

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
PORT OF PEND OREILLE
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
PEND OREILLE COUNTY**

JULY 19, 2023

1981 Black Road, Usk, WA.

The meeting of the Port, PUD and County Commissioners was called to order by Port Chairman Ryan Kiss at 2:00 p.m. in the Port office.

Introductions: Representing the Port were Kimberly Gentle, Ryan Kiss, and Kelly Driver, with Corey Ives arriving later in the meeting. Curt Knapp, Joe Onley, Dave Rick, and April Owen represented the PUD. County representatives were John Gentle, Robert Rosencrantz, and Brian Smiley. Also attending, Andy Armantrout, Shelton Coonfield, and Don Gronning from the Newport Miner.

Discussion Points:

Goals of the group:

Discussion, in part, included:

- Rebuilding trust among the entities and with the public
- Being productive
- Combining and leveraging areas where shared services might be possible
- Increased transparency
- Keeping open communications, avoiding misunderstandings, working together to bring people back together and show that the group is a cohesive team.

Who needs to be at the table:

- Regarding regular attendance, in addition to the Port, PUD and the County, it was felt that the Tribe should be asked to provide a representative to attend the meetings. This representative should be someone who is at the leadership level, with decision-making authority. Kelly will contact the Tribe.
- Those who may be invited on an occasional basis include the City of Newport, Towns of Ione, Metaline, Metaline Falls. Others may be added from time to time depending on topics, activities, and ideas.
- Speakers: Staff presentations and speakers were also discussed. It was determined that the host will be in charge of any presentation. Presentations should not last longer than 30 minutes.

Meeting Frequency:

All representatives believe quarterly meetings would be best. If there is a need for additional meetings they can be scheduled.

Locations and Times:

Rotating the meetings throughout the County was the favored option. South County meetings will be hosted by the PUD. Mid County meetings will be hosted by the Port, and the County will host the North County meetings.

Meetings will be held in the second month of the quarter, the second week of the month, on Wednesday. Meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Time Limits:

The meetings will be planned for approximately two hours.

Legalities and Formalities:

- Who runs the meetings: The Host entity will run the meeting.
- Minutes: The Host entity will be responsible for the minutes and providing the minutes to the others.
- Legal Ads: The Host entity will be responsible for placing the legal ad on behalf of all three government agencies.
- Zoom, Teams or neither: It will be up to the Host entity to determine if the meeting will also be held virtually. Reliable coverage is a determining factor for having virtual availability.
- Other: The meetings are workshops. No action will be taken by any entity at the meetings. If there is action to be taken, it will be done at each entity's own meeting.

Public Comments:

Whether to allow public comments at the meeting was discussed in detail. It was determined that public comment will be taken at the beginning of the meetings with a three -minute time limit from individuals attending either in person or virtually.

Other Items:

1. Joe Onley asked for a sample agenda to be sent to all nine Commissioners for review. Kelly will provide this. Additionally, he requested that Kelly be the spokesperson for the group.
2. Group Name – The name group and the meetings will be Pend Oreille County Representatives Workshop.
2. Board reports:
 - A. PUD – They are in the process of hiring a new General Manager. They started with 12 candidates, dropped to six which turned out to be four, down to two which have turned out to be one. This individual will be interviewed on Monday, July 24th.

They also talked about clean energy requirements, small modular reactors and the amount of land needed for the small modular reactors. The inability of the grid to handle all of the new clean energy requirements as well.

B. County – They continue to have staffing issues with needs for a County Engineer, Public Works employees, 911 Dispatchers, they are facing critical staffing availability at the jail. Contract negotiations are going on and wages are a big factor in attracting and retaining employees. Dave Rick complimented the County for the road work on North Leclerc Road.

C. Port – Revitalization of the Port. Currently buying property and looking at property development. The shop completed a Tier 3 conversion on a locomotive which goes more toward clean energy requirements. Working on plans and strategies as well as cost-benefit-analysis. Submitted a grant through the Economic Development Recovery Corp with would provide a long-term resource without cost to the Port.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, Port Chairman Ryan Kiss adjourned the meeting at 3:56 p.m.



Ryan Kiss, Chairman

Aug. 8, 2023
Date Approved



Kelly J. Driver,
Executive Director