

Port of Cascade Locks Special Commission Meeting

The Port of Cascade Locks Special Commission Meeting was held May 26, 2021 at 4:30 pm via
Zoom in Cascade Locks, Oregon 97014

1. Commission Meeting called to order

Commissioner Groves called the meeting to order at 4:37pm.

- **Roll Call**

Commissioners Groves, Stipan, Caldwell and Bump were present.

Commissioner Lorang joined the meeting at 4:41pm.

- **Others Present**

General Manager Olga Kaganova, Maintenance & Construction Manager Todd Mohr, Bridge Supervisor Jeremiah Blue, Secretary Sally Moore, Secretary-in-Training Colette Black, Engineer David McCurry, Government Relations Director Mark Johnson, Citizen Rob Peterson, Citizen Butch Miller and Phil Watness.

- **Modifications, Additions & Changes to the Agenda – None**

- **Declarations of Potential Conflicts of Interest – None**

2. Public Comment (Speakers may be limited to three (3) minutes): None

3. Special Presentation and Reports by outside resources, staff and Government Officials

a. Discussion on ODOT bridge inspection – GM Kaganova

GM Kaganova stated that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) recently conducted an inspection of the Bridge of the Gods. They have since sent a short video to the Port and will provide a report of their findings no later than October 1st which will possibly include recommendations and/or directives. GM Kaganova stated that she obtained a commitment from ODOT that they will notify the Port of any significant problems relating to the bridge prior to release of the official report.

Commissioner Groves stated that although we received a video from ODOT, no other information has been provided regarding its significance. This information is forthcoming. He also stated that he wanted Engineer McCurry to provide his insights regarding the video and the Bridge. However, everyone should refrain from jumping to any conclusions regarding the health of or future of the Bridge until we receive the actual report.

Engineer McCurry addressed the group by first stating that this is not the first time the Bridge has been inspected or its health questioned. The Port and ODOT have an IGA and part of that agreement is that ODOT performs periodic weight inspections for the Bridge. Most recently, it occurred in 2013 and caused a flurry of activity but was not cataclysmic.

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Engineer McCurry continued stating that ODOT is currently performing special analysis based on the data gathered during their inspection. Once the analysis is complete, ODOT will advise the Port of their findings and provide the Port 30 days to implement their recommendations and/or corrections.

Commissioner Groves stated that the Port already has a Bridge of the Gods subcommittee on which he and Commissioner Lorang currently serve. Commissioner Groves continued that he believes a bridge strategy committee should be formed to address the current situation and provide guidance regarding policies regarding the long-term health of the bridge. Commissioner Groves stated that Paul Koch has already volunteered to participate on this committee which will be helpful because of his experience in navigating the 2013 inspection and report. Hopefully, there will be other volunteer members who will assist in guiding the Port through this situation as well. One thing which was done after receiving the results of the inspection in 2013, was to declare a “state of emergency” for the bridge. This sped the response from government to correct the problem at that time.

Engineer McCurry stated that the Bridge has not changed much physically since it was originally constructed. He shared photographic views of the bridge from the street view of the three (3) spans comprising the Oregon approach to demonstrate from where he believed the video was taken. Of interest are the steel beams under the deck spanning between the three large concrete supports. Engineer McCurry then shared the video ODOT provided to the Port. It showed some movement between the deck and the supporting steel beam. He stated that because the bridge is symmetrical, it can be assumed that this movement could be occurring on both sides (approaches) to the bridge. However, he also stated that this video does not indicate an impending collapse of the bridge. Engineer McCurry does not believe that the video indicates a problem with the deck of the bridge but possibly a problem with how the deck and the steel girders and beams are working together.

Commissioner Lorang asked Engineer McCurry if, based on this limited information, there will be more than one way to correct the perceived issue. Engineer McCurry responded stating there may be as many as 10 solutions of varied costs and complexities which could correct the issue however, without the full analysis and report, the extent of the problem (and its solution) is unknown.

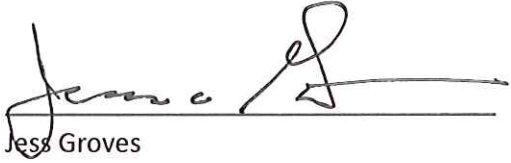
Further discussion occurred among the meeting participants discussing the history of the bridge, the overall strength of its construction and the anticipation of the ODOT findings with the final conclusion being that until the results are received, no definitive course of action can be determined.

4. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 5:49pm.

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Port of Cascade Locks:

Attest:



Jess Groves
President Port Commission



Joeline Caldwell
Secretary / Treasurer Port Commission

Date Approved: June 3, 2021

Prepared by Colette Black