

FRIDAY WITH *Friends*

MEETING NOTES

Experience Chehalis

August 11, 2023 | 8:30 a.m.

Attendees: Lindsey Senter, Brandon Rakes, Joanne Schwartz, Tony Ketchum, Cynthia Mudge, Jill Anderson, Laura Six, Michael Ervin, Jenny Zenkner, Annalee Tobey, Jeff Robertson, Dr. Mary Ferris, David James

Lindsey Senter - Port of Chehalis

- The grain storage facility project has been funded by the federal government with support from Representative Glusenkamp-Perez. The project will give the local agriculture industry increased options for crop storage wise which can provide far reaching impacts. The budget for the project is about \$5.4 million and includes an 8-acre transportation loading facility. The project allows for future build-outs of the facility.

The project could be a starting point for many other complimentary projects including farm-to-table restaurants, breweries, or fertilizer facilities.

- The Port is also working on a creek project. There are culvert projects to be accomplished that are unfunded state requirement for fish passage.
- The Port leases unused land to farmers to work the land, allowing the farmers to profit from their crops without owning the land.
- A small grant was recently used to purchase a rail pusher in partnership with the college who was involved in setting up the new machine.

Committee Reports

Promotion Meeting – David James

- ChehalisFest was a huge success by all accounts! The car show had 129 entries, 30 more than 2022. The vendor fair grew as well with more vendors placed on Pacific Avenue this year. The LC Historical Museum served a record number of breakfasts. Local businesses on Market Boulevard commented that they had their best day of sales this year, and that the festival reminded them of the former days of the Krazy Days summer festival in the 1980's.

Jessica managed an expanded Experience Chehalis tent offering swag including stickers, buttons, coloring books, etc. T-shirts and hats were offered for sale and did well for our first attempt selling merchandise at an event.

Economic Vitality – Laura Six

- She provided a grants update. We have awarded 16 grants this year to date investing \$26,000 on projects resulting in over \$50,000 of downtown improvements.

Executive Director's report – Annalee Tobey

- Lemay gave us permission to wrap the dumpsters on Pacific to eliminate graffiti and improve the streetscape.
- Experience Chehalis will apply for LTAC funding for our promotion activities in September.

Good of the Order

Cynthia Mudge – Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce

- Chamber of Commerce had a successful first street ball tournament in Downtown Chehalis. There was a steep learning curve. The long lunch break allowed people to eat at local restaurants.
- Hosting four ribbon cuttings in August