
Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2025 – 1:30 pm
2 Marine Drive, Boardman, Oregon 97818

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Joe called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Rick Stokoe, Joe Taylor, John Murray, Kelly Doherty, and Joel Peterson

Staff Present: Lisa Mittelsdorf, Eileen Hendricks, Mark Patton, Jacob Cain, Jason Hendricks, Brandy Warburton, Erika Morton

Visitors Present: Torrie Griggs

By Zoom Meeting: (Staff) Marcine Brangham
(Guests) Heppner Gazette-Times, City of Heppner, Aaron Palmquist, Brandon Hammond, Michael Campbell, Kristen Ostrum - Oregon Rural Action (ORA), Ryann Gleason, Kirby Garrett, Sam Tucker, Morrow County, MC Planning, "L", Karen Pettigrew, NATSB

II. ELECTION OF PORT OF MORROW COMMISSION OFFICERS FOR 2025

John made the motion to appoint the same officers as they stand now for 2025. Joel seconded the motion. No further discussion was had. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. December 4, 2024, Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

Rick made the motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. John seconded the motion. No further discussion was had. The motion passed unanimously.

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

A. Federal – Kirby gave an update for Washington DC legislative matters. A new congress is being sworn in with inauguration day next week. He summarized the status of government spending. Regarding Port specific items, the WIFIA process is continuing. The MARAD Port Infrastructure Development grant application for Terminal 3 is due in April. Kelley asked about Terminal 3 and Jacob explained the grant would be used to help with necessary repairs.

- B. State** – Ryann gave an update for the Oregon legislature. Elected officials are being sworn in and are taking office with the start of the new year. She reviewed new bills that were submitted over the weekend. She commented regarding the Port’s emergency permit request to DEQ to avoid a shut down.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2025 Membership Board Appointments

- a. CDA – Rick made a motion to accept the nominations that were made a few months ago and retain Joe as the voting member with Joel as the alternate. Joe seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

John asked/commented regarding future CREZ II/III meetings and board appointments. He would like to have a discussion at a future date regarding taking the port commission’s wishes into account during these future CREZ meetings.

- b. CREZ II – John and Kelly were voting members in 2024. Rick was alternate. Rick asked if past practice of the port chair having a seat on CREZ II and an alternate selected and if that practice would continue. John remarked that he had not heard that before.

Rick made the motion to appoint John and Joel as voting members with Joe as alternate. Joel seconded the motion. Joe asked if Joel would accept the appointment, and Joel responded yes. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. CREZ III - In 2024, Lisa was staff voting member and Mark as her alternate. John and Joe are voting commissioners with Joel as alternate.

Rick asked if there was any concern in having the same appointees with John and Joel as voting members and Joe as alternate. Kelly disagreed and thought they should be different. John agreed with Kelly that the appointees should be different.

John made the motion to appoint John and Joe as voting members, with Kelly as alternate. Rick asked if the motion included retaining Lisa and Mark in their current appointments. John said yes unless they wanted to swap. Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 in favor and 1 no, with Joe, John, Joel, and Kelly voting yes and Rick voting no.

- d. Broadband – Rick and John were voting members in 2024 with Joe as alternate. Joel made the motion to keep the appointments the same. John seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. Audit Committee – John made a motion to retain Kelly and Joel for the audit committee. Rick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- f. **Clean Water Consortium** – John asked to clarify who were included on the appointments. John made a motion to appoint Kelly and Lisa. Kelly seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution 2024-08 Utility Rates – Update Rate Discussion – Eileen gave an overview regarding water rates. She and Lisa answered questions from the commissioners. Joel asked what the rates would be. It would make about a \$0.50 cent increase now and another in July. Kelly asked about sustainability and what it would take to reach that goal. Eileen said that’s why we have a sliding scale, and this increase puts us where we need to be right now. The commission decided that we will need to move forward.

C. Airport Roads Dedication – Brandy shared maps of the new airport roads and Jacob talked about the new names. Rick made a motion to approve the roads dedication as presented. Kelly seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. CWSRF Resolution 2025-01 – Lisa stated we need a updated motion for the DEQ Resolution to undertake the Project Clean Water State Revolving Fund. John moved to approve Resolution 2025-01. Rick seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. WIFIA Update – Lisa provided an update and answered questions.

F. Heppner Flood Plain – Mark reported we have been approved to move forward by DEQ. He answered questions from the commission.

G. OHA SEP – Michael Campbell explained that as part of the DEQ settlement, we were able to direct funds towards a project. The commission gave input and had a discussion on how they wished the funds could be directed/spent. Lisa said she will provide an update after a meeting on Thursday.

H. Other

Mark said we won the appeal of the county land-use decision.

Mark also commented that Walter should have plans for the Irrigon incubator building done. Aaron Palmquist, Irrigon City Manager, said the building will go about the 900 block on the south side of HWY 730. To reduce costs, the size has been reduced. Mark asked for a copy of the federal requirements so we can get the bid requirements correct.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appoint Budget Officer/Approve Budget Calendar – The commission reviewed the budget calendar included in the packet. Eileen has been the budget officer.

Rick made a motion to appoint Eileen as the budget officer and approve the budget calendar for the year 2025-26. Kelly seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. BCDA Presentation – Torrie Griggs – Torrie presented an overview of how CREZ II funds have supported the Boardman community through BCDA.

C. Proposed SDAO Bylaws Amendments – Brandy explained that this is just for their review. Voting will occur at the upcoming SDAO meeting.

D. Other

Lisa passed out a press release sent out at 2:30PM today from Governor Kotek’s office declaring “State of Emergency due to risk of economic shut down in Morrow and Umatilla counties”. The declaration authorizes the Port to apply wastewater if necessary to fields within the LUBGMA that are down gradient from domestic wells or designated as “low risk” only between January 15 through February 28. As a result, the Port will be withdrawing their emergency request with the DEQ.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Project Updates – Mark and Jacob gave an overview of projects, including closing out the BUILD grant, development at the airport, Farms 3 and 6, and the Gar Swanson Road extension.

B. Maintenance Update – Erika showed photos of the airport, farms 3, 5, and 6, and a recent HWH load at Terminal 3 while Mark and Jacob answered questions.

C. Financial Update – Eileen gave the financial update while the commissioners reviewed the packet.

D. Usage Reports – Commissioners reviewed the usage reports in their packets.

E. Other

No other staff reports were discussed at the time.

IX. OTHER REPORTS

A. WCVEDG – None present

B. BCDA – Torrie’s report was given earlier.

C. ICABO – Mark talked about the sewer project, which is going well.

D. Other

X. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER - None

XI. UPCOMING EVENTS:

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| February 6-9th | SDAO Annual Conference – Bend |
| February 8-March 20th | POM Commission Candidate Filing Period |
| February 12th | POM Regular Commission Meeting |
| March 10-13th | PNWA Mission to Washington |
| May 20th | POM Commission Elections |

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Joe read the following statement and recessed the regular session at 3:55 PM.

The Port will hold an executive session meeting for the permissible reason(s) stated below under ORS 192.660(2). Representatives of the news media and designated staff and other persons shall be allowed to attend the executive session. All other members of the audience will be asked to leave the room. The public virtual Zoom Meeting link will be closed during the executive session as permissible executive session meetings are not subject to HB2560. Representatives of the news media are specifically directed not to report on any of the deliberations during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the session as previously announced. No decision will be made in this executive session. At the end of the executive session, we will return to open session and welcome the audience back into the room in-person and open the public virtual Zoom Meeting link again.

A. For the Purpose of Consideration of Deliberations with the Port’s Executive Director and Other Staff Members Who Have Been Designated by the Port to Negotiate Real Property Transactions – ORS 192.660 (2)(e)

B. For the Purpose of Consultation with Counsel Concerning the Legal Rights and Duties of a Public Body with Regard to Current Litigation or Litigation Likely to be Filed – ORS 192.660 (2)(h)

Joe reconvened the open session at 4:27 PM.

Lisa requested clarification for the meeting on Thursday with Morrow County, DEQ, OHA, and the Department of Justice to talk about the SEP application and how to accomplish funding Morrow County’s project through OHA. Now there’s also a second application. She would like the commission to give her direction on how to proceed. Following a discussion regarding the application, goals, purpose, and community engagement, John summarized that he would love to see a middle ground through the consortium with two voices at the table who understand clearly what’s wanted and that also includes community engagement.

Kelly made a motion to take a vote on moving “forward with community engagement, pre-approved application from the DEQ”. Joel asked to clarify if she was referring to the application

from ORA and Kelly replied yes. John seconded the motion for the sake of a vote and thinks the community should know where we stand.

Joe asked Kelly to confirm that the motion is to approve the SEP submitted by Oregon Rural Action and Kelly replied yes. Rick said he doesn't grasp why we're trying to vote to say that we aren't supporting our community involvement when we just had a discussion stating we expect that the community be involved with these decisions. The goal of the consortium was to provide safe drinking water to as many people as we can. Joel remarked that he feels the vote is to support ORA, not to have community involvement. He's in support of community involvement and feels the consortium could do a better job than this.

Joe called for a vote. Kelly voted yes. Joel, John, Rick, and Joe voted no. The motion failed.

There was a final conversation regarding where and how funds would be directed.

Joe adjourned the meeting at 4:47 PM.

Submitted by:



Joe Taylor, Commission President



Lisa Mittelsdorf, Executive Director

Port of Morrow Commission
Public Comment Sign-in Sheet



If you are interested in addressing the Commission under the Public Comment portion of the Agenda, please sign-in below before the meeting starts. A copy of the Public Comment Policy is available to any member of the public who wishes to speak.

DATE: January 13, 2025

FULL NAME:

PHONE:

TOPIC:

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