

NEWS RELEASE

PORT OF CHELAN COUNTY

Regular Meeting of the Port of Chelan County

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Meeting Highlights

Cascade Foothills Farmland Association (CFFA) – The commissioners heard a presentation from Hank Manriquez of CFFA who briefly summarized the activities of the past year and described 2010 budget items. The purpose of his visit was to request port funding in the amount of \$52,000 to help cover miscellaneous advertising and publication costs for the coming year. These expenses include website upgrading, hospitality and education seminars hosting, map distribution in Canada relating to the 2010 Olympics visitors, ag tourism conference participation, and advertising special events. No action was taken; funding for the CFFA will be determined through the Port's budget approval process.

Greater Wenatchee Area Technology Alliance (GWATA) – The commissioners also heard a report by Jenny Rickel, president of GWATA. After briefly describing evolving programs since its founding in 2000, Jenny acknowledged the Port's active participation for the nine years. She further described the organization as a catalyst for connecting people and technology in north central Washington, supporting and encouraging innovation as the key to improving economic vitality of the region. It is crucial that technical inventory be kept current and that the long-term vision includes identifying north central Washington as a "hub" for technology efforts in the state. Toward this end, Jenny requested port funding in the amount of \$20,000 for 2010-2012. The commissioners took this request under advisement and will include it in the upcoming 2010 budget deliberations.

2009 Supplemental and 2010 Preliminary Budgets Approval -- Executive Director Mark Urdahl presented the 2009 Supplemental and 2010 preliminary Budgets. The Commission acted to officially place these budgets on file for public review in anticipation of formal budget hearings to be held at the Special Commission meeting to be held on November 17, 2009. Urdahl noted that he will propose several additional items for Commission consideration, in addition to any changes initiated by Commissioners or in response to public comments. Both budgets are posted on the port's website at www.portofchelancounty.com.

Lake Chelan Chamber Update – The commissioners heard from Mike Steele, Lake Chelan Chamber manager, who requested an additional \$10,000 from the Port to help the chamber continue its focus on economic development efforts for the Lake Chelan area in 2010. Mike reported that port funding to date has helped expand tourism promotion that benefits the entire Chelan County as well as promote events and locations in the upper lake regions and community forums. Steele noted that the Chelan Chamber has been instrumental in establishing the local and port-funded wine marketing alliance. As is the case with the other requests, the Commission will consider this request as the 2010 budget is finalized.

City of Entiat Draft Waterfront Development Plan – Susan Driver, Community Development Director for the city of Entiat, spoke before the commission, presenting a *DRAFT* Lake Entiat Waterfront Business District Subarea Plan. She described the ongoing efforts of the city to develop an attractive and inviting lakefront layout that would include approximately nineteen acres of developable property. The development would boast street front businesses, restaurants, motels, and marinas that would nestle in a natural, but well groomed streetscape along easily accessible streets and pedestrian walkways. Small shops would dot the landscape, providing cozy places to sip coffee, grab lunch, or pause to boating activities. Some port staff members have been participating in the studies that have resulting in the draft plan and will continue to support Entiat's efforts as they plan for this waterfront project. Please contact the City of Entiat if you wish to take a look at the plan draft.

City of Leavenworth Icicle Station Additional Funding Request - The commissioners received an update on the Icicle Amtrak Station project in Leavenworth from Rob Eaton, Leavenworth mayor. He described the current success Leavenworth is experiencing because of new visitors who now arrive and depart from the station platform/shelter. According to Eaton, the Port of Chelan County was the first partner with Leavenworth when the idea of direct Amtrak service to the Bavarian Village was originally conceived. He thanked the Port for sharing the vision and for helping Leavenworth realize a better means of providing greater opportunities for using various modes of public transportation to, from, and in Chelan County.

Mayor Eaton requested commissioner consideration of helping Leavenworth complete Amtrak Icicle Station Phase I by funding this effort with an additional \$100,000 over the next several years. This would enable the completion of a paved roadway and parking area, construction of a wall behind the platform, construction of a fence that separates passengers from freight operations, and a platform shelter. The Port is already a major funding partner in this project, having already expended \$175,000 in support of construction of this facility.

The commissioners will consider this request during 2010 budget hearings.

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