

PRESS RELEASE

PORT OF CHELAN COUNTY Commission Meeting Highlights Wednesday, December 17, 2008

In addition to its regular commission meeting agenda, the Port of Douglas County joined the Port of Chelan County commission meeting to convene a special meeting of the Pangborn Memorial Airport Governing Board. In this capacity, the Ports considered the following items:

Proposed Changes to Douglas County Comprehensive Plan

Pat Moore and the airport's land use planning consultant Lisa Parks of Alliance Consulting group briefed the governing board on a proposal under consideration by Douglas County to modify the Pangborn Industrial Service Area (an urban growth area "island") by adding new land areas to it, and "discounting" areas owned by the airport that County planners view as undevelopable. All members of the governing board expressed concerns with this proposal, citing uncertainty as to what is meant by "discounting", and reaffirming the need to keep these areas fully within the industrial services area to preserve needed future development options for uses such as parallel taxiways.

New Traffic Safety Administration Security Requirements

Pat Moore, the airport manager, reported that a new directive has been received from the Traffic Safety Administration that would result in additional background checks for anyone with access to hangars and aviation operational areas. The financial impact on the airport is significant, and all airports are now finding this directive to be a considerable burden on staff and budget. The airport governing board directed staff to prepare letters of concern to be sent to all members of the Congressional delegation, TSA, and FAA expressing its position that the directive is excessive and the benefits of its implementation would greatly outweigh any benefits that might be derived.

Public Comment

Pangborn neighbor Bruce Baguley offered comments that primarily emphasized the importance of maintaining good communication between the governing board, advisory committees for airport projects, and the Ports with airport neighbors and the general public. He encouraged the board to share openly all planning considerations and actions that could affect the surrounding residents since the rights of these neighbors should be respected.

Following the airport governing board meeting, the Chelan County Port commissioners considered:

Asset Management Program - Future Capital Planning

Port staff has been working to identify appropriate software that would enable a more efficient management of facilities and properties. Port buildings at Olds Station, as well as the facilities at Pangborn Airport require periodic assessment for repair and replacement and these needs must be identified before new projects are included in the capital improvement program.

Small Business Development Center Update

Ron Johnson Rodriguez reported that Wenatchee Valley College has decided to discontinue the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The director of the center, Jim Fletcher, has met with WSU. WSU has informed Fletcher that the function of the SBDC can continue under their auspices. Consequently, both Ports need to reprogram the state funds made available to WVC for this function to WSU so the program may survive. The commissioners approved the request to redirect existing funding to WSU so that this function can continue to provide services to local businesses.

Port Regular Meeting Dates Changed

Due to commissioner schedule conflicts, the regular meetings have been changed to the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 8:30 a.m., as well as the 4th Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. These meetings will continue to be held at the Port of Chelan County conference room with the Confluence Technology Center being listed as an alternate location for meetings anticipating the need of the CTC's technology or to accommodate larger attendance.

Report on Open Public Meeting Training Session

Mark Urdahl reported that the meeting which all three commissioners and several staff members recently attended was well attended by about 200 public agency employees and board members from around the state. A number of informative discussions were held to review the state statutes for public meetings. The state regulations that help ensure transparency in the day to day business of all public agencies were reviewed. Commissioners Baldwin, Larsen, and Mackey expressed their desire to maintain such transparency as they fulfill their duties.

Review Process for Architect, Landscape Architect, and Information Technology Service Contractors

Port staff members apprised the commissioners of their preparation to seek several providers of record. The services of an architect, landscape architect, and information technology consultant/provider will be sought periodically in an attempt to help ensure that area contractors are given the opportunity to solicit port business. It is expected that advertisements for these services will be completed by the end of February.