



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 4, 2025
100 E. STREET, COLUMBIA CITY, OREGON 97018

The Port of Columbia County held a Special Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 4, 2025 at the Port office and via Zoom (*) video conferencing with the following people present:

Commissioners

Chip Bubl	Vice President
Nancy Ward*	2nd Vice President
Brian Fawcett*	Treasurer
Robert Keyser*	Secretary

Guests

Jasmine Lillich	Clatskanie
Dan Sternadel*	St. Helens
Dan Serres*	Columbia River Keeper

Staff

Sean P. Clark	Executive Director
Amy Bynum	Deputy Executive Director
Bob Salisbury	Port General Counsel
Christa Burns	Administrative Assistant II
Miriam House*	Operations Manager
Elliot Levin	North County Ops. & Terminal Mgr.
Elizabeth Millager*	Property Manager
Lacey Tolles*	Airport Manager
Samantha Scott*	Administrative Assistant
Brittany Scott*	Finance Assistant
Kim Culver	Facility Maintenance Technician
Lindsay Gobel Wilson	Communications/Grant Manager

Commission Vice President Chip Bubl called the Port of Columbia County Commission Meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. Commissioners Fawcett, Ward and Keyser were present via Zoom and phone conferencing. Commissioner Bubl was present in person. Commissioner Sorber was absent.

Comments from the Public

Dan Serres of Columbia Riverkeeper stated that he sent a comment letter to the Port on September 3 on the proposed Port Westward expansion and the potential use of federal funding for projects beyond seismic resiliency. Mr. Serres raised concerns about environmental risks and an incomplete analysis by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in relation to the NEXT Renewable Fuels project.

Jasmine Lillich of Clatskanie expressed support for seismic upgrades to the current infrastructure at Port Westward but opposed the proposed expansion. Ms. Lillich raised concerns that public funds are being stretched to support a project that still faces approval hurdles. From an agricultural perspective, she noted progress and economic potential in the region, citing a recent experience that provided significant payouts to local farmers. Ms. Lillich also asked Commissioners to carefully consider community input before making decisions.

New Business

Resolution 2025-25

PORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT

North County Operations and Terminal Manager Elliot Levin presented Resolution 2025-25 authorizing Port staff to apply for a Maritime Administration Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant for up to \$15.6 million and set aside \$10.4 million in Port funds, including funds received from Connect Oregon and Port tenants, toward grant matching requirements. The PIDP grant funds would be used for planning, permitting and design for the complete modernization and seismic improvement of Berths 1 and 2, extension of the pipe bridge across the lagoon, and demolition of old infrastructure to mitigate the pipe bridge extension. The objective is to enhance operating efficiency, comply with safety and environmental regulations, and support liquid bulk cargo. Mr. Levin



displayed a slideshow depicting the Beaver Dock, Berth 1, Berth 2 and the pipe bridge extension. He explained that the Port will be permitting the replacement and modernization of Berth 2, sections of Berth 1, the upstream and downstream approaches, and associated groundwork. The construction phase of the project will involve extending the pipe bridge, placing the product pipelines, vapor recovery, and inert lines on the new structure. The pipelines will be relocated off of the wooden dock and away from passing vessels and placed on a seismically designed and modern structure in the lagoon providing flexibility for implementing future phases of the project. Additionally, construction will include groundwork at the base of the pipe bridge and demolition of the outdated rail trestle or downstream approach as required to mitigate the pipe bridge extension. The total estimated cost of the project is \$25-26 million. Mr. Levin explained that the Port is targeting a 40 percent match, or \$10.4 million, leaving a match shortfall of \$7.7 million after subtracting the \$2.7 million Connect Oregon match. The Port is seeking participation from Global Partners and NXT Clean Fuels. Nancy Ward asked if the new pipes would support commodities other than liquid and Mr. Levin responded that they are designed exclusively for liquid bulk. The grant application deadline is September 10, 2025.

Brian Fawcett moved, Nancy Ward seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-25. Commissioners Fawcett, Ward, Keyser and Bubl voted yes. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Resolution 2025-26

RURAL TRIBAL ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM GRANT

Mr. Levin then presented Resolution 2025-26 authorizing Port staff to apply for a Department of Transportation Rural and Tribal Assistance (RTA) grant of up to \$2.5 million. This program provides funds for planning and design phase activities to support rural and tribal infrastructure projects. There is no Port match requirement, and the funds can be used for staffing and hiring third-party firms to provide financial, technical, and legal assistance with planning and design. Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and individual awards will range from \$250,000 - \$25 million. Mr. Levin indicated that the Port plans to use the funds for permitting and preliminary engineering of the Port Westward modernization and seismic improvement project, and to potentially offset the PIDP grant match. The optimal amount to request for the RTA grant will be determined to improve the Port's chances of approval.

Brian Fawcett moved, Nancy Ward seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-26. Commissioners Fawcett, Ward, Keyser and Bubl voted yes. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

THE COMMISSION WENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION @ 10:30 A.M.

Executive Session

The Board held an Executive Session to consider exempt public records, including written legal advice from Port General Counsel, which is privileged under ORS 40.225, exempt from disclosure under ORS 192.355(9)(a), and pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f).

THE COMMISSION RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION AT 10:46 A.M

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 10:47 A.M.**



President


Secretary

September 24, 2025
Date Adopted