COLUMBIA PORT COMMISSION July 18, 2024

MINUTES MEETING:

COMMISSIONERS: Darron McGuffee, Bruce Frazier, Monty Adams, Jr., Charles Hearns, and Mark McKee.

PORT DIRECTOR: GREG RICHARDSON

Meeting was called to order at 8 AM by Darron McGuffee at the Library’s Conference Room

READING OF THE MINUTES, **motion was made by Bruce Fraizer, and seconded by Monty Adams, Jr. to adopt the minutes.**

READING OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT**, motion was made by Charles Hearns, and seconded by Mark McKee to accept the bank statements, and the motion passed.**

**Motion was made by Charles Hearns and seconded by Mark Mckee to accept the proposed Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program**

* **Purpose: Offers credit assistance for major transportation infrastructure projects, including those related to rail. TIFIA provides loans, loan guarantees, and lines of credit for projects that enhance transportation networks.**
* **Administered by: U.S. DOT**
* **Eligibility: State and local governments, private entities, and other project sponsors.**
* **Website: TIFIA Program**

**procurement policy along with RFQ’s for Engineering Services for both the EDA and MARAD Grants.**

**Motion was made by Mark Mckee to adopt the MARAD approved Title VI Plan greg prepared and presented to the Commissioners which is required for most of our Federal Grant Applications, seconded by Monty Adams jr, motion passed.**

**Motion was made by Mark Mckee and seconded by Monty Adams to address the issue of completing our Policy Procedures prior to the end of the year. Greg was directed to provide monthly updates on the status of the Police Manual. Motion passed**

ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING MEETING Greg informed the Commission of activities since last port meeting:

* Greg informed the Commissioners of the work he was doing on behalf of the Columbia Port Commission:
	+ Majority of meeting was discussing the 2023 Audit, Greg pointed out there were no audit finding and expressed areas of concern of the auditor in preparing for next year audit. Specifically the auditor want a committed effort by the port to finalize our Port’s Policy Manual and the importance of the Port finalize the purchase of the Reynold’s property.
	+ Provided an updated project grant implementation summary and schedule. Working with LGF to develop a closer relationship between the Port, implementation of the awarded grants and incorporation of LGF’s plans and schedules.
	+ Greg informed board that the RFQ for the engineering selection had been put out for bid as well as the bid package for the security fence.
	+ Working with Global Gas to develop a grant application for hydrogen distribution facility at the TPF.
	+ Activities associated with the awarded grant, no update on outstanding grant applications: DRA Dock, EPA Clean Port, and DHS PSPG - Battery
* Greg gave an update on Port Tenants
	+ Guerrero Farms, soybeans are looking good and should be harvested in time to minimize impact on fence construction.
	+ McClanhan gave greg a check for $2000 for past rent.
	+ Terral Riverservices is moving aggregate and doing a good job maintaining River Campground Road in the areas where the work has not been completed.
	+ LGF appears to be willing to work with the port better since the Sumitomo partnership. LGF has agreed to utilize the proposed Port dock for their operation and we are working together to ensure the Dock is constructed in a way which is suitable for their operation and supports their water intake system.
* Awarded Grants Update
	+ LaDOTD PPP we are continuing working on completing the RC ROAD, the remainder of the grant is awaiting federal funding prior to starting. The Port is focused on expediting the railspur installation and the land purchase.
	+ DRA Road – Union pacific acknowledged the delay in the finalizing the rail crossing which is holding up completion of RC Road. Hopefully this project will be completed soon.
	+ DRA Railspur – Port, LGF, LGF’s Engineers and BHA are working together to develop a 100% design of the rail spur and rail loading area to submit to Union Pacific.
	+ USDA Rural Development – funds spent grant award complete and closed out
	+ DHS – BHA is advertising the bid package for the security fence which will be opened at next board meeting on August 15th.
	+ RAISE - Greg reported we have an agreement with both FHWA and LaDOTD, state is currently working on developing a bid package for engineering services. Greg meet with LaDOTD to discuss requesting a waiver to allow for the purchase of the proposed property prior to the completion of the NEPA, FHWA was negative on this request, but greg and LaDOTD are submitting the request.
	+ EDA – We are currently advertising our RFQ for engineering services for both EDA and MARAD which will be held on August 22,2024 during a special meeting. .
	+ CFA – Earmark – Greg has completed Title VI and ADA policy manual which is a requirement, greg submitted our nepa requesting a category exclusion on the construction of the road and dock construction, Greg has prepared SHPO and Tribal letters to Marad for submittal.
* Greg W. will be tasked with revising the appraisals in accordance with the request of the LaDOTD as per FHWA requirements.

Greg read over all outstanding invoices and requested a motion to pay bills. **Motion was made by Charles Hearns to pay all outstanding bills, seconded by Mark Mckee motion passed.**

**Motion was made by Charles Hearns to adjourn the meeting second by Bruce Frazier motion passed meeting was adjourned.**