

**PORT OF BENTON
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
& PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
June 3, 2024**

A. CALL TO ORDER: The special Commission meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Port of Benton Commission meeting room located at 3250 Port of Benton Blvd., Richland, Washington.

PRESENT: Commissioner Scott D. Keller; Commissioner Roy D. Keck

PORT STAFF PRESENT: Diahann Howard, Jeff Lubeck, Quentin Wright, Summers Miya, Wally Williams, Cassie Hammond, Ron Branine, Angela Saraceno-Lyman, Audrey Burney

ALSO PRESENT: John O’Leary, Gravis Law; Joe Schiessl, City of Richland

The following attendees attended via remote communications: Commissioner Lori Stevens; Mayor Theresa Richardson, City of Richland; Ashley Garza; Jorge Celestino

The Commission meeting and public hearing was noticed as required by RCW 42.30.070.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Summers Miya led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joe Schiessl deputy city manager from City of Richland greeted the Commission and provided background on the city’s initial petition on the land exchange, stating that the exchange provides quite a lot of opportunity for both organizations, which was reflected in the City’s December resolution in support of this initiative.

Schiessl overviewed possibilities for the advanced clean energy park and Richland Innovation Center, which are still preliminary, but exciting and opportunistic for the city.

Schiessl stated the Port and City have a shared vision between the two organizations.

D. PUBLIC HEARING

Commission President Scott Keller opened the public hearing at 8:37 a.m.

1. Receive public comment on the industrial land transfer/exchange with the City of Richland and amending the Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements (RIC & RAP)

Executive Director Diahann Howard provided an overview of the property presented, pointing out all areas of the transfer, including land that had and had not been previously approved in the port’s comp plan.

There were no comments from the public.

Commission President Scott Keller closed the public hearing at 8:42 a.m.

E. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Resolution 24-22, A Resolution of the Port of Benton Authorizing a land transfer/exchange with the City of Richland and amending the Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements (RIC & RAP)

Executive Director Diahann Howard provided an overview presentation of the property presented, pointing out all areas of the transfer, including land that had and had not been previously approved in the port's comp plan, specifically pointing out additional land to be included as surplus within the RIC, including the park property for future potential transfer.

Howard pointed out the Port land in north Horn Rapids to be transferred to the City. The property north of Richland Airport, which was formerly a construction land fill will be provided from the city to the port.

Further discussion ensued on the land transfer between Port and City.

A motion was made by Commissioner Roy Keck, seconded by Commissioner Lori Stevens, and unanimously passed by the Commission approving Resolution 24-22, authorizing a land transfer/exchange with the City of Richland and amending the Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements in the Richland Innovation Center and Richland Airport.

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION: It was determined that no executive session was needed.

G. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 a.m. with an announcement that the next Port of Benton Commission meeting would take place on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at the Port of Benton Commission meeting room, 3250 Port of Benton Blvd., Richland.



Roy Keck
Commission Secretary