



**MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026**

PORT OF ASTORIA
WORKSHOP SESSION
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
422 GATEWAY AVE., SUITE 100
ASTORIA, OR 97103

Call to Order

President Stevens called the Workshop Session to order at 4:00 PM.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Robert Stevens; Tim Hill; James Campbell; Dirk Rohne; and Thaddeus Fickel.

Staff Present: Deputy Director Matt McGrath; Properties and Customer Support Manager Sue Transue; and Administrative Assistant Katie Brown.

Port Counsel: Eileen Eakins was not present at this session.

Also Attending: Jay Corella of *The Daily Astorian*; Finance Committee Member David Oser; Budget Committee Member Steve Kraske; Tiffany O'Donnell; Julia Hesse; Eric Peterson; Belinda Sampson; and Bob Sampson.

Pledge of Allegiance

Changes/Additions to the Agenda

Public Comment

Tiffany O'Donnell – Astoria, OR.

O'Donnell expressed concerns regarding cooperation with ICE. She described impacts on local students, including fear of apprehension, hiding during safety drills, and families avoiding public spaces. She respectfully requested that the Port of Astoria not assist ICE actions and consider the effects on community members.

Eric Peterson – Warrenton, OR.

Peterson voiced concern about the recent ICE action on Port property, noting potential conflicts with Oregon sanctuary laws. He urged the Port not to cooperate with ICE, citing due-process and civil-rights concerns.

Julia Hesse – Astoria, OR.

Hesse requested that the Port fully comply with Oregon sanctuary law by refusing cooperation with federal immigration agencies unless they present a valid judicial warrant. Hesse further recommended that the Port adopt a formal written policy outlining how staff should respond to immigration-related requests, provide regular training to ensure all employees understand and comply with Oregon's sanctuary law, and publicly report any immigration-related requests or interactions to maintain transparency and accountability.

Advisory Items

6a. Pier 1 Pile Inspection – Engineering Inspection Report

McGrath presented results from Appledore Marine Engineering's inspection of approximately 400 steel piles at Pier 1. Key Points Include:

- Visual inspections completed on all piles; 10% received detailed inspection.
- Ultrasonic testing revealed significant deterioration in tidal zones.
 - 28% showed a 30% section loss
 - 69% showed a 20% section loss
- Piles are repairable. The recommended next step is a design-level inspection to determine specific repair requirements and priorities.
- Potential repairs may include sleeving damaged sections.
- Current operational limits: loads kept below 400lbs/sq ft. and crane operations restricted pending engineering review.

Commissioners asked questions regarding repair methods, load restrictions, and historical construction practices. McGrath emphasized the need for a repair plan within 12-24 months.

6b. Capital Improvement Update by Matt McGrath

McGrath provided an overview of ongoing capital projects:

Airport/Industrial Park

- Terminal building improvements are near completion.
- An Industrial Lands Program application was submitted to Business Oregon for airport industrial park development.
- Environmental work underway for Taxiway A & B realignment.
- Pre-design and design work planned for Runway 8-26 rehabilitation.
- Planning for hangar improvements continues.

Waterfront/Marina

- East Marina float dock replacement scheduled; delivery early next month, installation planned for November.
- East Mooring Basin dredging permit secured; new RFP to be issued.
- Year-two and three dredging with JF Brennan to begin in November; consolidation of work will reduce mobilization costs.
- Bid opening occurred for dredging at West Marina, DMMU 1 & 2, and the boatyard haul-out basin.

Pier 2 West

- State mitigation is not required by DSL; separate federal mitigation is needed.
- A new approach to Corps of Engineers mitigation is progressing and appears favorable.
 - RFP for construction planned within the next few months; construction anticipated to begin November 2027.
- Pier 2 building 75 Roof Replacement material has been received; installation is expected soon.

Boatyard Expansion

- Several funding requests are pending, including congressional directed spending.

6c. Grant(s) Status Update by Shane Jensen

Shane Jensen provided updates on active grant applications including:

- Airport Industrial Park phase-one design forgivable loan request.
- Airport terminal improvements and T-hangar rehabilitation (ODA and FAA grants).
- Multiple grant requests pending for Boatyard phase-one design.
- BUILD grant for Central Waterfront with a multi-year competitive process.

- East Mooring Basin boarding dock replacement with Marine Board and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funding.
- Port security camera upgrades delayed due to federal shutdown; installation forthcoming.
- Port Security Grant for electronics upgrades on the Trident vessel.
- Upcoming Marine Board application for East Mooring Basin parking lot striping and sealcoat.

The Commission discussed potential partnerships for the Trident vessel and future staffing requirements for maritime emergency operations.

Action Items

7a. Lease Amendment – Marine Spill Response Corp (MSRC)

Properties and Customer Support Manager Sue Transue presented an amendment to MSRC's existing commercial lease for 4,250 sq ft of storage space. The amendment changes the physical location of the leased storage area, with no change in square footage or lease rate.

Commissioner Rohne moved to approve the lease amendment between the Port of Astoria and MSRC as presented. Commissioner Fickel seconded. The motion carried 4-0 with 1 abstention amongst the Commissioners present. Votes were as follows: Stevens – Aye, Hill – Aye, Fickel – Aye, Campbell – Abstain, Rohne – Aye.

Commission Comments

Commissioner Campbell did not have anything to report.

Commissioner Rohne commented on the following:

- Acknowledged the individuals who participated in public comment and thanked them for attending and sharing concerns and engaging with the Port. Rohne noted that the Executive Director was not present, and therefore discussion about ICE-related matters would be deferred until Executive Director could participate.

Commissioner Fickel commented on the following:

- Expressed appreciation for public commenters Tiffany O'Donnell, Eric Peterson, and Julia Hesse. Fickel noted the Commission had heard similar concerns in the past and stated interest in receiving clarity from the Executive Director and the Port's attorney regarding the Port's responsibilities under Oregon sanctuary law.

Commissioner Hill commented on the following:

- Thanked Port staff for the significant amount of work being carried out across multiple projects.

Commissioner Stevens commented on the following:

- Reported attending the recent Clatsop Cruise Host meeting with Commissioner Campbell, noting presence from Port staff including Terminal Manager Dianna Delgado, who provided a comprehensive briefing.

Deputy Director Comments

Noted he is searching for historical documentation related to airport tide-gates and drainage systems and plans to schedule an onsite meeting with Commissioner Stevens and Commissioner Campbell.

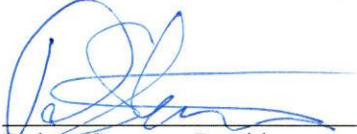
Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Regular Meeting – October 06, 2026, at 4:00 PM
- Workshop Session – October 20, 2026, at 4:00 PM

Adjourned:

President Stevens adjourned the meeting at 4:44 PM.

APPROVED:



Robert Stevens, President
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Thaddeus Fickel, Secretary
Board of Commissioners

Respectfully submitted by:
Katie Brown, Administrative Assistant

October 06, 2026

Date Approved by Commission