has set aside \$400,000 for the first phase of maintenance dredging of what could total a possible \$1.2 for completely dredging of the entire Channel. Currently, the south end is the area of most critical need.

Executive Director Hyde reported that Dunlap Towing and the Shelter Bay Foundation were also participants. The group's next meeting would be January 11th. They are working on forming an Interlocal Agreement with a methodology over time in which each of the entities would pay into or provide an in-kind donation of services for the dredging. He noted the Channel is 13 miles long and that a portion of the south end is now only five feet deep, instead of the normal fourteen feet. The dredging plan would address the south end first and also a portion of the north end where the Channel is shallowest. The cost for this first phase, as noted by Executive Director Botsford-Martin, would be approximately \$400,000.

Commissioner Niver stated the navigation of the Swinomish Channel was truly a transportation issue. He noted that both the Port of Skagit and the Port of Anacortes are members of the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO), although that membership has little benefit to either port. The RTPO administers federal funding programs for funds that can be accessed only by transit and with a category for Tribes as well. Commissioner Niver noted there could be some question as to whether the Channel dredging project could qualify for funding, or might be submitted jointly for funding through an Interlocal Agreement between the Tribes and the two Ports, and sometimes matching funds are required.

Commissioner Omdal inquired about the methods used for dredging and the need to dredge every three years. Executive Director Hyde explained that the Army Corps of Engineers was looking into the best method via their environmental section, and that a vacuum type of dredging equipment could possibly be used. Some areas cannot be hydraulically dredged.

Commissioner Rubin noted another possible consideration was for the Ports to consider owning their own equipment and then performing maintenance dredging a bit each year as needed. Executive Director Hyde observed the equipment could be used in the Ports' marinas as well.

Commissioner Ware inquired what level of involvement the Port of Anacortes would have in the dredging. Commissioner Mooney noted he was speaking for himself, but he would like to propose an equal division of cost from all the entities. Considering the economic impact of boat traffic through the Channel, some of which is headed for the Cap Sante Boat Haven, Commissioner Short believed the Port of Anacortes should support the project, with the question being in what regard and how much. Commissioner Rubin agreed with Commissioner Mooney with a division of the costs between all entities. Commissioner Niver noted the Port of Anacortes already has some dredging needed within the Cap Sante Boat Haven and no funding in the Port's current budget to do so. He explained the Former Scott Paper site took all of the Port's available funds with not a lot of room for discretionary projects over the next five years.

Commissioner Mooney stated that Commissioner Eberle was in favor of dredging support for the Channel and had included statements to that effect during his campaign. Commissioner Ware believed the Port of Anacortes would be greatly impacted if fewer boaters could get through the Channel.

Commissioner Omdal asked for additional information about the possible purchase and shared use of dredging equipment, Commissioner Mooney observed that depending on the job to be done, it could be less costly to hire a service to perform the dredging. Commissioner Shuler noted the Port of Skagit does have an existing need for dredging in the LaConner Marina. Executive Director Botsford-Martin noted the dredging for the Marina was in the Port of Skagit's long term budget. The most straightforward solution at present was to pay the \$400,000 to the Army Corps of Engineers for the first and most needed phase of dredging and then examine further options. Executive Director Hyde noted the Army Corps would complete a survey prior to dredging.

Commissioner Ware observed that in addition to financing the dredging, there was also a permit issue, and he voiced concerns the Channel could silt up further before a permit could be issued. Executive Director Botsford-Martin noted the Corps has the authority to dredge the Channel and the Port could enter into an Interlocal agreement with the Corps for the dredging with the Corps obtaining the necessary clearances and cause the permitting process to go more smoothly. Commissioner Niver suggested that the RTPO might be a source for help in permitting.

Resolution No. 1201 – Change of Commission Meeting times for Port of Skagit County

Executive Director Botsford-Martin briefed the item for Commission consideration for changing the Commission's meeting time from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Commissioner Ware moved to adopt Resolution No. 1201. Commissioner Omdal seconded the motion. Commissioner Ware called for a vote by the Port of Skagit Commission on the motion, which carried unanimously.

Other Items of Mutual Interest -

Executive Director Hyde observed that the Port of Anacortes and the Port of Skagit County's booths would be opposite each other at the Seattle Boat Show. Commissioner Ware stated he would like to see the Ports cooperate in some way on presenting both the LaConner Marina and the Cap Sante Boat Haven to boaters coming north from Seattle, such as advertising and promotional materials. Commissioner Short noted the Port of Anacortes had a large display and suggested a large map could be included in the display, showing preferred places to stop. Commissioner Niver noted the Port of Anacortes' Cap Sante Boat Haven is full in the summer months, and the Port is working on how to fill it during the off-seasons. Executive Director Hyde Executive Director Botsford-Martin stated the would work on a collaboration.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commission Ware reported that EDASC was promoting attendance at an Aerospace Show on March 12th in Seattle and it could be a promotional opportunity.

ADJOURNMENT – Port of Skagit County

With no other business to consider, Commissioner Omdal moved to adjourn. Commissioner Ware seconded the motion. Commissioner Shuler declared the Port of Skagit's regular meeting adjourned at 11:11 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT – Port of Anacortes

With no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Short moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Mooney. Commissioner Mooney called for the vote on the motion, which carried 4-0 with Commissioner Eberle excused, and at 11:12 A.M. the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

Pat. D. Mooney, Commission President

William L. Short, Commission Vice-President

Ray Niver, Commission Secretary

Bob Eberle, Commissioner

Keith Rubin, Commissioner

Julie Johnson Lindsey, Executive Assistant
January 10, 2012