CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Oliver called a regular meeting of the Port of Vancouver Board of Commissioners to order and open to the public at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at the Port of Vancouver USA Administrative Office, 3103 NW Lower River Road, Vancouver, Washington 98660.

OPENING REMARKS

Commissioner Oliver welcomed everyone, announced no executive session was held and invited guests to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting attendees included:

Jerry Oliver  
Don Orange  
Eric LaBrant  
Julianna Marler  
Betsy Rogers  
Alicia Lowe  
Kent Cash  
Elizabeth Gotelli  
Ryan Hart  
Scott Goodrich  
Patty Boyden  
Rachelle Berry  
Julie Rawls  
Heinz Lange  
Mary Mattix  
Caleb Ceravolo  
Caroline Ceravolo  
Linda Garcia  
Daniel Serres  
Cathryn Chudy  
Dr. Theodora Tsongas  
Jean Avery  
Mona McNeil  
Marcella Chandler  
John Flynn  
Craig Brown  
John Filippelli  

Port Commission President  
Port Commission Vice President  
Port Commission Secretary  
Port CEO  
Port Administrative Supervisor  
Port Legal Counsel  
Port Chief Operations Officer  
Port Chief Financial and Administrative Officer  
Port Chief External Affairs Officer  
Port Director of Finance & Accounting  
Port Director of Environmental Services  
Port Administrative Assistant  
Port Community Relations Specialist  
Port Sales Director  
Port Environmental Program Manager  
Community Member  
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Sierra Club  
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CCL  
Community Member
Don Steinke  
Carole Dollemore  
Tom Dollemore  
Anita Thomas  
Den Mark Wichier  
Regina Merritt, PA  
Damon Motz-Storey  
Dan Barnes  
David Bybee  
David Goldberg  
Vene Guthrie  
Carmen McKibben  
Sharon Brown  
Craig Brown  
Marsha Maupoux  
Linda Leonard  
Linda Horst  
Bonnie McKinlay  
Maureen Hildreth  
Sonya Norton  
Heidi Cody  
Patty Page  
Linda Armstrong  
Adam Aguilera  
Susan Grit  
Dekon Letinich  
Tracy Ceravolo  
Kasy Sparly  
Alona Steinke  
Ronald Morrison  
Wilbur Wood  
Steve Sather  
Jim Plunkett  
Tim Emineth  
Kristin Edmark  
Michel Maupoux  
Kay Pulliam  
Ren Pulliam  
Joann Derie  
Janet Hedgepath  
Karen Hengerer  
Carrie Parks  
Joe Melroy  
Jack Burkman  
James Lanz  
Elizabeth Brewster  

Community Member  
Community Member  
Community Member  
Community Member  
Community Member  
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Community Member  
Sierra Club  
SW Washington Global Warming Taskforce  
Community Member  
Community Member  
Community Member/Climate Lobby  
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Gary Wallace  Community Member
Diaria Gordon  Community Member
Tom Gordon  Community Member
Jeffrey Mize  The Columbian
Dennis Potter  Salmon Creek Flyfishers
John McDonagh  Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
Pat Freiberg  Community Member
Ken Rone  Community Member
Mary Todd  Community Member
Bill Turlay  Community Member
Cager Clabaugh  ILWU Local 4
Will Rasmussen  Western States Petroleum Association
Ryan Rittenhouse  Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Karissa Halstrom  Community Member
Kelly Caldwell  GPNOW
Alan Mitchell  Community Member
Charles BridgecrAne Johnson  Rising Seas & Famine
Jennifer Baker  CREDC
Jan Verrinder  Community Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of June 11, 2019

On motion by Commissioner LaBrant, seconded by Commissioner Orange and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners approve the minutes of the June 11, 2019 regular meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Commissioner Oliver invited comments from the audience. He indicated for those interested in speaking about a renewable/clean energy policy, they are invited to share their thoughts during the Open Forum portion of the agenda. He also stated that if the matter moves to a vote when the topic comes up under Unfinished Business, he will invite additional comment at that time.

Caleb Ceravolo, Community Member

Mr. Ceravolo shared his concerns about fossil fuels and encouraged the board of commissioners to adopt a renewable/clean energy policy.

Caroline Ceravolo, Community Member

Ms. Ceravolo discussed her concerns for the future and asked the board to move forward with a renewable/clean energy policy.
Linda Garcia, Community Member

Ms. Garcia shared her thoughts on the proposed renewable/clean energy policy.

Daniel Serres. Columbia Riverkeeper

Mr. Serres shared his thoughts regarding the proposed renewable/clean energy policy.

Cathryn Chudy, Community Member

Ms. Chudy asked the commissioners to set policy and discussed her thoughts on specific language she would like to see in the proposed resolution.

Dr. Theodora Tsongas, Community Member

Dr. Tsongas shared her concerns about bulk fossil fuel facilities. She recommended changes to the draft renewable/clean energy policy.

Jean Avery, Community Member

Ms. Avery referenced the discussion held at the last board meeting where Commissioner Oliver read some letters by community organizations who oppose the port’s proposed renewable/clean energy policy. She indicated the letters supported environmentally sensitive outcomes and mentioned unintended consequences that would impact community jobs, trade and economics. She shared her concerns regarding additional unintended consequences not referenced in the letters.

Don Steinke, Community Member

Mr. Steinke indicated he supports the renewable/clean energy policy and encouraged additional language be added to the resolution.

Anita Thomas, Community Member

Ms. Thomas asked the board of commissioners to consider the proposed changes others have mentioned.

Den Mark Wichar, Community Member

Mr. Wichar asked the board of commissioners to set a renewable/clean energy policy.

Regna Merritt, PA, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

Ms. Merritt discussed a recently released report regarding fracking. She asked the board to consider the suggested changes previously mentioned to the proposed renewable/clean energy policy.
Damon Motz-Storey, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility

Mr. Motz-Storey discussed concerns regarding climate change. He echoed testimony of others regarding recommended changes to the proposed renewable/clean energy policy.

David Bybee, Sierra Club

Mr. Bybee stated support of the port banning the building of additional facilities for international distribution of fossil fuels.

David Goldberg, SW Washington Global Warming Taskforce

Mr. Goldberg discussed a book on global warming. He urged the board of commissioners to pass a resolution.

Heidi Cody, ACE

Ms. Cody shared her thoughts on protecting citizens from fossil fuel terminals.

Patty Page, ACE

Ms. Page asked the board to consider her questions in their deliberation of the renewable/clean energy policy.

Adam Aguilera, Community Member

Mr. Aguilera shared his support of the port’s renewable/clean energy policy.

Deken Letinich, Laborers

Mr. Letinich stated that with the movement he is seeing on this resolution he is concerned about the jobs in the community. He asked the commissioners what they are doing to drive the economy in this area.

Alona Steinke, Community Member/PSR

Ms. Steinke asked the commissioners to adopt a resolution as discussed by others.

Kristin Edmark, Community Member

Ms. Edmark shared her thoughts on testimony regarding a renewable/clean energy policy.

Karen Hengerer, Community Member

Ms. Hengerer shared her thoughts on a renewable/clean energy policy.
Carrie Parks, Community Member

Ms. Parks discussed the consequences on the use of fossil fuels. She also discussed job growth with renewable energy.

Will Rasmussen, Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA)

Mr. Rasmussen stated WSPA has been supplying crucial fuel to this region for over 50 years. He thought the letters from other ports and communities expressed general support for the transition to renewables but concern for their fuel supply that moves through the port. He stated a blanket prohibition is bad policy and that as a public port it should not discriminate against certain parties. He added that applying the policy to existing tenant leases is also bad policy.

Bill Turlay, Community Member

Mr. Turlay stated he learned from the Heartland Institute that it is the sun and the oceans that are causing global warming and not CO2. He thinks there should be another debate about this concept.

Jan Verrinder, Community Member

Ms. Verrinder thanked the board of commissioners for the new bike path. She also asked them to revise the renewable/clean energy resolution as discussed.

Charles BridgcrAne Johnson, Rising Seas & Famine

Mr. Johnson shared his thoughts on the proposed resolution and a current initiative by the governor.

Ronald Morrison, Community Member

Mr. Morrison stated he is impressed with the public process the port is taking in the consideration of this issue.

Cager Clabaugh, ILWU Local 4

Mr. Clabaugh thanked the port for bringing in the biggest wind blade shipment in the world. He also shared support for the resolution based on today’s discussion.

Tim Emineth, Community Member

Mr. Emineth shared his thoughts about jobs and fossil fuels.
Ryan Rittenhouse, Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Mr. Rittenhouse indicated he agrees with the recommended changes to the policy. He shared his thoughts regarding the Columbia Gorge.

Gary Wallace, Community Member

Mr. Wallace discussed fossil fuels, the port's vision and the need to support a healthy environment.

No further public comments were received.

COMMISSIONER AND CEO COMMENTS

Commissioner Orange stated that he loves that the community comes in and expresses themselves. He indicated this is what democracy looks like. He expressed appreciation for the thanks given for the bike path and stated he will have more to discuss on the renewable/clean energy policy later.

Commissioner LaBrant indicated he would reserve the bulk of his comments for later. He also recognized Port of Ridgefield Commissioner Joe Melroy and thanked him for coming.

Commissioner Oliver stated he would reserve comment at this time.

No further comments were provided by the Commissioners or CEO.

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Oliver stated there are no action items.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Renewable/Clean Energy Policy

Commissioner LaBrant made a motion that the Port of Vancouver USA Board of Commissioners, by motion, ratifies and approves the resolution and renewable/clean energy policy dated June 25, 2019. Commissioner Orange seconded the motion.

Commissioner LaBrant asked his fellow commissioners and legal counsel their thoughts regarding removal of the reference to international export from the policy.

Legal Counsel Alicia Lowe stated if the board of commissioners want to discuss the legal ramifications of removing language from the policy they would need to do that in an executive session.
Commissioner Orange stated that he agrees with folks that international exports should be removed from the proposed policy.

Commissioner Orange suggested the policy say that the port chooses not to pursue new bulk fossil fuel terminals on port owned industrial property.

Commissioner Orange also asked his fellow commissioners their thoughts on expansion by existing tenants and both Commissioners Oliver and LaBrant agreed to keep the current language.

Commissioner Orange stated that he also heard from the community that the port should make sure the language in the resolution itself is the same as the policy, specifically that there are no bulk fossil fuel terminals at the port. He asked his fellow commissioners for input on this request.

Commissioner LaBrant thanked everyone who spoke today and at previous meetings about this. He also thanked the staff for their time and effort on the development of the renewable/clean energy policy. He talked about the unintended consequences that were discussed and stated that the board of commissioners are mindful of that with their work to keep the river navigation moving.

Commissioner LaBrant discussed the issue of jobs and growth and stated that the port can look at a large and diverse business portfolio. He stated one example of this is the wind blades that are coming in and that there are new jobs related to clean energy transition.

Commissioner LaBrant mentioned that there were suggestions from the audience that the board discuss including language regarding climate change in the resolution. He stated that while the commissioners may have opinions on climate change, the port is limited by state laws.

Commissioner LaBrant indicated he thinks the revised draft renewable/clean energy policy before them is well developed and polished. He stated he is ready to move forward with the one change already discussed, which is to remove the language from the policy that references international exports.

Commissioner Orange stated he would echo what Commissioner LaBrant said about the work that went into developing the renewable/clean energy policy. He stated he agrees with Mr. Letinic and vigorously supports union jobs on this side of the river. He indicated it is important for the port to create new opportunities.

Commissioner Orange expressed concern that the resolution does not specifically mention other types of fossil fuel products and he would like to discuss those items.

Commissioner Oliver stated that a broad outline is better than a lot of specifics. He indicated the policy calls for reviewing each new project or alteration to an existing tenant
leasehold. He pointed out that each must pass a rigorous review by staff, the board of commissioners and is subject to the opinion of the public as well.

Commissioner Orange asked if the resolution, in its current form, includes LNG and LPG as a fossil fuel and Commissioner LaBrant stated there is benefit of having the resolution speak generally about fossil fuels.

Commissioner Oliver made a motion to delete from statement number two of the proposed policy the words “international export of bulk fossil fuel on current.” Commissioner LaBrant seconded the motion.

CEO Julianna Marler stated that there would be a potential impact to upriver communities from the board’s proposed changes to the renewable/clean energy policy. She explained that currently there is distribution that takes place through the Port of Vancouver that serves communities along the river and inland in Washington, Oregon and beyond. She asked the board to take that into consideration.

Commissioner Oliver asked about how this might affect them. CEO Marler answered that the port had heard from several upriver and inland ports that they would be impacted if the Port of Vancouver didn’t have the ability to continue serving their population.

Commissioner Orange stated that the changes to the renewable/clean energy policy would allow the port to continue what it is doing now and that it would only affect new expansions of distribution.

Legal Counsel Alicia Lowe asked about the wording of Commissioner Oliver’s motion. After discussion, it was clarified that his motion restate the first sentence of statement number two of the policy to be, “The port chooses not to pursue new bulk fossil fuel terminals on port-owned industrial property.”

On motion by Commissioner Oliver, seconded by Commissioner LaBrant, and carried 2-1 (Commissioner Oliver voted nay), the Board of Commissioners by motion, ratifies and approves the amended resolution and renewable/clean energy policy that revised the first sentence of statement number two of the policy to read, “The port chooses not to pursue new bulk fossil fuel terminals on port-owned industrial property.”

Commissioner Oliver asked if anyone in the audience would like to address the commission on this.

Charles BrircrAne Johnson, Rising Seas & Famine

Mr. Johnson thanked the board of commissioners for changing the language as they have.

Don Steinke, Community Member

Mr. Steinke asked about the inclusion of climate change language in the resolution.
Carrie Parks, Community Member

Ms. Parks stated she likes the amended language and thanked the board for listening to the community. She shared her thoughts about the suggestion of including language on climate change. She mentioned that in the fifth paragraph of the resolution the word “existing” should be removed to be consistent with the policy.

Karen Hengerer, Community Member

Ms. Hengerer agreed that the policy not be limited to only currently owned port property. She also questioned the definition of property and fossil fuels.

Patty Page, ACE

Ms. Page stated she was interested in what is intended by certain phrases in the policy and asked the board of commissioners to consider her questions she had provided to them.

Regna Merritt, PA, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

Ms. Merritt thanked the board and asked them to clarify the expansion of existing terminals.

Cathryn Chudy, Community Member

Ms. Chudy expressed her thoughts about project reviews. She indicated it should be clear that existing operations cannot expand to include bulk fossil fuel terminals. She also stated support for inclusion of a statement on climate action.

Will Rasmussen, Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA)

Mr. Rasmussen stated one challenge with this resolution is that there is not a definition of a bulk fossil fuel terminal. He also pointed out some people think fuel shipments upriver could be considered bulk fossil fuel shipments. He encouraged the board to vote against this amendment.

Jean Avery, Community Member

Ms. Avery stated she was impressed with the board’s ability to think on their feet and come up with these changes and asked the commission to re-examine the expansion clause.
Daniel Serres, Columbia Riverkeeper

Mr. Serres stated the board of commissioners should clarify language regarding expansions that lead to bulk fossil fuel terminals.

Den Mark Wichar, Community Member

Mr. Wichar shared his thoughts on the dangers of not going far enough with the changes to the renewable/clean energy policy.

Commissioner Oliver stated it was brought up there was an inconsistency on the fifth whereas of the resolution to the language in the policy.

On motion by Commissioner LaBrant, seconded by Commissioner Orange, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners approve the removal of the word “existing” from the fifth whereas of the resolution.

Commissioner Orange discussed clarifying that expansions wouldn’t lead to large fossil fuel terminals and pointed out that the proposed changes to the policy would not limit current levels of product moving out of the port.

Commissioner LaBrant stated it is hard to peer into the future with regards to expansions and thinks that statement three of the policy already discusses the limitations around existing contracts.

Commissioner Oliver shared his thoughts on global warming and climate change and he thinks there are also other causes.

On motion by Commissioner LaBrant, seconded by Commissioner Orange, and carried 2-1 (Commissioner Oliver voted nay), the Board of Commissioners by motion, ratifies and approves the resolution and renewable/clean energy policy dated June 25, 2019 as amended.

No additional unfinished business was considered at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was considered at this time.

CEO REPORT

CEO Marler did not provide a report at this time.
COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Orange stated he is looking forward to seeing some windmill blades later and mentioned he would be at the ribbon cutting for the bike path on July 2.

Commissioner LaBrant reported attending the following:
- Port of Ridgefield commission meeting
- ILWU Local 4 meeting
- Met with CEO Marler

Commissioner Oliver stated he would be leaving after this meeting to attend the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association Summer Conference in Hood River.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A list of upcoming events was displayed on the screen for viewers to see staff activities and community meetings. CEO Marler stated the next commission meeting would be held on July 9 at 8:30 a.m. She stated the second meeting in July would be cancelled due to availability of commissioners. She mentioned the ribbon cutting for the completion of the new section of the bike/pedestrian path on July 2 at 10:00 a.m. She stated the port will be closed on July 4 in observance of Independence Day. She also highlighted the Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County meeting on July 8 and the Night Market on July 12 and 13.

RECESS

The regular meeting was recessed at 11:07 a.m. to sign documents.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Port of Vancouver USA Board of Commissioners, the Tuesday, June 25, 2019 regular meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m. by Commissioner Oliver.

Betsy Rogers, Administrative Supervisor, June 25, 2019, Regular Port of Vancouver USA Board of Commission Meeting

PORT OF VANCOUVER USA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Oliver, President

Don Orange, Vice President

Eric LaBrant, Secretary

June 25, 2019