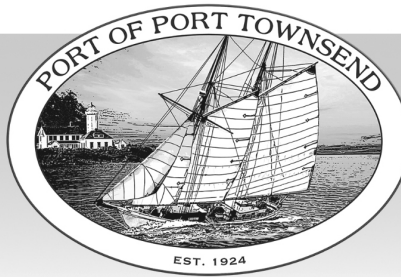


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**Commission Meeting
Special Meeting Agenda**

A majority of the Port Commission will be traveling to/from and attending the WPPA Spring Meeting May 13-16, 2025 at Historic Davenport Hotel, 10 S. Post Street, Spokane, WA
No final action will be taken.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Topic of Discussion: Educational Sessions, Receptions, and Roundtable Discussions
- III. Adjournment

Washington Public Ports Association
Advocating for Washington Ports, Driving Economic Growth

2025 Spring Meeting Agenda

Historic Davenport Hotel
10 S Post Street
Spokane, WA 99201

Wednesday, May 14

Registration Desk Opens at 8:00 am
(Second Floor Mezzanine)

Concurrent Training Modules from 8:30 to 11:30 am

These modules run concurrently from 8:30 to 11:30 am and are an additional registration and cost to the Spring Meeting. You can sign up for them [HERE](#) on the registration page.

Concurrent Training Module A: Finance & Taxation
(Early Bird Ballroom)

Cynthia Weed, K&L Gates
Caitlin Caldwell, Key Bank
Scott Bauer, NW Municipal Advisors
Dan Stahl, Port of Longview

This training module provides a comprehensive overview of port district finance and taxation, equipping Port Commissioners and staff with the knowledge to navigate financial decision-making effectively. Participants will explore the legal and regulatory framework governing port finance, including Washington State laws, financial reporting requirements, and budgeting processes. The session will also cover the types of taxes port districts can levy—such as General Property Tax, Industrial Development District (IDD) Levy, and Dredging Levy—along with limitations, compliance requirements, and case studies on tax levy implementation.

In addition to taxation, the module will examine debt financing options, including General Obligation Bonds, Revenue Bonds, and Special Revenue Bonds, as well as debt limitations, interest rates, and tax exemption considerations. The session will also address emerging trends in port finance, such as political and economic factors affecting taxation, new funding opportunities, and best practices in financial stewardship. Through interactive discussions and real-world scenarios, participants will gain practical insights to enhance financial management and

strategic planning within their port districts. the basics of real estate and the “pitfalls and speed bumps” to avoid. Hear best practices about how to implement a strategic approach to real estate development and managing your property portfolio. Attendees will come away with better understanding of how their port can use real estate to improve their port’s bottom line and create economic activity in their communities.

Concurrent Training Module B: Communication & Outreach
(Elizabethan Ballroom)

Carol Bua, Port of Tacoma

Casey Bowman, Port of Vancouver USA

Amy Danberg, WSP

Seth Baker, Maul Foster Alongi

This module focuses on building effective communication strategies and approaches to community outreach that shine a light on the good work ports do, that embrace the importance of engaging the public, and that emphasize transparent and open government. Participants will explore the best approaches to stakeholder outreach, and innovative community engagement techniques. Key topics from the agenda include the development of communications plans, understanding audience needs as an element of community engagement, and how to utilize both digital and in-person outreach tools to improve your ports effectiveness.

With that foundation, the group will discuss the best practices for crisis communication and for managing public controversy. The session aims to provide members with actionable strategies for strengthening community relationships and fostering public trust.

Spring Meeting Program Officially Begins with **Luncheon at 12:00 pm**
(Grand Pennington Ballroom)

Keynote Program – Spokane’s Innovation Economy

Lisa Brown, Mayor, City of Spokane – Welcomer & Moderator

Chris Pengra, CEO, S3R3 Solutions

Dave Curry, Chairman, Carbon Quest

Andy Billig, CEO, Brett Sports

General Session begins at 2:00 pm
(Grand Pennington Ballroom)

2:00 – 2:50 pm – Water Supply Challenges and Solutions from Central WA

Jaclyn Hancock, Water Resources Scientist, WA Department of Agriculture

Sara Higgins, Executive Director, Columbia Basin Development League

3:05 – 4:00 pm – Energy Landscape and Innovative Solutions

Noel Schulz, PhD, Director, Institute for Northwest Energy Futures, Washington State University Tri-Cities
Mike Diedesch, P.E., Grid Innovation Lab Manager, Avista Corporation
Mike Hogan, Public Affairs Manager, Port of Bellingham

Associate Member Reception from 4:00 – 6:00 pm
(Marie Antoinette Ballroom)

Please join us and enjoy some appetizers while networking with our Associate Members. You can use this opportunity to ask for free advice or just simply get to know our Associate Members. Here's a list of members who have reserved tables:

Enviro-Tech Diving

Facet
Enduris
Moffatt & Nichol
Association of Washington Cities
PND Engineers
Ardurra
Aetta Architects
Reid Middleton
AKS Engineering & Forestry
Collins Engineers
Marine Solutions
J-U-B Engineers
Ecological Land Services
Ameresco
Dalton, Olmsted & Fuglevand (DOF)

Evening: Dinner on Your Own

Please plan ahead for dining out and make reservations when available.

Thursday, May 15

Rise-n-Shine Walk! Optional walk at 6:00 am with Your Executive Director, Eric Ffitch!
Don't miss out on this opportunity to check out the beautiful scenery in Spokane! Meet in Hotel Lobby at 6:00 am. Waters and juices will be available!

Ports Only Breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 am
(Grand Pennington Ballroom)

This breakfast is for registered Port Commissioners, Executive Directors, and Port staff only

Committee Meetings from 8:30 to 11:45 am

Committee meetings are open to everyone, even if you are not registered for the Spring Meeting. If you intend to stay after your committee meeting and want to join us for lunch or any other sessions, you do need to register as a Spring Meeting attendee. [Let Mandy know](#) if you have any questions.

Agendas will be posted here as soon as we have them

- 8:30 – 11:30 am [Legal](#) – Early Bird Ballroom
- 8:30 – 10:00 am [Trade & Transportation](#) – Marie Antoinette Ballroom
- 8:30 – 10:00 am [Marina](#) – Flowerfield Room
- 8:30 – 10:00 am [Environmental](#) – Elizabethan Ballroom
- 10:15 – 11:45 am [Economic Development](#) – Marie Antoinette Ballroom
- 10:15 – 11:45 am [Aviation](#) – Elizabethan Ballroom
- 10:15 – 11:15 am [Communications](#) – Flowerfield Room

Luncheon at 12:00 pm
(Grand Pennington Ballroom)

Keynote Program – Navigating the Future: Marine Cargo Trends

Heather Haugland, McKinley Research Group
Spencer Cohen, High Peak Strategy LLC

General Session begins at 1:45 pm
(Grand Pennington Ballroom)

1:45 – 2:45 pm – Report on the 2025 Legislative Session

Mark Wilson, Executive Director, Port of Kalama, and Legislative Committee Chair presiding
Eric ffitich, Executive Director, WPPA
Chris Herman, Deputy Director, WPPA
Carly Michiels, Senior Director of Environmental Policy, WPPA
James Cockburn, Government Relations Manager, WPPA

3:00 – 4:30 pm – Port Reports

Port of Whitman County
Port of Othello
Northwest Seaport Alliance

Spring Fling Reception from 4:30 – 6:30
(Hall of Doges)

We will wrap up our day with a casual reception that will provide plenty of time to network with your peers and unwind from a long day of meetings! Please join us and enjoy some medium hors d’oeuvres and beverages. Spouses are invited and encouraged to attend this event!

**Please note the programming change from years past. This reception event will end at 6:30 which gives attendees an opportunity to go out and enjoy dinner and an evening on the town!*

Friday, May 16

Awards Breakfast at 8:00 am

(Grand Pennington Ballroom)

Please join us for breakfast and our Spring Meeting awards ceremony

- Spring Scholarship Award
- Community Outreach Award
- Creative Partnership Award
- Outstanding Job Creator Award
- Environmental Stewardship Award
- Compass Award

Board of Trustees Meeting – immediately following awards breakfast

(Grand Pennington Ballroom)

Meeting adjourns by 11:00 am

*** Please note: WPPA does not sell event attendee information**, nor do we provide event information to anyone outside our membership. If you receive an email offering conference attendee lists, please forward it to the [Anti-Phishing Working Group](#) at reportphishing@apwg.org and report it to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint.