



November 22, 2023



Port of Kalama Mountain Timber Market
Photo courtesy: Port of Kalama

November Updates at WPPA

WPPA offices are busy this week with preparation for an action-packed holiday season. The official WPPA Holiday Tree has arrived and is waiting to be decorated, so thanks to those of you who have sent swag from your port to help us adorn this in our new holiday tradition. With James now fully integrated into the staff, we are learning about each other's holiday traditions, favorite Thanksgiving meals, hilarious in-law anecdotes, and more. And of course, we're prepping for our Annual Meeting in December!

Looking ahead at the [Annual Meeting](#) means also looking back at the Small Ports Seminar that we held in October in Chelan. You can read our blog post about [that conference here](#), but suffice to say it was another great chance for ports to gather and discuss their good work. Chelan was our host city this time around, with the Enzian Inn in Leavenworth no longer able to accommodate a group our size. Campbell's Resort was a willing and warm host and the dire weather forecasts of snow in the pass couldn't keep a big group of assembling for a packed two-day agenda. From capital financing, to grants and TIF, to recruitment and communications, each presenter shared an update on matters of urgent importance to port members. We will be in Chelan again next year with more good information, so we hope to see you all there.

Turning from late October and Halloween candy to early December and holidays on the waterfront, we here at WPPA are eagerly anticipating the first Annual Meeting in Vancouver, WA, commencing on December 5 with a tour of the port. Whether or not you can join that tour, being in Clark County and adjacent to the Port's fast-growing waterfront area will give attendees a chance to see one of the most exciting port areas in our state. Keynotes from Greg Johnson, Program Administrator for the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program, and Chad Herring, the head of human resources at local tech giant ZoomInfo, will give local context to visitors and will cover two general areas of enduring

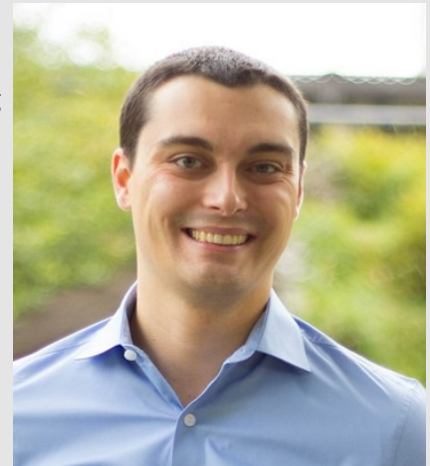
interest: transportation investment and how to hire good help! With the election in our immediate past, we will also host a New Commissioners Seminar starting on Tuesday, December 5. Full details on the agenda are [here](#).

(Editor's note: at the time of initial drafting, WPPA staff *did believe* this was the first ever Annual Meeting in Vancouver, WA. But while this newsletter was being drafted, we received a visit from former WPPA ED Don White, who mentioned in passing that WPPA held its annual meeting at The Quay in Vancouver in *December 1972*).

If you're heading to Vancouver south down I-5, make sure you swing by and see our friends at the Port of Kalama, who will have just opened their Mountain Timber Market – details on that and more exciting WPPA news are included below.

Staff Spotlight: Q&A with James Cockburn

We're so excited to welcome James Cockburn as our newest WPPA staff member. James joins us from the Retired Public Employees Council, where he worked for seven years, starting out as an administrative assistant and working his way up to the role of Executive Director. With experience in advocacy, policy analysis and strategic communication, he's the perfect fit for WPPA's new Government Relations Manager position. In his new role, James will support WPPA's state legislative advocacy work by working to collaboratively build and implement the Association's legislative program and acting as a resource and connection point for WPPA staff, our members, and policymakers. Read more about James's professional bio [here](#) in our press release. We also asked James to answer some fun questions to help us all get to know him better. Read on to learn more.



James with his daughter Mackenzie and wife Sarah at a vineyard on Red Mountain.

What excites you most about working with WPPA?

Being able to advocate, educate, and communicate for our port members is an exciting opportunity. There is such diversity in the issues that ports work on. I am eager to learn more about issues that are different from those I have previously advocated on. Facilitating member trainings and seminars is something I have greatly enjoyed in my career, and I am looking forward to earning the trust of our port members as a reliable source of information.

What about WPPA's mission is important to you?

Growing up on the Olympic Peninsula, I saw firsthand how economic development and public investment could transform communities and improve livelihoods in rural communities. In my first few weeks at WPPA, I have visited a variety of ports, large and small. I have been inspired by the creative and innovative projects they are undertaking to benefit their communities.

What do you love most about living in Washington?

I love the natural beauty that surrounds us in every corner of the state. We are so fortunate to have so much public access to hiking, biking, boating, and other forms of outdoor activities.

What are some of your hobbies?

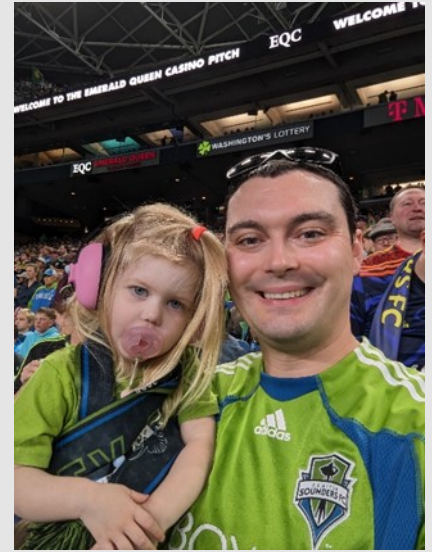
I enjoy playing recreational league soccer as a goalkeeper, spending time with family, finding fun activities for our young daughter to discover and learn about, and tasting and learning about wine (particularly Washington State wine).

What motivates you to work hard?

I enjoy seeing projects and initiatives through to completion. I enjoy the sense of accomplishment that comes from planning, working with stakeholders, adjusting to changing conditions, working through setbacks, and finally achieving the end goal and evaluating where to move forward.

What's your favorite midnight snack?

Coffee flavored ice cream or good dark chocolate.



James and Mackenzie cheering on the Sounders.

Port Spotlight: Port of Kalama Mountain Timber Market Grand Opening

The Port of Kalama is celebrating the grand opening of its brand-new Mountain Timber Market on Saturday, Nov. 25! The market, nestled along the Columbia River near two parks, McMenamins Kalama Harbor Lodge, and the port offices, features a diverse array of locally sourced food and carefully crafted goods that reflect the essence of the Pacific Northwest and the unique character of Kalama.

Mountain Timber Market Grand Opening

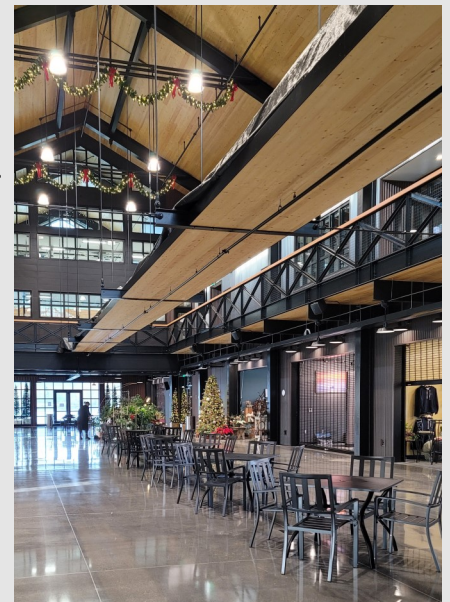
Saturday, Nov. 25

254 Hendrickson Drive, Kalama, WA

11 a.m. – Ribbon cutting and Commissioner Basso dedication

Giveaways until 3 p.m. – Swag, collector coins, coupons and more

Doors are open until 7 p.m.



Mountain Timber Market Interior
Photo courtesy: Port of Kalama

The Mountain Timber Market's name is a tribute to Kalama's history and the original Mountain Timber Company that was an economic staple for the town in the early 1900s. The market's unique location is ideal for a day of exploring: Meander along Kalama's waterfront walking trails, experience live music at the amphitheater, enjoy the playgrounds, and dine beachside along the Great River of the West.



Mountain Timber Market

Photo courtesy: Port of Kalama

At more than 32,000 square feet, the market includes nine storefronts, four restaurants, one distillery, two event spaces, and vendor hall space. The market is open seven days a week to serve locals and visitors alike on Kalama's beautiful waterfront.

Learn more about the Mountain Timber Market, including artisans, products, events, and leasing and vendor opportunities, at www.mountaintimber.org. You can also follow the market on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Legislative Spotlight

WPPA continues to make progress on developing its 2024 Legislative Agenda. The Board of Trustees will adopt the agenda during WPPA's Annual Meeting on December 8. WPPA staff will brief the membership on the agenda development, the recent Economic Revenue Forecast and what to expect in the upcoming legislative session at 9 a.m. on Thursday, December 7, during the Annual Meeting in Vancouver.

So, what will be on the top of the agenda in 2024? Well, after a successful 2023 session WPPA is preparing to support a handful of new funding opportunities and defend and support existing programs that have been vital for ports. Increasingly port districts across the state have reported more challenging conversations with utilities, both public and private, as they work to incentivize continued economic development in your communities. This includes clean energy producers who are choosing Washington in part for its historical abundance of renewable and inexpensive power. Energy supply and grid reliability are relatively new issues for WPPA. They are also complicated, without a clear pathway to resolution and success. While WPPA engages our membership as well as utility providers on potential solutions, we will continue to push to reduce overly burdensome permitting which slows down projects and makes them more expensive. We will also remind legislators of the economic vitality that is fostered in communities across the state when projects are built and jobs are created.

A few issues that will be WPPA priorities this legislative session:

Railroad Infrastructure Modernization Tax Credit – This bill would provide most ports with rail assets a sales-and-use tax credit on the cost of project materials for railroad maintenance, including new industrial rail development.

Model Toxics Control Account (MTCA) Funding Levels – Port projects continue to leverage the increase in funding made available for MTCA just a few years ago. But the nature of legacy pollution cleanup continues to mean more projects seeking access to this crucial funding than there is revenue. WPPA will continue to protect existing funding as well as the process for determining the eligibility of projects for MTCA funding.

It's your turn to play a role in developing and finalizing our 2024 Legislative Agenda. Click [here](#) to review the draft agenda. Please contact WPPA staff with any question or input as we finalize our priorities for the 2024 Legislative Session in the coming weeks.

Knowing the Waters

November's Knowing the Waters provides an update to a 2020 column about Governor Inslee's emergency proclamations concerning residential tenancies on port districts with liveaboard moorage customers, RV parks, and other similar facilities. Those emergency proclamations made during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic had lasting impacts; more than three years later, some ports are still managing the effects. This month's column discusses this and the current state of the law and looks ahead to the future for ports with liveaboard moorages and RV parks. Read more in the [November Knowing the Waters column](#).

Grant Updates

Department of Commerce offers State Funding for EV Charging – Due December 1, 2023

To support statewide transition and adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), the Department of Commerce is offering \$64 million to fund installation of Level 2 and Direct Current Fast Chargers. The program has a goal of directing 40% of funding for Electric Vehicle charging stations in overburdened and vulnerable communities across the state. Eligible projects will install charging stations on community sites such as multi-family housing, publicly available charging in underserved communities, and fleet depot and workplace charging. [Applications](#) are due December 1, 2023. Questions? Please contact the [Center for Sustainable Energy](#) or call 509-715-3076.

Department of Commerce extends deadline for Clean Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Grants – Due by 5 p.m. December 5, 2023

The Department of Commerce is offering \$3.9 million to fund strategic research and development of new and emerging clean energy technologies that advance the state’s climate goals and support economic development. These grants will support statewide clean energy strategies that align with the [2021 State Energy Strategy](#). Phase 1 applications are due December 5, 2023, at 5 p.m. Written questions regarding the application process may only be submitted via email to CEF@commerce.wa.gov.

Coming soon: New Clean Diesel Grant from Ecology – Applications open December 6, 2023

The Department of Ecology has approximately \$2.24 million in grants available to help accelerate the transformation of Washington’s transit bus and yard truck fleets to electric. The objectives of this grant program are to reduce diesel pollution and greenhouse gases in disproportionately impacted communities, help accelerate the transition of diesel vehicles to zero-emissions and increase public confidence in zero-emission vehicle technology. These grant awards will also align with the Washington Clean Air Act, greenhouse gas emission reduction limits (RCW 70.235) and Washington Fuel Usage Goals for Publicly Owned Vehicles (RCW 43.19.648). This program is open to ports, cities, counties, public utility districts/co-ops, transit agencies, state government, Tribes, nonprofit organizations, and local clean air agencies. Applications open on December 6, 2023, and are due by February 27, 2024. [Click here](#) for more information.

Washington Public Works Board opens applications for broadband funding – Due January 4, 2024

The Washington State Public Works Board (PWB) is currently offering \$15.8 million in grants and low-interest loans for broadband construction projects. Projects in distressed counties are eligible for 30% grant and 70% loan funding until funds are exhausted. Eligible applicants include local governments; Tribes; nonprofit organizations; cooperative associations; multiparty entities comprised of public entity members; limited liability corporations organized to expand broadband access; and incorporated businesses or partnerships. The pre-application deadline is **January 4, 2024**. A 30-day objection period will follow, and final applications are due **March 22, 2024**. Learn more and apply [here](#).

PWB encourages potential applicants to take advantage of the virtual application workshop scheduled in February 2024. No registration is required, and attendance is not required to submit a funding application. Workshops will be recorded and posted later at www.pwb.wa.gov.

- Feb. 15 workshop, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. ([Zoom meeting](#))

DNR Breaks Records with Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program – Due January 8, 2024

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering up to \$7 million in funding to successful applicants via the 2024 Community Forest Assistance Grant Program, representing an 1100% increase from the highest recorded annual funding amount (2021) and more than double the total amount awarded since the program was first administered in 2008.

- At least 50% of funding will be directed to projects that impact communities of high environmental health disparity.
- Recipients will be enrolled in the [Washington Tree Equity Collaborative](#), a statewide partnership working to help build a rigorous, inclusive urban forestry network throughout Washington.
- A newly launched prioritization mapping tool will be used to help target investments and can be viewed [here](#).
- Learn more about the DNR Urban and Community Forestry program [here](#).
- **No match or cost share is required.**

MRSC Resources for Ports

[Coming Nov. 30: Understanding generative artificial Intelligence and its potential uses by local government](#)

MRSC is hosting a 90-minute training on Nov. 30 to provide an overview of generative artificial intelligence, how it's being used in local governments right now, and its potential uses and pitfalls—including legal and ethical considerations—going forward. Registration costs \$40 and closes Nov. 29. Learn more and register [here](#).

[Need to dispose of surplus property? MRSC has the latest guidelines](#)

The laws governing the sale or disposal of property can be complex. The MRSC team recently updated their [Surplus County Property webpage](#) to help you, including information on real and personal property, alternative local procedures, sample resolutions and more.

Highlighted Events



Hilton Hotel, Vancouver USA

Photo Courtesy: Hilton Hotel

[New Commissioners Seminar, held December 5-6 at the Hilton, Vancouver, WA](#)

[Registration is open](#) for the New Commissioners Seminar this winter. All are welcome at this event! Whether you are a new commissioner, port staff, or port executive trying to get up to speed on all things Washington Ports, or you are a seasoned commissioner who needs a refresher, this seminar is for you! Hotel reservations can be made anytime by calling the Vancouver Hilton at 360-828-4320 and letting them know you are with the Washington Public Ports Association or clicking [here](#). Reach out to [Mandy Lill](#) with any questions and for sponsorship inquiries.

[Continuing Legal Education \(CLE\), held December 5 at the Hilton, Vancouver, WA](#)

A CLE will also be held on December 5, prior to the 2023 Annual Meeting. [Registration](#) is open and an [agenda](#) has been posted on our site!

[2023 Annual Meeting, held December 6-8 at the Hilton, Vancouver, WA](#)

Rounding out our events at the Vancouver Hilton this winter is none other than our Annual Meeting and [Registration is open!](#) We encourage you to [book your lodging](#) right away. The hotel may be sold out but there are always cancellations so please call them at 360-828-4320 to find out if space is available. As always, reach out to [Mandy Lill](#) with any questions and for sponsorship inquiries.

[Mark your Calendars for Upcoming 2024 WPPA Meetings](#)

- Spring Meeting, held May 15-17 at Skamania Lodge, Stevenson
- Ports and Maritime Day, held February 1-2 in Olympia
- Finance and Administration Seminar, held June 26-28 at AC Hotel by Marriott, Vancouver, WA
- Directors Seminar, held July 11-12 at McMenamins Kalama Harbor Lodge, Kalama
- Commissioners Seminar: TBD, information coming soon!
- Environmental Seminar, September 19-20 at the Marcus Whitman Hotel, Walla Walla
- Small Ports Seminar, October 24-25 at Campbell's Resort, Lake Chelan
- Annual Meeting, December 11-13 at the Hyatt Regency, Bellevue



Skamania Lodge Private Event Area

Photo Courtesy: Skamania Lodge

As Arthur Sees It

Notes from the Executive Director and his dog

Today I sit down to type this little column and I am instantly pondering one concept that I know my dog Arthur understands well: gratitude.

Arthur may not always come when he is called or sit when asked. Sometimes he nips at my mom, sometimes he barks at my brother. He's unpredictable around kids and not great at dinner parties. But if there is one thing that Arthur is, it's grateful! For every chance to run in the park, to every morsel of treats that pass his lips, man that dog can show some really genuine gratitude.

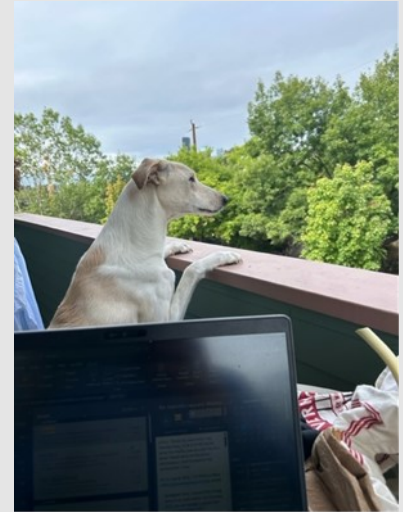
When we gathered to celebrate my mom's birthday in September (no, Arthur was not invited), I asked her for any reflections she had on the preceding year. She talked about growing older, watching her kids get older, spending time with grandkids, those sorts of things. But she also talked about gratitude: appreciating a small thing about each day; looking for silver linings when things are tough; seeking out activities that she knows she'll enjoy. Gratitude for the simple things.

We will gather this week with friends and family for a holiday that is dedicated to this simple concept—gratitude—and for families like mine we might even have to go around a table and talk about something we are grateful for. When I was a younger man and just getting my feet wet in politics, I even took the time to find some John F. Kennedy quotes about “ask not what your country can do for you...,” etcetera and shared those with my very patient extended family around a bulging Thanksgiving table.

This year, I do not need to look in a big book of quotes, or even trot out old aphorisms we've all heard before. Instead, I will reflect in a quiet moment in the week to come on the selfless dedication of those who seek public office in our state and local government.

The first Tuesday of this month brought another Election Day, and many port districts saw new commissioners elected, long-serving commissioners returned to office, and some dedicated public servants choose to retire instead of seeking re-election. Some port commissioners were elected pledging to continue a port's current direction. Others were elected with a promise of reform and change. No matter the political persuasion, professional background, or future plans of any commissioner, I am simply grateful that they have sought to represent their port district in an elected position.

We could fill hundreds of column inches and countless reams of paper with lamentations on the current state of political debate in America. That's not the point of this brief column. The point is much simpler: This year, and every year on Election Day, I am grateful to those who put their names forward to serve in elected office. Thank you for being willing to lead.



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