

Port of Bandon
Regular Commission Meeting
October 28, 2021 5:00pm
Via ZOOM
Bandon, OR

Commissioners Present: Reg Pullen, Rick Goche, & Wayne Butler

Commissioners Absent: Donny Goddard and Rod Taylor

Staff: Jeff Griffin - Port Manager, Josh Adamson - Project Manager, Shawn Winchell – Harbormaster, Peggi Towne – Farmers Market Manager

Volunteer: John Towne – Farmers Market

Guests: Lori Osborne, Michele Zwartjes

Commissioner Pullen opened the meeting at 5:00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Butler to approve the consent calendar. Motion seconded by Commissioner Goche. Motion passes unanimously.

Michele Zwartjes, an endangered species biologist and field office supervisor with the Oregon office for U.S. Fish and Wildlife, gave a presentation on conducting a feasibility study for the reintroduction of sea otters into the Pacific Ocean. Zwartjes said the Fish and Wildlife Service was tasked by Congress to do the feasibility study. The study is to look at the cost, impact and ability to introduce sea otters along the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington. Congress gave the service through the end of 2021 to produce the study. Michele stated that Sea otters do not eat fish, and along the Oregon coast they would likely feed on sea urchins, Dungeness crab and clams. If they were reintroduced, they could help heal the kelp forests, which have struggled to regain a footing after a heat wave and a die off of starfish led to a massive increase in purple urchins.

Commissioners asked about predators to the sea otters, reintroduction areas and an interest in healing the kelp forests. Commissioners asked Michele to keep the Port informed of efforts needed to lend support for the study.

Griffin reported on the following:

Billeter Marine is continuing survey work for the ADA fishing pier. There were minor deviations with the construction drawings and they are working with our engineer to address. Work should begin on site starting the second week of November.

The Port is still waiting for final approval of funds appropriated by the Oregon State Legislature for the marina facility project, and will be submitting a grant application to the Oregon State Marine Board for certain eligible facility components.

ART Engineering LLC, recently submitted lab results to PSET for sediment testing review and approval for the sport basin and marina dredging permits. Lab results appear to have come back below levels of concern which, if approved, would allow for the preferred flow lane disposal. Commissioner Goche asked about environmental issues outside of Port facilities that could contaminate sediment located in Port facilities and a discussion followed about the City's storm drain system that empties into the marina. The Commission requested that staff work on developing a plan to address this issue.

With efforts from the Coquille Tribe, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Port of Bandon and local volunteers, efforts to collect broodstock at Ferry Creek and Seven Mile have proven somewhat successful. 70 pairs are needed and currently an estimated 70 fish have been collected, 50 of those being male. Efforts will continue for the next few weeks. Commissioners discussed possible changes to release sites, hatchery assistance and tide gates. Commissioner Pullen advised this would be a good discussion for the January Work Session.

Moore Mill has agreed to support a mariculture feasibility study on the Moore Mill log yard. Jeff will be submitting a proposal to Business Oregon for the Port Planning and Marketing Fund with Moore Mill possibly contributing some of the matching funds.

Port Staff Report:

- Shawn showcased one of the finished garage doors. All components are either refurbished or replicate the original design and material.
- The railings on the boardwalk are being replaced as the old ones were in need of repair. Shawn will not be sealing them as before. New railings will grey out for a more nautical look.
- Washed Ashore has approached the Port for placement of Henrietta, a Tiger Rockfish sculpture that would be housed streetside outside the Old Town Marketplace Building. Washed Ashore expressed future partnerships with the Port as the administration has changed and new projects are forming.

Public Comment

None

Respectfully submitted by Joshua Adamson