

**PORT OF NEWPORT
MINUTES
September 23, 2008
WORK SESSION**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Rob Halverson asked Vice-President Ginny Goblirsch to chair the Work Session, because he had to leave the meeting early. Vice-President Goblirsch brought the Work Session of the Port of Newport Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, September 23, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., in the Port Conference Room, the same being within the boundaries of the Port District.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioners Present: Rob Halverson, President; Ginny Goblirsch, Vice-President; Don Mathews, Treasurer; JoAnn Barton, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

Commissioners Excused: Dean Fleck, Secretary.

Port of Newport Management and Staff: Don Mann, General Manager; Patti Britton, Director of Finance; Pete Dale, Project Manager; Kent Gibson, Port Operations; Maureen Keeler, Special Projects Manager; Patty Benjamin, Administrative Assistant.

Others: Mark Cooper, commercial fisherman; Rob Mills, facilitator; Pat Ruddiman, ILWU Local 53; Mike Schmid, KPFF Consulting Engineers.

III. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

The purpose of the Work Session was to discuss ways to improve public outreach and communication regarding the Port's mission, objectives, and ongoing projects.

General Manager Don Mann began the discussion by saying that the topic of public outreach and communication had come up at the previous month's commission meeting, when staff had been instructed to evaluate the cost of hiring a communications management team to help the Port provide better communication with the public about the terminal renovation project, the project's permitting process with state and federal agencies, and other projects that the Port is involved in at this time.

Facilitator Rob Mills asked the commissioners to enumerate their goals and intentions in engaging the community, what they felt the public needed to have a better understanding of, and what they felt was currently missing in disseminating information to the public. Commissioner Halverson said he felt there were a lot of people who did not know or appreciate the value of what the Port brings to the community, or the fact that Newport is a deep draft port under a state mandate for full development in commerce. Vice-President Goblirsch pointed out that the Port used to get more coverage by the local newspaper than it does now, so people who counted on the newspaper for information wouldn't know what the Port is doing unless they come to a meeting. Commissioner Mathews suggested an e-mail list for getting out information about Port projects and issues. Vice-President Goblirsch asked Mark Cooper, as a former commissioner, for his thoughts. Cooper said he thought an e-mail list was a good idea, and also said he felt General Manager Mann had an "open door" and always made himself available to talk. Goblirsch said that she felt a lot of trust had been lost four years ago when the Port considered bringing a shipbreaking operation to Yaquina Bay and, as a result of that episode, the mitigation plan for the terminal project is now coming under criticism by certain segments of the community. Commissioner Barton agreed with Goblirsch on the lack of trust issue and acknowledged that there were still hard feelings about the shipbreaking issue. She said that, while the Port is a deep water port and a great asset to the State of Oregon, other conservation-minded people regard it from a different point of view, and she felt that balancing the ecological perspective with the economic derivative was important. She suggested that the most effective way of engaging with the conservation community would be to appoint them to Port committees so they would understand what was going on from the ground floor. She also recommended expanding the Port's website to include project updates and links to agency reports. In answer to facilitator Mills' question about "What difference would that make?", Commissioner Mathews said more consistent information would mean fewer fires to put out; Commissioner Barton said that the best way to learn is through dialogue with people you agree with and those you don't; Commissioner Halverson said it would make a difference in that the community would be better informed about the Port and its value to the community and state; and Vice-President Goblirsch said the commission would be able to make better and more informed decisions. A discussion

followed about using the local newspaper, radio stations, the Port newsletter, and e-mail as information sources, after which the commission agreed to schedule a working session with interested community members to determine what they would like to hear from the Port and how they would prefer to get that information. General Manager Mann and Special Projects Manager Maureen Keeler will debrief with facilitator Rob Mills and keep the commission apprised.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

V. OTHER

Commissioner Mathews suggested that Item C under New Business on the regular meeting agenda, Resolution 8-2008, be discussed in the work session before Commissioner Halverson had to leave the meeting. Resolution 8-2008 was a resolution in support of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council's development of an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) system for the West Coast trawl groundfish fishery, and in opposition to the allocation of harvesting shares to fish processing companies. Former Port commissioner Mark Cooper provided some background on the issue, and a discussion followed about allocation percentages off the top before fishermen were even considered, and the precedent that would be set if processors were given an allocation at all. In answer to a question from Commissioner Goblirsch, Cooper said that the local fishermen are in agreement about the quota going to them versus the processors. Commissioner Goblirsch pointed out that the Port and the community supports the processors, but said she felt the fishermen should be given priority when it came to allocations. Commissioners Barton and Mathews agreed. Barton said she was not comfortable with the precedent that would be set if harvesting shares went to fish processing companies, and added that the conservation community supported the fishermen on this issue as well. It was the consensus of the commission to support the IFQ system for fishermen but oppose giving processors harvesting shares. A formal vote on the resolution would be taken in regular session.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. and the meeting moved into regular session.

ATTEST

Rob Halverson, President

Dean Fleck, Secretary

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