

NEWS RELEASE

PORT OF CHELAN COUNTY
Special Meeting of the Port of Chelan County
Tuesday, March 17, 2008

Meeting Highlights

Wenatchee Waterfront Project Update

Ted Mischaikov, from Bellingham (purchaser of Morse Steel property at the foot of Orondo Street), presented the results of some preliminary conceptual planning on potential development of both the former Morse site and the City's vacated public works property on the riverfront. He described the potential for creating a public market area that would complement the adjacent riverfront. He also extended an invitation to public agencies and other stakeholders for whom such a project would new potential for their businesses and area economic development.

The commissioners expressed their interest in the project concept and directed staff to meet with the developer and City of Wenatchee staff to determine whether the Port should play a role in the project development and what that role might be.

An executive session was held to discuss real estate issues.

Following the executive session, a public hearing was conducted to consider Port action to adopt Resolution 2009-06, declaring property surplus to the needs of the Port.

Public Hearing

After receiving a few positive comments from Chelan County staff, the public hearing was closed and Resolution 2009-06 was adopted, declaring property surplus for the purpose of sale and transferring the property to the County for the completion of the termination of the existing storm water agreement.

The Board then took action to terminate the existing agreement between the Port and Chelan County.

The Commissioners then approved the purchase and sale agreement with Chelan County in the amount of \$200,000, for the property north of the storm water system proximate to the Horan House in Olds Station for the express purpose of constructing a county owned-operated, "green" recycling/transfer facility on the 1 acre site. The executive director was authorized to sign the agreement after all closing documents, including the termination of the storm water agreement, have been fully executed by Chelan County. County staff members reported that time is of the essence in completing this transaction since state funding will no longer be available for this project after March 31, 2009.

The commissioners also approved the purchase and sale agreement for the property north of the storm water pond for the green recycling/transfer facility to be constructed by the county.

Cashmere Mill Site Update

Jerry Litt, of Alliance Consulting Group, provided an update on annexation issues on properties surrounding the Port's former Cashmere Mill site property and the public input process for the Industry Cluster study regarding the same property.

Port Reserve Accounts (Dave Griffiths)

Chelan County Treasurer Dave Griffiths commented on the Port's financial reserve that the County Treasurer's office manages for the Port. He reported that the Port's reserves are as secure as possible and that he will report back in June, providing another update that reflects the accounts' response to the US financial market and economy at that time.

Confluence Technology Center (CTC)

The commissioners authorized CTC Manager Laura Jaecks to sign an Interim Inter-local Agreement with North Central ESD for computer lab operation in the CTC.

The board also considered a marketing proposal aimed at increasing business and revenues for the CTC meeting rooms and video-conferencing and training facilities. The commissioners asked to table this item until additional information is provided.

Economic Development

The commissioners approved an agreement with the Cascade Foothills Farmland Association in the amount of \$35,000, as presented by Economic Director Ron Johnston-Rodriguez . Cascade Foothills Farmland Association (CFFA) is a nonprofit organization representing and promoting Ag-Tourism in North Central Washington, by providing support, training and event coordination to ag-tourist destinations and individual related businesses. CFFA has a membership of about 180 including orchardists, wine producers, fruit stands, farmers, ranchers, chambers and tourism related businesses. The 2009 contract will help maintain two websites-- www.visitwashingtonfarms.org and www.visitwashingtonwineries.org; provide marketing through an ag-tourism driving map; provide educational training; and provide advertisement for ag-tourism related events such as the Wenatchee Taste of the Harvest and the Leavenworth Wine Festival.

Funds for this contract, and these activities, are included in the 2009 budget.

Executive Session

An executive session was conducted to discuss real estate issues.

Potential Tenants at the CTC

The CTC Manager, Laura Jaecks, was authorized to negotiate leases with two potential tenants for vacant space at the CTC

**For More Information Contact:
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