



WASHINGTON PUBLIC PORTS ASSOCIATION

THE MANIFEST

A LEGISLATIVE REPORT AS THE REGULAR SESSION WINDS DOWN

As the Legislative Session heads into the home stretch, here is a status report on WPPA's high-priority legislative issues. First of all, an economic development report: We have made substantial progress re-funding CERB after the Governor's budget proposed to eliminate it. The Senate funds it at \$15 million, and the House at \$8 million, with an additional House \$5 million for rural broadband projects. This represents a substantial turn-around from the beginning of the session.

On the bad news front, however, we still have a Senate budget proposal that eliminates virtually all of the Department of Commerce's economic development programs. The House does not propose this. We are working to get funding in the final budget for at least the Governor's Economic Development Strategic Reserve Account and some of the key sector leads.

And back to good news: port districts have really gotten a lot of positive feedback on our idea to modernize our authority to provide broadband to under-served areas. Our timing was good here – rural legislators are really hearing from their constituents about the limitations of inadequate broadband connections. Ports are not going to solve all of the state's connectivity issues, but can play a key role in connecting businesses to a fiber backbone. The complex politics of this



issue might prevent a solution this year, but we are well-positioned to make significant progress in this area in the next year or two.

And our final key challenge is a familiar one – preserving the partnership between port districts and the state in funding cleanup projects under the Model Toxics Control Act. Unfortunately, the decisions by the legislature to fund general environmental operating programs out of this account, rather than the traditional (and proper) purpose of cleanup grants has created a giant budgeting headache. This year the problems are manageable, but in the near future several major port cleanup projects are relying on the availability of these funds.

The regular session ends in just over a week, and our WPPA Legislative Report always provides detailed updates every Friday. But as the regular session winds to a close, we can report substantial progress on several of our key issues. ■

WPPA SPOTLIGHT

EASTERN WASHINGTON PORTS CELEBRATE THE SNAKE RIVER

Raising awareness about the Columbia Snake River's impact on the Northwest is important to the Ports of Whitman, Lewiston, Clarkston, and Moses Lake. In an effort to inform the public about issues affecting the river, these ports designed the "Snake River Family Festival." They hope to educate as many people as possible of the importance of the river system to wildlife, recreation, and the Northwest economy.

The Snake River is over 1,000 miles long and runs through three different states. All three states—Idaho, Oregon, and Washington—use the river to access markets and customers throughout the planet. Due to their strong interest in the Snake River, the wheat growers from these three states co-sponsored the Festival.

The river is also a key driver of tourism and recreation. Boaters, fishers, and campers enjoy the Snake River year-round. Four dams contribute the Washington's growing energy portfolio by providing clean hydropower; and four locks allow the lower Snake River to facilitate shipping.

The River is also home to declining number of salmon. Although tremendous progress has been made toward salmon recovery, the Snake River system is currently recognized by Washington State as in crucial need of recovery.



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FROM ERIC JOHNSON

FAST BALLS, CURVE BALLS & CHANGE UPS

In the classic baseball movie *Bull Durham*, the manager tells his team, "This is a simple game. You throw the ball, you hit the ball, you catch the ball." Sometimes I

think much of what ports do can be simplified in the same way: You build infrastructure, you lease infrastructure, and you create jobs.

Of course, neither baseball nor job creation is really that easy. But there has been a distant discussion back in Washington D.C. that you might have heard about (unless you cannot bear to watch) that bears on our port world. It is about possible new federal infrastructure programs.

Earlier this year there were consistent messages coming out of Washington D.C. that infrastructure spending was one area of bi-partisan agreement. Well, few of us were naïve enough to think that anything substantive would happen quickly. But baseball seasons and political seasons both unfold over a long period of time, and both reward persistence.

With that in mind, WPPA has partnered with the Association of Washington Business, the Association of Washington Cities and the Association of Washington Counties to create an infrastructure needs report for our delegation to use as federal discussions unfold. We catalogued existing project lists for transportation, water, communication and energy programs in our state. Freight mobility, port and navigation projects are prominent.

Obviously, the lists total up to hefty numbers. We also did not prioritize the lists – it would have led to too much in-fighting. But we do now have an organized list with the logos of cities, counties, ports and business at the top. You don't see those four logos on one paper very often – and it has gotten attention.

Our federal delegation has been very interested, and grateful, for our approach to this. And while few expect major new programs right away, there is also a consistent hope that targeted programs could well emerge, with some bi-partisan support, once a collective desire to produce results out-weighs partisan fights.

If it works, we can celebrate in the clubhouse. If it doesn't – I will use the best line ever delivered in a baseball movie, by Jimmy Dugan in *A League of Their Own*: "There's no crying in baseball!" Even if you are a Mariner's fan. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Meeting

May 17-19, 2017
Suncadia Resort, Cle Elum

Finance and Admin. Seminar

June 14-16, 2017
Semiahmoo Resort, Blaine

Directors Seminar

July 13-14, 2017
Adrift Hotel & Spa and Chinook School, Long Beach

Commissioners Seminar

July 24-25, 2017
Alderbrook Resort, Union

Environmental Seminar

September 21 – 22, 2017
Heathman Lodge, Vancouver

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The Family Festival will host Northwest river and salmon advocates reaching out to "anyone who will have a conversation about dams, salmon, multi-use transportation or recreation opportunities" said the Port of Whitman's Linda Olson.

The festival will also feature a 25' interactive salmon named FIN, a Tidewater Barge at the dock, farm equipment, and displays from local farm-to-market farmers. A 4-person jet boat ride will be given away. Free food will be provided by Beacon Hill Events in Spokane and the Nicole Lewis Band will play live music.



Join the Ports of Whitman, Lewiston, Clarkston, and Moses Lake in appreciating the Snake River. The festival will convene on May 20, 2017, at Boyer Park and marina in Colfax, Washington—just down river from Lower Granite Lock and Dam. Linda Olsen of the Port of Whitman, encourages the public to "come and ask questions, eat and play as we celebrate the importance of the river system." ■

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Executive Director

Port of St. Helens, Oregon

Security Duty Officer

Port of Seattle

Assistant Manager/ Maintenance Supervisor

Port District No. 1 of
Wahkiakum County

Accountant

Skamania County PUD No. 1

Marina Office Assistant – LaConner Marina

Port of Skagit

Port Auditor / Treasurer

Port of Walla Walla

Senior Manager, Planning

Northwest Seaport Alliance

Airport Manager

Port of Bremerton

Executive Director

Port of Coupeville

Executive Director

Port of Friday Harbor

Sr. Manager Communications – Aviation Marketing

Port of Seattle

Airport Duty Manager – Airfield Operations

Port of Seattle

Senior Accountant

Port of Seattle

Contract Administrator - Construction

Port of Seattle

Director of Operations

Port of Newport, Oregon

Director, Engineering

Port of Tacoma

Senior Real Estate Manager

Port of Tacoma

Assistant Director, Facilities

Port of Tacoma

If you would like information on any of these positions, visit washingtontports.org/washington-ports/employment-opportunities