

Port of Skamania County
Minutes of the Board of Commissioners
April 17, 2013--Special Meeting 1:30 pm
Joint Meeting with the Port of Cascade Locks--Hegewald Rock Creek Center

Call to Order: The meeting opened at 7:07 pm.

Attendance: Those present from the Port included Commissioners WD Truitt and Kevin Waters; John McSherry, Executive Director, Julie Mayfield, Executive Assistant.

David McCurry, engineering consultant for the Port of Cascade Locks (PCL), presented an overview of the status of the weight restrictions on the Bridge of the Gods. PCL has been working with the Federal Highway WA (FHWA), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT). He gave a brief history of the bridge; the actual plans for the main span of the bridge have been lost—the only plan available, which is basically an artist rendering with engineering data added, is dated 1978. There has apparently been no load rating calculated conforming to modern standards. PCL commissioners explained there has been a lot of maintenance on the bridge performed through the years.

David noted that the FHWA funding to ODOT requires testing of all its bridges. An agreement between ODOT and the PCL had included ODOT load rating the bridge. ODOT was getting pressured from FHWA since it received the funding to complete the agreement but hadn't completed the load rating. ODOT's final report is due mid May 2013.

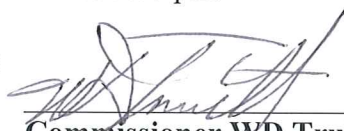
David reported the only actionable item they have from ODOT to date is to replace some of the gussets (steel plates) on the main span. It is hoped that flagging during repairs to the bridge will continue instead of installing expensive signaling systems, which can cost around \$750,000, since the regulators require the use of semi-permanent signal systems.

PCL has contracted with consultant Bruce Sorte of Oregon State University to study the impact the bridge has on the economy of the Gorge. This study can be used for applying for funding.


It was noted that ODOT, WSDOT, and all local agencies as well as US Senator Patty Murray and US Representative Jaime Beutler have been very helpful in working together toward the goal of ensuring the safety of the bridge.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

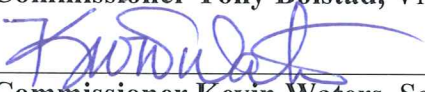
APPROVED BY:



Commissioner WD Truitt, President (District 2)



Commissioner Tony Bolstad, Vice-President (District 1)



Commissioner Kevin Waters, Secretary (District 3)

ATTEST:



Julie Mayfield, Executive Assistant