

CCRT Monthly Meeting Notes 5/14/21

In Attendance: David James, Brian Wilkins, Lindsey Senter, Jill Anderson, Larry McGee, Susan DeLaire, Randy Mueller, Bill Deutscher

Meeting started late due to technical issues.

Action Items

- Annalee: Board Contact list to be sent/shared with the board

City of Chehalis – Jill Anderson

- Increased activity at Recreation Park ballfield and playground.
- There will be a soft opening of Penny Playground this month.
- There is some infrastructure work happening on Pacific Ave in downtown. It involves the City of Chehalis, Lewis County, and the PUD.
- City is currently short-staffed or expecting to have retirement soon that will cause being short-staffed in the future.
- Jill thanked CCRT for their work to help beautify the city.
- Larry asked if the city is still under budget constraints, or if they just can't find the right people. They are having problems finding the right people.

Chehalis-Centralia Railroad – Bill Deutscher

- Received \$5000 grant from National Railway Historical Society to help with preparations and renovations of 99 Business Car.
- Boiler contractor is in town working/repairing the 15 Engine.
- Early seasonal trains starting on Saturdays.
- Track project is underway.
- Larry asked if they have all the money they need to fix the 15 Engine. They have money now to complete the current projects, but there are other projects on the same engine that could use funding.

Port of Chehalis – Randy Mueller

Port meeting yesterday (5/13/21)

- **Hydrogen fueling station**
 - Twin Transit has been the lead on the project.
 - Adding hydrogen fueling stations. Two sources of funding - \$2.5 million from Bonneville Power and \$2.5 million from the state legislature.
 - Eastern Washington hydrogen transported to Chehalis in trucks for Twin Transit busses and maybe Toyota supplied vehicles. The project opens some interesting doors for a “hydrogen cluster” in Lewis County.
 - This is a pilot project for not only the area, but also for the state.
 - The Port might like to add some support to the Labree interchange like electric charging options.

- Port plans to pursue a larger federal grant to build out the Labree interchange area with light industrial.
- **Grain Storage**
 - \$1.7 million for Southwest Washington grain project
 - Train to truck and truck to train rail spur already added.
 - This \$1 million will pay for storage, silos, and conveyance.
 - Rain and humidity are an issue that storage would solve for local farmers.
 - Allows farmers to harvest and sell at the times that are best for them
- Small creek restoration project might happen this year if there is time available.
- Ken Kostick moved out of his district (District 2) and his seat on the Port Commission will be open.
 - The remaining port commissioners will appoint someone to his seat for 6 months. There will be an election this fall for another commissioner seat. This seat vacancy will be added to that election for the remainder of its 6 year term.
- Larry: “Would this hydrogen project make us a candidate for hydrogen production in the future?” Hydrogen production comes in three forms: green, blue, brown. Lewis County has the cheapest power on the west side and most comes from Bonneville Hydropower. This is a pilot project that might attract production.

Promotion Committee update – David James

- ChehalisFest flyer has been created to give to local businesses information about our plan for Chehalisfest.
- David from Book n Brush is interested in producing local-themed postcards
- David and Annalee are scheduling a call the Tripp Muldrow from Arnett-Muldrow about CCRT branding.

Larry McGee – United Learning Center/Centralia College update

- ELC - Ground lease with City of Centralia has been signed
- Contract signed with State Dept. of Commerce and architect and engineers can get started
- Ground breaking in 3-4 months
- Centralia College has approval for 5th 4-year Bachelor's Degree

ERC Committee update – Brian Wilkins

- Facade committee grant discussions
- Chehalis Coworks screen purchased. Researching options for CCRT intern.

Lindsey Senter - on behalf of Lewis County Community Trails board, Ride the Willapa is coming up June 30th.

Susan Delaire - Lewis County Seniors are looking to rent space at the Packwood Flea Market.

Meeting ended at 9:20 a.m.