



Port of Whitman County

Commission Meeting Agenda

March 19, 2020 | 10 a.m. | Colfax, WA

NOTICE

Given the current and evolving Coronavirus situation, members of the public are highly encouraged to attend this meeting by teleconference. Please call 1 (605) 313-4415 and enter the access code 623969. Changes to the meeting schedule will be posted to our website.

- Changes to/Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment Period (three minute time limit per person)*
- Minutes
- Vouchers
- Commissioner and Staff Updates
- Old Business
 - Columbia River Draft EIS Update
 - Central Ferry North- Corps Land Exchange next phase admin payment
 - Snake River Family Festival – Status Report
- New Business
 - WSU USDA Grant – Agricultural Innovation Demonstration Center
 - Brian Kraft, WSU, 10:30 a.m. (via conference phone)
 - Boyer Park Electrical Project Bid
- Upcoming Meetings
 - **POSTPONED to September 23 (Registrations automatically transferred.)** - Inland Northwest Partners Spring Meeting, 2020 Regional Economic Forecast, Tues., Mar. 24, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., CenterPlace Event Center, Spokane Valley
 - Attendees: Brenda, Kara, Tom
 - Quarterly Regional Breakfast, 7 a.m., Wednesday, April 1, The Oak, 337 E Main, Pullman
 - Strategic Planning Meeting, Wed., Apr. 29, 10 a.m., Henley Court, Pullman
 - **CANCELLED (more information pending)** WPPA Spring Meeting, May 6-8, Skamania, WA
 - Snake River Family Festival, Boyer Park, Saturday, May 30, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Executive Session
 - Personnel
 - Real Estate
 - Security
- Adjourn

*PLEASE NOTE: If you wish to address the Commission, please raise your hand to be recognized by the Chair during the public comment period. When you have been recognized, please give your name and address before your comments. The Port of Whitman County Commissioners are committed to maintaining a meeting atmosphere of mutual respect, and speakers, when making public comments, are expected to honor this principle.

[Disclaimer: Agenda is subject to change]

COMMISSION UPDATE – March 19, 2020

SUBJECT: Columbia River System Draft EIS Update

Background

The first phone-in public comment meeting on the Draft EIS took place on Tuesday.

Ahead of the meeting, which was originally planned to be in-person, staff sent city leaders and a few of our tenants with a stake in the river system an email inviting them to attend a rally and the meeting itself. Then, with the meeting's cancellation, staff sent a second email encouraging their participation by phone or one of the other comment opportunities.

This spreadsheet of contacts was sent to the commissioners last week. Staff will continue to add names and develop a new strategy to encourage letter writing during this public comment period.

Future phone-in public comment meetings take place March 18, March 19, March 25, March 26 and March 31.

Recommendation

None at this time. Update for informational purposes.

Request for Commission Action

None at this time. Update for informational purposes.

COMMISSION UPDATE – March 19, 2020

SUBJECT: Central Ferry North- Corps Land Exchange next phase admin payment

Background

The next installment of administrative fees for the Land Exchange, Section 1331(e), WRDA 2018 at Central Ferry North is now due.

The commissioners previously agreed to make the next payment of \$20,000 for the next phase, which is reviewing potential exchange lands, in the last strategic planning meeting on January 27, 2020.

The voucher will be prepared and included in the Warrant Approval List for the March 19 meeting and formal approval to make the payment is also needed.

Next Steps

Commissioners formally approve the payment.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of \$20,000.00 payment as described above.

Request for Commission Action

Approve payment.

SUBJECT: WSU Agriculture Innovation Center Grant Application

Background

Washington State University has completed a United States Department of Agriculture grant application for establishing an Agricultural Innovation Center. It would coordinate existing services within the Innovation and Research Engagement Office and the Biological Systems Engineering and Food Science departments of the university to support value-added agriculture across the region.

The center would provide agriculture producers with access to advanced food processing facilities and expertise; support to enter international markets; and access to micro-grants and entrepreneurial training.

While the long-term goal will be to broaden activities to serve the diverse needs of Washington State, the center will initially place a focus on four regionally-produced crops that lend themselves to value-added processing: grains, legumes, potatoes and onions.

Success will be measured by the number of products in the market that have received center support and their associated sales volume.

Washington State University needs a match of \$88,000 in order to apply for \$1 million in federal funds.

The Port of Whitman County is well positioned to support this project. Helping to shift the producer's mindset from a "commodities" mindset to a "value-added agriculture" mindset directly aligns with the Port's goals.

The staff recommendation is to provide a match to fund the project. The in-kind contribution will utilize our Communications Director filling a role as a liaison between the growers and researchers working on the grant project. This will give the Port a person on the ground working with growers and understanding their interest and limitations to entering the value-added agriculture market.

Recommendation and Request for Commission Action

Take a commission vote on authorizing a project match of \$70,000 and an in-kind match of \$10,000 to include 50% of six months' Communications Director staff time for educating Whitman County agriculture producers on the center's services.