



# WPPA Executive Committee Newsletter

May 19, 2022



## WPPA President's Corner

Welcome to the first edition of the WPPA Executive Committee newsletter, a publication designed to provide WPPA membership with important communication regarding the governance, operations, updates, and information about your Association. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank so many of our members for attending the 2022 Spring Meeting at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson. Attendance was robust, and we appreciated your valuable participation. **[If you haven't gotten a chance, please take a moment and fill out our survey.](#)** It closes on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, and we will be reporting our results in a future newsletter. We use this feedback to inform our future events structure and offerings, so please take a few moments and fill it out. Additionally, **[the presentations and handouts from the Spring Meeting are available on our website,](#)** together with materials from our past in-person events.



## Important staffing changes at WPPA

We wanted to be sure that you were informed about the staffing challenges and changes taking place within the Association. Currently, there are two vacant positions- the Senior Director of Environmental Affairs and the Member Services Manager. Deputy Director Victoria Lincoln has announced her retirement from public service starting June 10, 2022. We also have a vacancy on the Executive Committee; Vice President John Spencer resigned effective May 6, 2022.

We are taking steps to address these challenges; Former Executive Director of the Port of Skagit Patsy Martin has graciously agreed to take the helm of WPPA as the Interim Executive

Director beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. WPPA has also contracted with Ecological Land Services' Mandy Lill to provide event planning services for our upcoming Seminars and Meetings through the end of the year.

### Upcoming events

We have several upcoming events over the summer- our Finance Seminar at Campbell's Resort from June 8 – June 10, our Director's Seminar in Bellingham from July 14 -15, and our Commissioners' Seminar on July 25 – 27 at the Marcus Whitman in Walla Walla; we are excited to have Mandy Lill contracted to assist with these events. Please save the date for a special Tuesday Roundtable on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10AM where we will share more details about the current work of the Dues Committee, an update on the search for a permanent Executive Director, and other Association work in progress.



### Spotlight on...governance



We've heard from you that you'd like more transparency into the operations of WPPA, including the selection process for our Executive Committee officers. WPPA's Executive Committee is made up of port commissioners, with an Executive Director in the Treasurer position. Since John Spencer's resignation from the Executive

Committee Vice President position, we thought this would be a great opportunity to provide details about the committee, the nomination and selection processes, and how to apply.

WPPA has a nominating committee, which is chaired by Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority Commissioner J.C. Baldwin. Other current committee members are Port of Tacoma Executive Director Eric Johnson, Port of Benton Commissioner Roy Keck, and Port of Allyn Commissioner Judy Scott. Each year, in advance of the December Trustees' Meeting, the committee works to cultivate and vet nominations. Commissioner Baldwin, together with the members of the nominating committee, keep a board matrix to best ensure the diversity of the board make-up, seeing that there is a strategic mix of skills and perspectives to represent the Association membership. As a vacancy arises, candidates are considered who will fill the gap and serve the membership well.

During the May Trustees' meeting, following Spencer's resignation, legal counsel Frank Chmelik stood up and provided guidance from the current Association Bylaws about the process to fill the vacancy: the Executive Committee may appoint a person to fill the unexpired remainder of the term. At an Executive Committee meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>, current Executive Committee member Port of Seattle Commissioner Ryan Calkins was appointed to the Vice President position, effectively making an early shift to the role he would have taken in December. This now leaves the Secretary position vacant. The Executive Committee has asked the Nominating Committee to begin cultivating and vetting applications for this vacancy along with the regular vacancy that will come when Past President Jean Ryckman moves off the Executive Committee in December.

Commissioner Baldwin would like to invite commissioners to submit your application for the Executive Committee through your Port Executive Director before **October 31<sup>st</sup>**. Thank you for being generous with your time, thoughtfulness and commitment to the governance of your Association.



Washington Public Ports Association

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