



PUBLIC MEETING: Port Commission Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, **March 18, 2025, 6:00 PM**

LOCATION: Cascade Locks City Hall 140 Wa Na Pa St, Cascade Locks, OR 97014

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85806615790>

MINUTES

Video Location: <https://youtu.be/u4jh8mpWY94>

- 1) Commission meeting called to order at
 - a. Roll Call
 - i. President Lorang
 - ii. Vice-President Klute (via Zoom)
 - iii. Commissioner Nance (via Zoom)
 - iv. Commissioner Peterson
 - v. Commissioner Dodd
 - vi. Members of the Staff and Other Support – Executive Director Jeremiah Blue; Deputy Executive Director Genevieve Scholl; Administrative Specialist Keriane Stocker; Operations Manager Parker Nelson; David McCurry, Parsons, Inc (via Zoom); Darrin Eckman, Tenneson Engineering / AKS Engineering
 - vii. Members of the Public – Micaela Keller of Cascade Locks; Shawna Sobaski of Stevenson; via Zoom – Denise Emmerling-Baker, Flora Gibson; Brenda Wood; Pam T; the alias Rachel’s iPhone
 - b. Modifications, Additions, and Changes to the Agenda
- 2) Consent Agenda (***)Consent Agenda may be approved in its entirety in a single motion. Items are considered routine. Any Commissioner may make a motion to remove any items from the Consent Agenda for individual discussion)
 - a. Approval of minutes for Commission Meeting from January 21, 2025 and February 18, 2025 and Annual Planning Session on February 12, 2025
 - b. Ratification of bills in the amount of \$281,066.26
 - c. Approval of payroll for February 19, 2025 in the amount of \$32,628.72 and March 4, 2025 in the amount of \$32,287.42

MOTION: **To approve as stated**

MOVE: Rob Peterson

SECOND: Carrie Klute

VOTE: **Aye:** Brad Lorang, Carrie Klute, Albert Nance, Rob Peterson, and Ted Dodd

VIDEO TIMESTAMP: **00:01:38**
- 3) Public Comment
 - a. Micaela Keller of Cascade Locks requested support for the Hood River County School District (“HRCSD”), highlighting a budget shortfall and potential job cuts, which could impact the local school significantly. C. Nance expressed concern about the potential negative impact of blended classrooms on the school and the community.
- 4) Special Presentations and Reports by Outside Resources, Staff, and Government Officials
 - a. Bridge of the Gods Update – David McCurry
- 5) Commissioner Comments and Sub-Committee Reports

- a. C Nance followed up on Community Member Keller’s concern with the school district’s budget cuts. ED Blue requested clarification on the stance of the Commission. The Commission gave a general consensus to support funding for the HRSCD budget.

6) Executive Director Report

7) Business Action Items

ED Blue requested to move Item 7c) to the top of the Business Action Items.

- c. Appoint Budget Officer for FY 2025-26

MOTION: To appoint Matt Apken of Merina+Co as the Budget Officer for the Port of Cascade Locks for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026

MOVE: Rob Peterson

SECOND: Albert Nance

DISCUSSION: ED Blue reported that since 2023, Matt Apken from Merina+Co has been contracted by the Port to provide financial oversight, ensure compliance and accurate accounting, and manage the initial budget preparation. Staff is recommended that Apken be appointed as the Budget Officer for the upcoming fiscal year.

VOTE: **Aye:** Brad Lorang, Carrie Klute, Albert Nance, Rob Peterson, and Ted Dodd

VIDEO TIMESTAMP: **01:07:27**

- a. Consider Port Economic Development Grant Applications

MOTION: To approve all four (4) grant applications as shown in the meeting, tonight.

MOVE: Rob Peterson

SECOND: Ted Dodd

DISCUSSION: ED Blue reminded the Commissioners about the established scoring-based procedure for funding decisions, emphasizing that those scores and summaries will guide their choices, despite potential questions or input beyond those materials. To expedite the process, C Dodd proposed a single vote to approve all applicants, noting that MCEDD has provided the scoring for each applicant and the Commission has had time to review them. C Nance expressed concern that approving all four (4) current funding requests would deplete available funds, potentially disadvantaging future, equally worthwhile applicants, and suggested that next year, the process could be funded in batches and incorporate a question about community involvement in the application process.

VOTE: **Aye:** Brad Lorang, Carrie Klute, Albert Nance, Rob Peterson, and Ted Dodd

VIDEO TIMESTAMP: **01:24:40**

- b. Consider Resolution 2025-2 Authorizing Non-Revenue Bridge Passage for Cowlitz Indian Tribe

MOTION: To move to approve Resolution 2025-2 Authorizing Non-Revenue Bridge Passage for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe (by title only)

MOVE: Albert Nance

SECOND: Ted Dodd

DISCUSSION: On February 12, 2025, the Port Commission directed staff to

create a resolution to waive tolls for Cowlitz Indian Tribe members. This resolution is now prepared and awaiting the Commission's approval.

VOTE:

Aye: Brad Lorang, Carrie Klute, Albert Nance, Rob Peterson, and Ted Dodd

VIDEO TIMESTAMP: 01:27:55

- 8) Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2)(e) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions. Final actions or decisions on these matters will be made during the Regular Session
 - a. Recess from Regular Session, into Executive Session at 7:36 PM
C. Nance left the meeting at 8:03 PM
 - b. Recess out of Executive Session, into Regular Session at 8:35 PM
- 9) Adjournment 8:35 PM

Port of Cascade Locks

Port Commission President
Brad Lorang

Port Commission Secretary
Albert Nance

Date Approved
Prepared by Keriane Stocker