

**Tri-Commission Meeting  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Confluence Technology Center and Zoom Virtual Conference  
August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 1:00 pm**

**Present:**

**Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority**

JC Baldwin, POCC Commissioner  
Donn Etherington, POCC Commissioner  
Jim Huffman, PODC Commissioner  
Mark Spurgeon, PODC Commissioner  
W. Alan Loeb sack, PODC Commissioner  
Richard DeRock, POCC Commissioner  
Jim Kuntz, Chief Executive Officer  
Monica Lough, Director of Finance

**Chelan County PUD**

Randy Smith, Commissioner  
Gary Arseneault, Commissioner  
Steve McKenna, Commissioner  
Carnan Bergren, Commissioner  
Kelly Allen, Commissioner  
Kirk Hudson, General Manager  
Justin Erickson, Mng. Director District Services  
Rebekah Neumann, Clerk of the Board  
Bob Shane, Mng. Director Fiber & Telecom  
Dan Frazier, Director Shared Services  
Libby Siebens, Communications Manager  
Kelli Scott, Govt/External Affairs Program Manager

**Chelan County**

Kevin Overbay, Commissioner  
Shon Smith, Commissioner  
Tiffany Gering, Commissioner  
Anabel Torres, Deputy Clerk of the Board  
Eric Pierson, Director Public Works  
Jason Detamore, Environmental Manager  
Ron Cridlebaugh, Economic Services Director  
Jill FitzSimmons, Public Information Officer  
Kirsi Jones

**Elected Officials**

Representative Keith Goehner, 12<sup>th</sup> District  
Bob Goedde, Mayor, City of Chelan  
Carl Florea, Mayor, City of Leavenworth  
Frank Kuntz, Mayor, City of Wenatchee  
Jerrilea Crawford, Mayor, City of East Wenatchee

**Guests**

Rosa Pulido, Wenatchee Downtown Association  
Malachi Salcido, Salcido Group Inc.  
Ruben Betancourt, Chelan Douglas Coalition for Health  
Jenny Rojanasthien, NCW Tech Alliance  
Emily Thornton, Wenatchee World

The Tri Commission Meeting and respective Special Commission Meetings were called to order and/or reconvened at 1:09 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted and roll call was taken. Justin Erickson, Chelan County PUD, facilitated the meeting.

**TRI-COMMISSION UPDATES:**

• **Chelan County Commission**

- Project Coordination MOU – Commissioner Gering
  - Concerns that there have been times when we are not effectively coordinating.
  - The Regional Port shared the Douglas County example of coordinating meetings.
  - The Chelan Douglas Regional Port will take lead on coordinating meetings between one commissioner and one staff member from each entity.

- Radar Gap: Weather Forecasting – Jason Detamore
  - Provided information on the radar gap in Central Washington and discussed how currently doppler radars are unable to detect short intensity storms that create public safety issues for the region.
  - Federal funds are being sought out to conduct a feasibility study on smaller radar locations.
  - The Chelan Douglas Regional Port will share concerns with Senator Cantwell during a scheduled upcoming meeting.
  
- **Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority**
  - Malaga Economic Development – Jim Kuntz
    - Microsoft is proceeding with constructing three (3) buildings as part of a data center being built in Malaga. Kuntz complimented the PUD and County permitting process.
    - The Regional Port continues to work with Microsoft in acquiring additional property to construct three (3) additional buildings as part of the project.
    - The many benefits of the project were discussed, including but not limited to, the creation of approximately 75 jobs per building and large tax revenue implications for Chelan County.
    - Water infrastructure is being built out with plans for future phases that will not only benefit Microsoft, but the surrounding community as well.
    - The Regional Port is developing a cooling water disposal system. Water testing will determine what future uses the water might have.
  
- **Chelan County PUD**
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Street Redevelopment – Dan Frazier
    - Discussed the long process the project has taken and thanked the Regional Port for their assistance.
    - The goal is still to complete the project according to the community vision document and work is currently being focused on the back portion of the site.
    - Work is being conducted on a purchase and sale agreement to sell the Fish & Wildlife building and the adjacent parking lot to Music Theatre of Wenatchee.
    - The YMCA has two (2) lots targeted with a draft purchase and sale agreement being negotiated.
      - A schematic design for the project has been released.
      - Work is being done to look at the integration of roadway to enhance uses.
    - Discussion on the Fleet Shop as a prospect for adaptive reuse.
    - Once the back portion of the site is complete, then the priority will turn to the front portion with the idea to create a high-revenue reuse such as a hotel with street-level storefronts.
  
  - Service Center Update
    - PUD studied consolidation four (4) times over the past 20-years and have found that it makes sense to consolidate operations on one site, primarily an operations center.
    - This will ensure that customer-owners are provided with the best service and will provide a vast improvement to efficiency.
    - The office building is nearing completion, and the Grand Opening is planned for the Fall of 2023 with a target date of October 7<sup>th</sup>.
  
- **Broadband Action Team Update, Broadband and Digital Equity Plan – Kelli Scott & Jenny Rojanasthien**
  - The PUD and NCW Tech Alliance, with assistance from Our Valley Our Future, have formed the Broadband Action Team.
  - The team has an infrastructure plan that identifies current infrastructure locations, as well as future desired locations.

- A Digital Equity Plan will guide how the State applies for and distributes Federal funding.
  - Noted key findings; digital equity intertwined with other inequities.
  - Plans to provide opportunity to bring more funding to our region in the future.
  - September is slated as digital equity month and will cover many topics.
- Discussed how take rate and lack of devices are impacted by affordability.
- Reviewed their Refurbishment Program in which they are partnered with the Wenatchee School District. The school district donated used equipment which is then refurbished by volunteers and given to any community member who requests a device.
  - The team is currently looking for more public partners to increase refurbishment donations.
  - Membership to the NCW Tech Alliance allows them to organize programs such as this.
- Questions were discussed regarding inaccurate broadband mapping.
  - Bob Shane explained original mapping process and shared the Federal government hired a third party to gather updated information.
- **Regional Sports Complex Update – Jerrilea Crawford**
  - Mayor Crawford thanked the Regional Port and Director of Economic Development and Capital Projects, Stacie de Mestre, for overseeing BerryDunn consultants as they conduct the feasibility study.
  - Reviewed that BerryDunn consultants have been paid, in part, by regional agencies and that the team is currently working on community information collection.

**CHELAN COUNTY MAYORS UPDATE** – Chelan County Mayors/staff provided updates and information.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:** No comments were made.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** No comments were made.

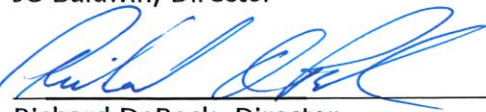
**OTHER COMMENTS:** Representative Goehner reported that a local government committee is coming to the area on October 9<sup>th</sup> to tour the Malaga area, discuss growth management policies in Olympia and help the community understand where bottlenecks are. Representative Goehner requested that any cities that would like to weigh in are welcome should reach out to him.


**The Tri Commission Meeting and respective Special Commission Meetings adjourned at 2:54 p.m.**


Signed and dated this 12th day of September 2023.

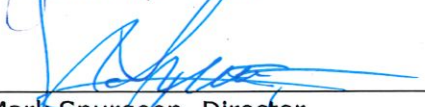
**CHELAN DOUGLAS REGIONAL PORT AUTHORITY**

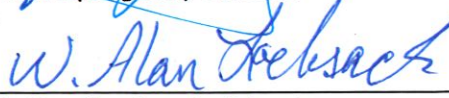
Excused Absence  
 JC Baldwin, Director

  
 Richard DeRock, Director

  
 Donn Etherington, Director

  
 Jim Huffman, Director

  
 Mark Spurgeon, Director

  
 W. Alan Loeb sack, Director