

October 17, 2012

The SPECIAL Joint Meeting of the Woodland Quality Community Coalition (WQCC) Woodland City Council, Woodland School District and Port of Woodland was held on the above date at the Port of Woodland Commission room at 115 Davidson Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Paul Cline, Port of Woodland.

WQCC-Woodland Quality Community Coalition

Mission Statement – *Community stakeholders promoting common values, visions & goals for Woodland and the Lewis River Valley.*

City of Woodland

Councilmember John Burke
Councilmember Marshall Allen
Councilmember Benjamin Fredricks
Councilmember Susan Humbyrd
Councilmember Al Swindell
Councilmember Scott Perry
Public Works Director Bart Stepp

Woodland School District

Superintendent Michael Green
Boardmember Janice Watts
Boardmember Jeremy Stuart
Boardmember Jim Bays
Student Representative Taylor Summers

Cowlitz County

Commissioner Mike Karnofiski

Port of Woodland

Executive Director Nelson Holmberg
Commissioner Paul Cline
Commissioner Dale Boon
Commissioner Gerald Peterson
Auditor Carol Moore

CWCOG

Steve Harvey

Public

Paula Boesel

Updates from Entities:

1. City of Woodland

- Swimming Pool - Park Road vacation ordinance passed on the first reading. Second reading will be at the first council meeting in November. This action removes the last major hurdle to allow the project to move forward. Discussion: Infrastructure needed; community has more acceptance; Downtown Woodland Revitalization potential connected to it.
- Scott Avenue Project – This project is moving ahead. Need to hire a consultant to manage the project. Should have the details worked out soon. Discussion: DOT concerned about spending the \$2 million grant money for preliminary studies,

then not having the funding to complete the project. Examples of preliminary dollars spent before assurance of construction dollars; I-5/Exit 36, Allen Street Bridge, Lexington Bridge. The good news is that the \$200,000 matching funds that the state required has been waived.

- Budget - In the process of developing the 2013 budget. Conducting workshops to study revenues and expenditures and hope to have a budget in place by the first meeting in December. Expecting the budget to be tight for 2013, but anticipate being able to return money to our reserves after several years of draining these funds.
- Public projects - One is to rehabilitate the Ranney well to improve flow to the reservoirs. The other is to line the sewer lines on the west side of the city to eliminate inflow and infiltration. Both projects will happen next year.
- Guild Road project - Nearing completion and should be done by the end of October.
- Police Station – This project should be ready for ground breaking before the end of the year. Occupancy is expected by May or June 2013.
- Regional Fire Authority (RFA) - The city is actively looking into a contract for fire services with Clark County Fire and Rescue. This will give the city an opportunity to try and see how this will work out. The final result will be the development of a Regional Fire Authority in the next couple of years.
- Planning Commission – There is a vacancy on the Planning Commission board. Must live in the city to apply.
- Paramedic & Regional Fire Authority – The council voted 5 to 2 to explore and draw up a contract to be brought back to the council for review. This will improve “first response” time but still not address the issue of ambulance coverage. Discussion: Regarding levy for authority.
- City’s Coffee Klatches – Held three of them; Woodland East, Burgerville and Columbia Bank. The one at Woodland East was well attended by seniors living in the gated community. Discussion: Will look into the possibility of having more; looking at different locations.
- Public Safety meeting – Held the 2nd Monday of the month.
- Sale of House – The council voted to authorize the mayor to sell the house at sports park property on Scott Hill.
- Make a Difference Day. October 27th at 8:30 am. Seniors need to contact Public Works.

2. School District

- New High School – Planning to begin moving fill in spring of 2013. The design of the school is undergoing changes, but they are close to a final design. There

will be a presentation to the school board on November 12th. There are still quite a number of studies that have to be completed. Public comment period is closing on Corps wetland mitigation plan. Hoping for the new school to be completed by the fall of 2015, but could actually be the fall of 2016.

- School programs, sports programs and band are all going strong. Horticulture class is going to Nationals. Golf Team just finished districts and is going to state. They had 47 students turn out for the trap shooting club. Last year they had one student go to Nationals. WHS was reclassified to 1A.
- Enrollment is up.
- Introduction of student representative to the school board, Taylor Summers, a junior at WHS. Woodland is one of the earlier districts to have a student representative.
- Yale gym was part of the bond project. The Yale gym was in desperate need of being replaced. Community meetings to help with design. The Yale gym is used for many purposes for the Yale community.
- Storm water issues. Big issue is to figure out numbers used for calculating storm water.

3. Port of Woodland

- Boat Launch Feasibility Study - The port is conducting a feasibility study, in partnership with the county, for a new boat launch. Held a public open house, 21 people attended. This boat launch will have four launch lanes and up to 170 parking slips for boat and trailer combinations. The boat launch at Port of Kalama and Port of Ridgefield are over capacity. This boat launch facility will model after the Willow Grove boat launch in Longview. The port is considering two different sites; Austin Point, which serves the Lewis River and Martins Bar North, which serves the Columbia. The port encourages fishermen to come to 2nd open house that is being scheduled for the end of November or early December. At any time, anyone can download a form from the ports website to fill out and return to the port with comments, or come by the port office.
- Budget - In the middle of the budget process, but going very well. The commission has had two very productive budget workshops.
- Guild Road Project – This project is moving ahead, paving starts October 18th.
- Guild Road Incubator Park - One of the purposes of widening Guild Road and putting in infrastructure is to begin design on an incubator park off of Guild Road. By the end of December the port will begin working with Jennifer Keene regarding feasibility grant dollars. The Port of Walla Walla has a wine incubator park that the Port of Woodland would like to model their incubator park after, but have theirs based on outdoor recreation industry.

4. Visitors Center

- Chamber Director JJ Burke shared that he has attended a couple of conferences and Woodland's visitor center is one of the three busiest visitor centers off of I-5. It had 20,000 visitors in the last year and an average of 200 visitors a day during this past summer.

5. Cowlitz County

- Boat Launch - Will become the county's number one priority in south Cowlitz County, now that the gun range is near completion. The county has a parks and recreation committee and each district has two representatives, and for this district, both representatives live in Woodland. Mike shares a picture of the new shooting shed at the gun range. The grand opening for the gun range, located off of exit 52, is October 27 at 11 a.m.
- Weyco Landfill - Existing landfill was full in August, still working on permit process for the new landfill, which hopefully be completed by June. Part of the new landfill project will be to increase recycling around the county. Opening a recycle location in rural Woodland across from Lewis River Golf Course. Would like to put one in Yale/Cougar area but they use Waste Connections, not Waste Control.
- Millennium Bulk Terminal Project (coal export project) - DOE is working on the clean-up but is now requiring more testing which will delay the clean-up date, which is now scheduled for 2014. Department of Ecology, Corps of Engineers and the County will be co-leads on this project as the permit process goes forward. Issue of the SR432 and SR433 interchange to handle increase in traffic due to trains.
- Rural Noise Ordinance – Working on a community-based ordinance instead of a decibel-based ordinance.
- Storm water Regulation - Working on rural storm water ordinance, current storm water regulations are from 1976 and are out of date.
- Oregon Liquid Natural Gas Pipeline (LNG) – A meeting was held October 16, in Woodland, to get input on the environmental impact statement. The pipeline will run east of I-5, north of Walmart, north of new high school, under the Columbia River to Warrenton, Oregon. This is a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the county does not have any say in where this pipeline will be located. FERC will approve the pipeline and its location. You have until November 6 to get your input into FERC.
- Rural Economic Funds – Opening up in January to award the funds in March. Between \$1 - \$1.2 million dollars available to award to local projects.
- CEDC Meeting - October 22 at 7 p.m., Mike will be hosting a meeting with CEDC at the Yale Fire Hall. US Forest Service has given CEDC \$50,000 a year,

for two years, to fund someone to work on business development with the Mt. St. Helens monument and 503 and 504. Also to discuss tourism in the area.

- Butte Hill Storage Facility – They do have their fill & grade permit and are in the process of building.

6. Cowlitz Wahkiakum Council of Governments

- Broadband Feasibility Study - There was only one broadband project response; developing a contract. Looking into bringing internet service to the Lewis River Valley community and businesses along SR504, so that businesses can accept credit cards and have websites and to link these services to Forest Road 90 and 25. EDC will be helping with the local outreach.
- Fire and Ice Scenic Route – Consultant interviews are October 24. Interviewing four firms.
- Shorelines Master Program (SMP) – Getting into the public involvement phase and through the Woodland Planning Commission, come this fall/winter, there will be public meetings in Woodland to set the vision and initial comments.
- Retirement – Steve Harvey announced that he will be retiring March, 2013. Everyone thanks Steve for all his help.

7. Diking District

- Recertification of the Dike – After lengthy discussions and time, the Corps of Engineers has made the commitment to accept responsibility of recertifying the dike at the cost of \$400,000.00. This affects Woodland residents and the need for flood insurance.

NEW BUSINESS

WQCC will be sponsoring the Chamber After Hours on November 8 from 5 - 7 p.m. Each entity will showcase their own projects.

Make a Difference Day is October 27. Meet at the Commons at 8:30 a.m. and if you know any seniors that need help, contact public works department to put them on the list.

On Halloween, there will be Trick or Treat for the kids, downtown Woodland, from 3 - 5 p.m. Businesses that want to be judged for costumes or decorations, contact JJ at the chamber office.

High school students will be out collecting funds for “Halloween for Hunger”.

Economic Development group which has met 2-3 times, meets every first Thursday of the month in the Commission room at the Port of Woodland to discuss different approaches for economic development in this area. Scot Walstra, CEDC, has been working with the group.

Next meeting January 16, 2013 hosted by City of Woodland

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Grover B. Laseke, Mayor

Minutes approved: November 5, 2012

Attest: _____
Mari E. Ripp, Clerk-Treasurer

These minutes are not a verbatim record of the proceedings.