



Media Release

Port of Chelan County Board of Commissioners Meeting of December 2, 2010

Meeting Highlights

Port Authorizes Agreement with Leavenworth Winter Sports Club for Grooming of Cross Country Ski Trails at Peshastin Mill Site

The Commission unanimously approved a license agreement allowing the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club to groom cross country ski trails on the Peshastin Mill future business park site. The agreement, which was facilitated by Peshastin Community Council Chair Steve Keene and Port Commissioner JC Baldwin, will result in new public winter recreation opportunities centrally located between Leavenworth and Peshastin. The Club may ask the public for donations to defray the costs it will incur in grooming the trails; however, access to the site for cross-country skiing is free of charge to take advantage of the liability protection provided by the state's recreational use immunity act.

Pybus Public Market Project

The Commission directed staff to pursue an agreement with the City of Wenatchee to jointly plan and carry out the demolition of an existing structure located on Worthen Street between the street and the former Morse Steel building, the potential future site of the Pybus Public Market. Preliminary discussions with City staff have been encouraging, and the removal of this structure will open up view of the Market Building from Worthen and Orondo Streets and demonstrates the public sector's commitment to the redevelopment of the South Node of the city of Wenatchee Riverfront area.

2011 Economic Development Partnership Agreement with the Greater Wenatchee Area Technology Alliance Approved

In response to a presentation made at an earlier Commission meeting by GWATA board president Jenny Rickel, the Commissioners authorized an economic development partnership agreement with GWATA for 2011. The agreement calls for the Port to provide GWATA with \$20,000 over the course of the year to carry out a number of economic development activities in support of the technology industry cluster. Commissioner Baldwin was particularly pleased with the quality of technology focused events produced by GWATA in 2010, as well as the continuing increases in the number of private sector members of the organization. GWATA plans to identify other funding sources in order to wean itself from Port financial support over the next several years.

Updates from Economic Development Partners

Regular updates are required under each of the various economic development partnership agreements that the Port has in place with a variety of local non-profit economic development organizations and entities. The

Commission received updates from the Cashmere and Wenatchee Valley Chambers of Commerce, the North Central Washington Small Business Development Center, and the City of Entiat.

Staff Updates

Port staff updated the Commission on the status of a major bond refinancing exercise, and reported that a resolution implementing the refinancing of several outstanding bond issues that will save Chelan County taxpayers an estimated \$900,000 over the remaining life of the bonds will be presented to the Commission for adoption at the next regular business meeting on December 16, 2010. External Affairs Director Mike Armstrong and Legal Counsel Pete Fraley reviewed a series of proposed amendments to the Lake Chelan Airport Joint Operating Agreement with the City of Chelan. These amendments modify cost sharing allocations, provide for more frequent joint meetings of the Port Commission and Chelan City Council, and enhance reporting requirements. The amendments must be approved by both governing bodies, and will be presented for discussion and action to each body in January, 2011.

For More Information Contact:

(509) 663-5159

Mark Urdahl, Executive Director - mark@portofchelancounty.com

Mike Armstrong, External Affairs Director – armstrong@portofchelancounty.com

For More information on Updates from Economic Development Partners Contact:

Jim Fletcher, Small Business Development Center

(509) 682-6997 – jim.fletcher@wsbdc.org

Jill Fitzsimmons, Manager, Cashmere Chamber of Commerce

(509) 782-7404 – info@cashmerechamber.com

Kristina Stepper, President, Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce

(509) 888-9876 – kristina@j-russell.net

Susan Driver, Community Development Director, City of Entiat

(509) 784-1500 – sdriver.city@entiat.org