

## Pioneer Ports Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015

Quality Inn: 6 p.m. social half hour; 6:30 p.m. dinner and discussion

Attendees: Jerry Klemm, Mike Thomason, Joe Poire, Dan Boone, Marvin Jackson, Wanda Keefer, Wayne Tippett, Rick Davis, Paul Dixon, Arvid Lyons, Kara Riebold, Jaynie Bentz, David Doeringsfeld, John Love, Doug Mattoon, Bruce Ensley

Port of Clarkston Commissioner Wayne Tippett conducted the meeting. After introductions and an opportunity for public comments, Doug Mattoon from Valley Vision reported on growth in the boat builders and machinists industries since 2009. When you put those industries under a larger metal supercluster umbrella, the two counties (Asotin and Nez Perce) have 2,000 jobs, with a concentration of employees in those fields at 1,015% of the national average. Over \$336 million in total sales occurred in 2013 in those industries.

David Doeringsfeld led the discussion on progress being made from collaboration on the Pioneer Ports joint constituent education/outreach efforts. Joe Poire and Wanda Keefer concurred that the work that had been done was beneficial. David made reference to the scope of work for 2016. Bruce Ensley offered comments on an Addendum to the Pioneer Ports agreement that he had drafted. Each Port will review the potential changes at their individual meetings.

Individual port updates were given, with David Doeringsfeld, Port of Lewiston, going first. He discussed the construction of Navy equipment at the Port of Lewiston for ultimate passage down the river to Bremerton, the return of containers on barge through Boardman, Oregon, the difficulty of PNW to obtain trucks to move pulse crops, expected progress on fiber builds in Lewiston, and the Port of Lewiston's appreciation for fiber infrastructure assistance from the Port of Whitman. Doug reflected on one Lewiston company's estimated loss of sales at \$1 million per month, due to lack of high-speed internet.

Kara Riebold, on behalf of the Port of Whitman, reported on Boyer Park improvements in process to the RV park and adding cabins and playground equipment. Bruce contributed that constituents appreciated the investment being made by the Port of Whitman at Boyer in quality improvements. Kara also discussed railroad track, ties and crossing updates in which the Port of Whitman is investing.

Wanda Keefer, Port of Clarkston, discussed the roof off the U.S. Postal Service sorting location in Spokane. She discussed assistance the Port has been giving with the City of Asotin marina, and the need for a programmatic approach to permit dredging. A programmatic approach could help us all. She also discussed a grading project at Turning Pointe business park, and a goal to cross the Southway Bridge with fiber. Doug Mattoon mentioned the existence of a tri-municipal agreement involving Nez Perce and Asotin Counties and the City of Lewiston that might help with the crossing.

Paul Dixon, Clearwater Paper, discussed the new \$160 million digester under construction. Doug Mattoon said the project was bringing companies into our region. Paul was impressed with the

Northwest Seaport Alliance between the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma. He commented on the labor situation at the Port of Portland. Paul said Clearwater Paper outsourced his position; that he had a new job in North Carolina, but he urged the group to do outreach to Clearwater Paper because he thought the interaction beneficial. He confirmed that Clearwater paper had trouble getting truck capacity for long hauls, that paper moving on rail was not preferred as damage was worse that way, and of course they'd like to ship by barge, but lack of barge lines was a barrier.

Arvid Lyons commended the Pioneer Ports for their collaborative efforts and for their work in keeping the navigation channel open. He said we should explore potential private company assistance with the communication efforts. Also, he discussed wheat markets, including higher protein wheat.

Under Joint Initiatives, Wanda mentioned courtroom challenges delaying implementation of PSMP alternatives, and Jerry Klemm mentioned the Corps' desire to study wildfires and their effect on the river system.

The meeting concluded at 8:20 p.m.

  
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Mary Hasenoehrl, Secretary/Treasurer