

## **Strategic Plan Review Committee Open House (SPRC) May 29, 2025 Minutes**

The **Strategic Plan Review Committee** met at the Point Hudson Pavilion at 355 Hudson St., Port Townsend, Washington. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Members present:** Robert D’Arcy, Sarah Fiskien, Bob Frank, Scott Freeman, Dave Griswold, Stephanie Jones (virtual attendee), Sarah Kolbeck, Pete Langley, Gary Lanthrum, Martin Mills, Anne Ricker, Gwendolyn Tracy.

12 members of the public, including Commissioners Hasse and Petranek.

**Staff:** Executive Director Eron Berg, Deputy Director Eric Toews, and Administrative Assistant Joanna Sanders.

**Welcome/Introduction.** Eron Berg reviewed the Port’s mission, current projects, and importance of maintaining current working waterfront and other facilities. He expressed interest in hearing new ideas and direction. Eric Toews gave the staff presentation on the strategic plan update process and explained the breakout stations to gather public input on each topic “element” of the draft plan. Information boards had suggested discussion questions.

For an hour, six (6) breakout “stations” around the room staffed by members of the Strategic Plan Review Committee gathered input on each topic “element” of the draft plan.

At 7:15 p.m., the group reconvened for reports, key themes/takeaways and comments heard as follows:

### **Station #1 – Economic Vitality (Pete Langley and Bob Frank)**

*“We take our mission of promoting a healthy local economy seriously. We are committed to facilitating economic vitality based on a “triple bottom line” approach that factors economic, environmental, and social consequences into our decision-making, and which enhances the community’s long-term wellbeing.”*

- What actions should the Port be prioritizing to foster a healthy local economy?
- What industry or market trends are most likely to impact the Port over the next 1-5 years?
- What else would you like to share with us as we update the Port’s Strategic Plan?

Input collected:

1. Recognize and encourage new trend in boats -- aluminum boats,
2. Figure out ways to align with current technologies and innovations in the industry maritime boatyard sector,
3. Youth engagement and job training,
4. Train new workers of the future,
5. Incubator shops and properties to allow for tradespeople to have their own physical locations on port property,
6. Boat haven/boat basin marina expansion is possible,

7. Creative workforce housing solutions: dorms, sheds, tiny houses, trailers
8. Community college partnership,
9. Small business and entrepreneurial training,
10. Foster shared resources for those entrepreneurs (tools, bookkeeping, etc.)

### **Station #2 – Infrastructure Maintenance & Development (Gary Lanthrum and Robert D’Arcy)**

*“We manage and maintain a variety of facilities and infrastructure located throughout East Jefferson County. We recognize our fiduciary duty to adequately maintain these facilities for the long-term benefit of the community, and to develop new facilities that serve as a catalyst for community prosperity.”*

- What capital maintenance or replacement projects should the Port prioritize?
- What new opportunities for development and redevelopment should the Port be considering?
- When it comes to developing and maintaining Port infrastructure, what else would you like us to think about as we update the Port’s Strategic Plan?

Input collected:

1. Dry sailboat and powerboat storage with the ability for people to bring their boat in on a trailer for lifting into the water, while waiting on the waitlist to clear out,
2. More heads at the airport and at the marina for the workforce,
3. Leasehold facility maintenance so the leaseholder has a facility that is functioning properly.

### **Station #3 – Environmental Leadership & Community Stewardship (Sarah Fiskén and Stephanie Jones)**

*“We strive to lead by example, and to preserve and enhance the environment of the Salish Sea for current and future generations. We are committed to cleaning up contaminated properties, improving water quality and habitat, minimizing air emissions from Port operations and making our facilities and operations more resilient and secure.”*

*“We recognize that we are caretakers of very special public properties. We are dedicated to safeguarding community character, restoring historic assets, and responsibly managing the facilities entrusted to our care.”*

- How can the Port better focus its efforts to protect and sustain our natural environment?
- What projects should the Port pursue to build community resilience and prepare for environmental change?
- How can the Port be a better steward of the “special places” entrusted to its care?

Input collected:

1. Take into account and address sea-level rise and tsunami risk and how to look at those issues

2. Consider addressing with innovative strategies the problems we are going to encounter in the future.
3. Collaborate with the Marine Science Center on interpretation and signage,
4. Water quality testing and posting in marinas,
5. Port website links to WDFW, Ecology, and Department of Health,
6. Getting the Port to be a resource for the public and being an environmental leader.
7. Regarding Stewardship, people enjoy the Boatyard barbecue.
8. Find opportunities to connect the maritime businesses to each other and the public engaging with maritime businesses,
9. Break down sector silos and increase resource sharing and relationships building.
10. Ask Pete Stein about boatyard Olympics event.
11. Other ideas: solar microgrids and small-scale wind for port properties, community compost, and great to have safety gear on the docks for people to loan and use.

**Station #4 – Fiscal Transparency & Accountability (Gwendolyn Tracy and Scott Freeman)**

*“We challenge ourselves to find new and better ways of being fiscally responsible. We are committed to a budgeting process that is sound and transparent, where operational budgets are balanced, and where the financing of capital infrastructure is examined from both short and long-term perspectives.”*

- How can the Port better engage with and involve constituents in budgetary decision-making?
- What steps should the Port take to improve its financial performance while honoring the principles of triple bottom line decision-making?
- What other actions should the Port pursue to ensure that it remains open, transparent and accountable to the public?

Input collected:

1. There were mostly positive comments about the Port in this area.
2. Could ask local partners to promote a survey that you can fill out in hard copy and turn it in after the event,
3. Incentivize forward thinkers and greater attendance at public budget meetings with food and entertainment.

**Station #5 – Community Access (Sarah Kolbeck and Dave Griswold)**

*“We exist to serve the community. We are committed to providing facilities that are open and accessible – both physically and financially – to residents and visitors alike.”*

- What more should the Port be doing to preserve and expand physical access and recreational opportunities at Port facilities?

- How can the Port ensure that Port facilities remain financially accessible to the community, while fairly distributing long-term maintenance and replacement costs between direct users and taxpayers generally?
- What other community access concerns do you wish to share with us as we update the Port's Strategic Plan?

Input collected:

1. Restrooms were a theme – at airport, pilots lounge, open access public restrooms
2. A dingy dock,
3. Having a monthly rate as the daily rates are very expensive,
4. The Hazmat station is missed and is now very inconvenient for regular boat owner and the public,
5. Winter slip holders at Point Hudson should get a parking waiver so they do not have to pay the parking fee,
6. Add mooring buoys on Larry Scott Trail which could prevent fewer trying to anchor in the eelgrass,
7. Having a crane to haul out smaller, trailer boats and improve access on race day,
8. The pump outs are great.
9. Having a boardwalk along the busy road at Point Hudson would be great and would add to the town's character.

#### **Station #6 – Public Involvement & Responsiveness to Community Needs (Anne Ricker and Martin Mills)**

*“We listen to our citizens and customers. We believe that being receptive and prompt in responding to public input and new opportunities demonstrates that we care and that we intend to work together to make a difference.”*

- How can the Port better involve the community in Port decision-making?
- What should the Port be doing to better inform and include key constituencies in Port planning and development activities?
- Are there other steps the Port should be taking to sustain and improve relationships with stakeholders and the wider community?

Input collected:

1. The Port needs to assess the whole community and its economic makeup – who is local and who is a visitor and who has which jobs and residents and number of boats and then do metrics, so the Port can publish so we know how the whole community is composed.
2. Expand beginner employment opportunities
3. Need much better signage everywhere for all community businesses and recreation and stating what is and is not allowed on port property, what open times and public transportation is available to and from all Port properties.

4. One source for all organizations to publish their information
5. Unlock restrooms and
6. Advertise the survey.

**Next Steps:**

Eric Toews announced the Review Committee will be meeting again on June 5 and June 12. A formatted line-in/line-out draft of the Strategic Plan will be before the committee incorporating SPRC comments as well as a summary of the key response themes garnered from the online questionnaire and open house.. The survey questionnaire will be extended until Sunday, June 1, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.