

**Port of Skamania County**  
**Minutes of the Board of Commissioners**  
**February 5, 2015, 6:00 pm**  
**Port of Cascade Locks Commission Meeting Room**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Collins called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm.

**Attendance:** Commissioners Gail Collins and via telephone Tony Bolstad; Executive Director John McSherry, Executive Assistant Julie Mayfield, Port of Cascade Locks Director Paul Koch and Secretary Sally Moore, Port of Cascade Locks Commissioners Jess Groves, Joeinne Caldwell, Donna Mohr, and Gyda Ann Haight (Brenda Cramblett absent) and guests.

Bridge of the Gods 10-Year Plan.

Paul reviewed the history of the plan and that it was adopted in November 2014 by the Port of Cascade Locks Commission. He noted its importance for planning and for applying for funding. Highlights of the review include:

- The Port of Cascade Locks (PCL) owns property on the north end of the bridge in Washington, which it plans to develop.
- The sign for entering Washington will be replaced soon (2016/2017); the PCL will be interested in working with the cities of North Bonneville and Stevenson in this project. Currently they've only been in contact with the Interpretive Center Museum.
- The electrical system on the bridge will be updated.
- The PCL will need lobbying assistance in Olympia for various aspects of the plan over the next few years—they are hoping for participation from regional partners (such as the Port of Skamania, cities of North Bonneville and Stevenson, and Skamania County).
- The bridge decking needs major improvements and will be the most difficult task but they will focus on remaining gussets first.
- The Fed and ODOT are reviewing weight limitations on short trucks and bridges; this process could take up to a year and when complete may affect the weight limits of short trucks crossing the bridge. The main concern is too much weight concentrated in a small area on the bridge. This will also affect the Hood River bridge.
- Commissioner Collins asked what the lifespan is now for the bridge. Commissioner Groves said there are differing opinions, but a consensus seems to be that it is in relatively good condition, especially with the 10-year plan for maintenance and repairs.
- They are considering various electronic toll collection systems.
- Commissioner Caldwell noted how much the recent restrictions on the bridge showed the whole region's dependence on the bridge.

Bridge Tolls. The PCL will hold a special meeting on the bridge tolls.

One Gorge Coalition. This group consists of a mix of private businesses and government agencies formed to advocate on behalf of and be a lobby group for the communities of the Columbia Gorge. There was discussion on Federal funding that has been authorized for the Gorge but not approved (appropriated)—this includes about \$1.9 million for infrastructure/economic development and \$1.6 million for recreation. These funds are appropriated through the Forest Service National Scenic Area Office (not the Gorge Commission). John explained the recreation dollars are focused on the urban areas, not the scenic areas. The PCL will discuss these issues in its upcoming visit to Washington DC.

The joint commissions agreed they should meet more often; the PCL offered to join the Port of Skamania at one of our meetings next time.

**Adjournment:** 7:07 pm.

**Next Meeting:** The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Port of Skamania Board of Commissioners is February 10, 2015, 3:00 pm, at the Port office conference room: 212 SW Cascade Avenue, Stevenson, Washington.

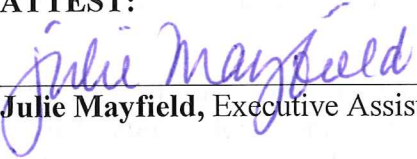
**APPROVED BY:**

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**Commissioner Tony Bolstad**, Secretary (District 1)

  
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**Commissioner Gail Collins**, Vice-President (District 2)

  
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**Commissioner Kevin Waters**, President (District 3)

**ATTEST:**

  
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**Julie Mayfield**, Executive Assistant