

Draft minutes* for
Quarterly Kitsap All Ports Meeting
January 22, 2018

The quarterly Kitsap All Ports meeting was held January 22, 2018 hosted by the Port of Brownsville at the Brownsville Yacht Club office. Attendees included: Axel Strakeljahn representing the Port of Bremerton; Jack Bailey and Matt Appleton representing the Port of Brownsville; Jim Aho, Jon Buesch and John Burton all representing the Port of Illahee; Bruce MacIntyre representing the Port of Kingston; Robert Ballard, Dan Fallstrom and James Strode all representing the Port of Manchester; Jonothan Saunders representing the Port of Poulsbo; Henry Aus, Lawrence Greaves, Ed Scholfield and Theresa Haaland all representing the Port of Silverdale; Jack McCarn and Rod Reid all representing the Port of Waterman; and Ric Catron of Kitsap County Parks Department.

Commissioner Bailey of the Port of Brownsville chaired the meeting.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions were made. Commissioner Bailey praised the newly elected Commissioners for their willingness to serve.

Public Comment – Kitsap County Parks Coordinator, Ric Catron, explained that he has been working in the County Parks Department for approximately six years and was filling in at the meeting for his boss, Kitsap County Park & Open Space Planner, Steven Starlund. The Parks Department has been working on the 2018 Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan, which can be viewed online at <https://spf.kitsapgov.com/parks/Documents/PROSDraftPlan2018.pdf>. This will be an amendment to the County Comp Plan that was adopted in 2017 so that it will be all inclusive. Mr. Catron provided handouts of the PROS Plan's appendices that refer to Port Districts. The Parks Department sent out surveys which concluded that citizens want more water access. Under the Port section of the appendices it stated that "Overall the recreation public needs to know more about the boating and waterfront access facilities provided by Ports. Recreational websites should reference all public facility providers". Mr. Catron explained that the public will be encouraged to go to the individual Port websites to learn about what each Port offers. The PROS Plan is scheduled to go before the County Commissioners in February for adoption and then it will go before the State. He provided Mr. Starlund's business cards for anyone who has additional questions.

Commissioner Aho explained that the Port of Illahee is considering creating a marine park near the dock. Kim Sellars of the Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) informed him that coordinating with another public agency would be beneficial as it increases the chance of obtaining a grant. Commissioner Aho said that maintaining the park may be difficult since the Port doesn't have employees and has limited funds. He asked if the County might be willing to partner with the Port in some way. Mr. Catron said that he has met with the State Parks Department representatives and believes that might be a possibility and it should be further investigated. Commissioner Greaves explained that years ago the Port of Silverdale and the County partnered on an RCO grant to build a new restroom facility at the Waterfront Park that included showers and laundry facilities to accommodate boaters. An interlocal agreement was the vehicle used to make it happen. Commissioner Scholfield added that it worked out well and continues to work out well with regard to the maintenance and cleaning of the building. Commissioner Bailey said that Brownsville is considering adding some walking trails to the area. Mr. Catron said that the Public Works Department has a non-motorized subcommittee that would handle that. Commissioner Saunders said that the Port of Poulsbo is in full support of the City's plan to construct a skate park. Mr. Catron said that since the Poulsbo skate park was spearheaded by the City of Poulsbo the County isn't too involved with it. Commissioner Bailey said that Bainbridge Island has been discussing the possibility of turning street ends that lead to the water available for public use. This has apparently caused a lot of controversy though. Mr. Catron thanked everyone for their time.

Individual Port Updates

Port of Manchester (<http://www.portofmanchester.com>) – Commissioner Fallstrom reported that they have a derelict boat moored at their facility right now. Commissioner Strode added that they are becoming quite the experts on derelict vessels. Commissioner Fallstrom explained that Congressman Derek Kilmer is attempting to enact laws that would require the Coast Guard to inform Port Districts when they tie up a vessel to their facility and also be required to provide any and all owner information. It was agreed this would help in determining the owner, which is a problem for many Ports. Commissioner Scholfield informed everyone that Silverdale has an on-line access contract with the State Department of Licensing which allows the Port to obtain vehicle/vessel owner information via the State's Internet Vehicle/Vessel Information Processing System (IVIPS). It was suggested that Phil Best be asked if other Ports could call in boat numbers to the Silverdale office and be provided with the information. It would be very beneficial because if the owner can be reached and agrees to release the vessel over to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) directly, then the Port would not be the

middleman. The Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA) recommends this course of action, if possible. Commissioner Scholfield reminded everyone that if/when they have to deal with a derelict vessel they should be sure to document and track every cost associated with it because those costs may be eligible for partial reimbursement through the State's Derelict Vessel Removal Program (DVRP). Several years ago Silverdale used Global Diving and Salvage, Inc. (<http://gdiving.com>) to assist in removing a derelict. The removal alone cost approximately \$12,000. Thankfully, through the State's DVRP the Port was reimbursed seventy-five percent of the costs. It is believed that percentage is now even higher. Commissioner Bailey said that it's important for Port's to work together as much as possible and when it comes to derelict vessels it would be a good idea to get the word out to the other Ports.

Port of Poulsbo (<http://www.portofpoulsbo.com>) – newly elected Commissioner Saunders reported that Poulsbo is up against some heavy infrastructure issues with the docks and the breakwater. They are currently working on the engineering and design aspects for these items. He said that he sees the value in the County Ports as they offer public access to the water, but unfortunately there isn't really enough of a tax base to cover the general costs associated with Ports. He sees marketing as vital to the Port of Poulsbo and is glad the Board supports their three sub-committees for marketing, maintenance and Port properties. It is hoped that the work these committees do will enable the Port to get things done more quickly and lessen the length of the bi-monthly meetings. Poulsbo's city hall will be the Port's new meeting place.

Port of Kingston (<https://portofkingston.org>) – Commissioner McIntyre reported that a 120' black fishing boat was moored at the Kingston facility. It apparently took sail for Port Angeles and is now in Port Orchard. Commissioner Bailey said that it sounded like the same vessel that was at one point at Brownsville. The Port of Kingston will soon be closing on the sale of their old red ferry, the Kingston Express. This is good for many reasons but mainly because it frees up space for Kitsap Transit's new 350-passenger fast ferry, the M/V Finest, which will run from Kingston to downtown Seattle. The costs to accommodate the new fast ferry have increased from approximately \$800,000 to \$1,500,000. The M/V Finest is a used catamaran which is being purchased from a private ferry company in New York. Commissioner Strakeljahn questioned why Kitsap Transit would buy a 20-year old, used vessel from an area of the country that relies heavily on its transit system, not to mention the costs alone in getting it transported to Kitsap. Commissioner Fallstrom said that having Sound Transit run the operations is probably a good idea as they have deeper pockets. Commissioner McIntyre said that Kitsap Transit anticipate commuters from north of the Hood Canal Bridge and a percentage of the

Bainbridge Island ferry commuters will be more inclined to use the Kingston route. Commissioner Scholfield said that it's great to have a foot ferry, but there has to be a back-up plan because if it isn't a reliable route, commuters will take note and not use it. Commissioner McIntyre agreed that it might take a couple years to shake things out, but is hopeful it will become a reliable, well-used route. The M/V *Finest* is set to begin operations at the end of summer. Commissioner McIntyre reported that the Port had a street study conducted. It concluded that there is adequate parking for the day-to-day activity in the area, but there is not enough parking for events such as the farmer's market or other summertime activities. He is in support of the Port providing public parking as it supports economic development.

Port of Bremerton (<http://www.portofbremerton.org>) – Commissioner Strakeljahn reported that there is a lot going on at the Port. The Port Orchard Marina's breakwater is nearing the end of its serviceable life, so that will be a big capital project. They plan to construct two buildings at the Industrial Park. They have yet to determine if the project will be contracted out or built in-house. A new Director of Economic Development, Arne Bakker, was hired. He seems to be a good fit at the Port. Airlift Northwest, a Pacific Northwest air medical transport provider based out of Boeing Field, now has a sub-base at the Bremerton National Airport, which is beneficial to the entire Kitsap Peninsula. The Port is also contemplating creating a \$20,000,000 multi-venue road course out near the Industrial Park. There is a large area of land that typographically is not suitable for building, but it is believed it would work great for such a venture. This is different than a racetrack and is not related to NASCAR and it would not include a drag strip. Commissioner Strakeljahn explained that the Port of Bremerton's focus isn't so much on the docks and piers within their boundaries other than maintenance, but rather on economic development for the entire area.

Port of Waterman – Commissioner Reid deferred to Commissioner McCarn since he has Board seniority. Commissioner McCarn reported that they have RCO grant money left over from the pier project. Commissioner Bailey suggested they use some of the left over money towards beach nourishment. This is something that they may look into. Commissioner McCarn said that the sinkhole in the parking lot's pavement has mysteriously disappeared. It is unknown who repaired it, possibly the County. Port Orchard's West Sound Utilities District employees delivered the picnic tables to Commissioner Reid's garage. The tables will eventually be placed on the pier. When Commissioner McCarn attempted to pay the West Sound employees he was told that they could not accept it. He later bought doughnuts from Albertsons and delivered them to the utility district's office. Waterman Commissioners wanted to also install a shelter on the pier, but

before doing so they thought they better check with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to make sure a permit would not be required. DFW told them as long as the shelter didn't have sides it wouldn't require a permit. The design they were planning to install was an open walled shelter, so they thought "great," but decided to run it past the County just in case. The County informed them that new shelters are prohibited on piers. The Commissioners attempted to fight it, but lost the battle. Commissioner McCarn said that there are a couple areas under the pier that pigeons are using. They would like to plug those areas to avoid any future problems, but it would have to be done via the water. He was hoping the Port of Bremerton might assist with it since they have the boat that it would require.

Port of Illahee (<http://www.portofillahee.com>) – newly elected Commissioners Buesch and Burton deferred to Commissioner Aho, since he is now the long-standing Commissioner for Illahee. Commissioner Aho reported that the Port scored number sixteen out of thirty-eight applicants for the Pollution Liability Insurance Agency (PLIA) (www.plia.wa.gov) grant. He is hopeful that he will be receiving a call soon since the State's capital budget was adopted. The Port's lawyer, Ken Bagwell, has been working on the purchase and sale of the property for the Port for the past two years. He can now begin the process for the sheriff's sale. Commissioner Aho has talked with RCO grants manager, Kim Sellers about the possibility of the Port using the money for the purchase of the property towards matching funds to create a marine park at the property that sits adjacent to the dock. Ms. Sellers met with Commissioner Aho and agreed that could be possible. Illahee will be applying for RCO funding this upcoming round. Commissioner Aho explained that they plan to enter into an interlocal agreement with the Port of Brownsville so that Illahee may be able to use Brownsville Port employees at times to take care of maintenance-type items. Illahee's meetings have been in the basement of the Port of Brownsville's building – the Annex. Since it is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible, it is working out good for Illahee as a temporary solution to accommodate individuals that want to attend the Port meetings, but have mobility issues. The Commissioners want any and all individuals who are interested in attending the meetings to have that opportunity. This has been very important to them. Commissioner Bailey added that the little communities throughout the County are proud of their facilities. Commissioner Aho said that Illahee's goal is to reignite the community through the development of the old Illahee store property by making it into a community center and/or meeting place and coffee shop. Commissioner Bailey said that he would like to see a senior center in the area.

Port of Silverdale (<http://portofsilverdale.com>) – Commissioner Greaves reported that the Port has recently hired Rice Fergus Miller architects to create a waterfront

design. In October 2016 the Port purchased the old Emel building, some may remember it as Pickles Tavern or the Old Town Pub. One condition of the purchase was that the Port would lease the building back to the previous owner for two-years so that he could continue operating the Old Town Pub and sublease the upstairs rooms. Shortly after the purchase, the County inspected the building and required the Port to make many improvements. The Port spent approximately \$35,000 on the County's required improvements and eventually hired an engineer to inspect the building at the County's request. The engineer viewed the crawlspace from outside the building as he didn't feel safe going under the building and advised the Port to make sure anyone accessing it has the appropriate life-saving equipment. This got the attention of the County and in October of 2017 the building was tagged as dangerous and the Pub and the eight upstairs tenants were required to vacate the premises within two weeks of the notice and the Port was given sixty days to either make the necessary improvements or demolish the building. Since the Port was in the midst of hiring an architectural firm to create the waterfront plan, which will include the future of the Pub one way or another, the County extended the timeline as long as the building remains vacant, is inaccessible and the Port is working on a plan for its future. Commissioner Greaves said that it's the second oldest building in Silverdale and the sentiment of some people was surprising.

Port of Brownsville (<http://portofbrownsville.org>) – Commissioner Bailey reported that things are going well in Brownsville. He has noticed that the Port's bylaws aren't always followed, which is a concern because during a state audit it could become an issue. He is hopeful that the Board will be more mindful of the bylaws. Commissioner Bailey has received much ridicule, to the point of being accused of claiming ownership of the boat ramp, because of his support of the Port forming an Industrial Development District (IDD). It would have raised taxes within the district by \$.17 per \$1,000 of property value each year for 20 years. Commissioner Bailey is in support of it because it would provide the necessary funding for much needed repairs and replacement for rebuilding the "A" dock and fuel pier, replacing the main pier, lifting the "I" dock and dredging the marina. All these items are essential to the Port's future. Commissioner Bailey said that all three Port Commissioners were originally on board with the IDD until a heated town meeting took place where several constituents showed up voicing their disagreement with raising taxes and the item was tabled. Brownsville placed number one for an \$800,000 RCO Boating Facilities Program (BFP) grant which will partially fund the Boat Launch project. They are now pursuing an Army Corps of Engineers permit. The Port of Brownsville's Commissioner District 3 is currently vacant. They are hoping to appoint someone to fill the vacancy which is

an unexpired term and will be on the 2019 ballot. They are considering sending out postcard-type announcements about the vacancy to people living within the district as they want to make it clear to everyone that the position is open.

Mutual Interest Items

There was discussion about changing the meeting dates from the third Monday to the fourth Monday of the quarterly month. January already falls on the fourth Monday due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. ***It was agreed to change the Kitsap All Ports meeting dates to the fourth Monday of each quarterly month (January, April, July, October)*** (motion by Fallstrom, second by Strode, unanimous).

The Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails Festival is cancelled this year due to lack of County funding. Several paddling events will still take place.

Port day in Olympia is scheduled for tomorrow, January 23rd. Commissioner Bailey is planning to attend.

An RCO application webinar is scheduled for February 15th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.


Commissioner


Commissioner

Commissioner