

PORT COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING – Wednesday, June 11, 2025

The Port of Port Townsend Commission met for a workshop session at the Point Hudson Pavilion Building, 355 Hudson Street, Port Townsend, and also online via Zoom.

Present: Commissioners Hasse, Petranek, and Hanke  
Executive Director Eron Berg  
Deputy Director Eric Toews  
Harbormaster Kristian Ferrero  
Director of Capital Projects and Port Engineer Matt Klontz  
Capital Projects Administrator Natalie Toews  
Port Recorder Joanna Sanders

I. CALL TO ORDER (Rec. 00:00:00)

Commissioner Hasse called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. AMERICAN CRUISE LINES UPDATE (Rec. 00:01:25)

Executive Director Eron Berg introduced American Cruise Lines Kristin Meira Director of Government Affairs and Mark Freeman Government Affairs Manager who presented their future plans for continuing visits to Port Townsend.

Discussion ensued about boat sizes and tonnages, mooring at Union Wharf and the potential for development of the Dudley property; community partnerships and economic benefits, planned excursion trips and estimated local revenue from such trips; the need for strengthening the docks and adding shoreside power; and comparisons with Richland and Kalama contracts which are not exclusive. Ms. Meira noted their vessels address their own trash, power, and sewer (with MSDs). There were also comments about the differing community opinion about the vessels.

III. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION (Rec. 00:54:53)

Executive Director Eron Berg led this continued discussion from the previous meeting. He introduced David Ballif, new Director at EDC Team Jefferson, who talked about enhancing coordination between the entities with tangible goals.

During discussion of the key economic development priorities, there was reference to the Walla Walla economic development plan, website on the most profitable businesses being agricultural and commercial fishing, and ICG economic development speakers. Commission comments were that the Port may wish to focus on its own economic development versus funding the EDC. A contrasting opinion was in favor of continued support and collaboration with the EDC soliciting community input on creative ideas, including building tiny houses, industries built on climate change, and utilizing Karen Affelt of the NODC as a resource. Following discussion, Executive Director Eron Berg confirmed the Commission's desire to convene Jefferson County manufacturers to talk about business opportunities, including coordinating with the Intergovernmental Collaborative Group.

IV. STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE (Rec. 01:26:00)


Deputy Director Eric Toews presented an update on the progress with the draft plan and its objectives. The 2010 plan, while mostly right, was long and needed new updated policy language and directives. The committee will next meet tomorrow and the Commission will be presented with an update of a new plan.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Rec. 01:14:00) - none.

VI. ADJOURNMENT (Rec. 01:14:32)

At 11:22 a.m., the meeting adjourned there being no further business before the Commission.

ATTEST:

  
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Peter W. Hanke, Secretary

  
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Carol L. Hasse, President

  
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Pamela A. Petranek, Vice President