



WASHINGTON PUBLIC PORTS ASSOCIATION

THE MANIFEST

September 25, 2025



The One Ocean sailing through an iconic view of Mt. Baker and Padilla Bay. The One Ocean is an environmental expedition vessel partnering with Skagit Valley College. (photos courtesy of the Port of Anacortes)

September Updates at WPPA

By the time you read this, half the WPPA staff will be at sunny Alderbrook Resort, where we will host the 2025 WPPA Environmental Seminar, and come one step closer to rounding out another busy educational season. We've been to Walla Walla and Wenatchee, we've seen high deserts and pine forests, we've been on the Columbia and the Snake, and we're headed for the Olympic Peninsula and the City of Destiny.

Speaking of Wenatchee: we want to offer another note of sincere thanks to the hardworking staff and commissioners at the Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority. We brought our WPPA roadshow to their port in August for the second installment of the Port Academy Series, and we leaned hard on their time and expertise in the process. We gathered at CDRPA's Confluence Technology Center, where a room full of interested port staff from around the state learned the significant scope and scale of the regional port's work in Chelan and Douglas Counties. Our group toured the Trades District and the new General Aviation Terminal at Pangborn Airport just before both celebrated ribbon cuttings. And we had time to socialize with our hosts at Pybus Market, another gem of the area that the port helped get started.

It was another great reminder of the power of connecting and the deeper perspective we gain by visiting our port members and partners. With that shining example so near at hand, this is also our chance to note: registration is now open for our third and [final Port Academy Series of 2025](#), set to take place at the Port of Port Angeles on October 29th. Check out the page on our website to learn more and register!

Before we head for Port Angeles, though, we will meet members in the cozy confines of Alderbrook for our Environmental Seminar, which will feature a range of topics, including: the federal regulatory environment; the history and lessons learned forty years on from Mount St. Helens; clean buildings; and environmental justice. Also exciting, our own Carly Michiels will be presenting on her recent trip to Denmark on a WPPA delegation with the Center for

Sustainable Infrastructure. Carly will be joined by other trip attendees, including Commissioner (Cmr.) Cassi Marshall from the Port of Camas-Washougal, and together they'll give the conference an overview of some of what they learned on their travels.

Then from Alderbrook to Campbell's, the WPPA roving educational circus continues with our third time visiting the lakeside resort in Chelan for two days of connecting and content geared toward some of our smaller ports. We will have sessions on brownfields remediation and on the powers and process of ports using Industrial Development Districts, and we'll hear from our partners at Impact Washington and Visit Chelan County. Registration has been strong so far, but we encourage more of you to look at the [agenda](#) and see if you can make it!

And somewhere in the midst of all of this travel, hosting, education, and connection, WPPA staff continue to pull together our program for the [year-end Annual Meeting, set for November 19th - 21st in Tacoma](#). This one will really have it all, with a New Commissioners Seminar following quickly on the heels of the November election, and with an Educational Foundation Auction that will take place during the President's Reception on the evening of Thursday, November 20th.

For anyone who is wondering about the auction, or have ideas about donations that WPPA can solicit, please contact [Eric](#) and [Mandy](#). This event will be vital as we continue to seek funds that will make our scholarship program self-sustaining, so many thanks to those who have already volunteered ideas or items.

Final item of housekeeping, before we send you back to your busy week: On Sept. 18th, at their meeting at the Port of South Whidbey, the Executive Committee considered a recommendation from the Nominating Committee that Mark Wilson, Executive Director at the Port of Kalama, be appointed to fill the vacant seat on the WPPA Executive Committee. The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Mark, effective immediately, to fill out the Executive Committee roster through the end of the year. Mark will fill the Ex-officio (non-voting) Executive Director role on the committee that was previously occupied by Jennifer Wray-Keene. He will serve in that role in 2026, and then in 2027 and 2028 will serve as WPPA Treasurer.

We hope you'll keep reading and take advantage of the information included below – and we'll look for you on our upcoming fall travels!

Port Spotlight: After 99 years, the Port of Anacortes continues to innovate



Boats docked at the Port of Anacortes ' marina, looking out onto Fidalgo Bay

As soon as you enter the town of Anacortes, its maritime focus and identity is immediately apparent. At the end of a spit of land that juts into Fidalgo Bay and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Anacortes has always boasted a lively working waterfront, one that for nearly 100 years has been supported by the Port of Anacortes.

Founded in 1926, the port's original focus was on building out the deepwater harbor that would become the marine terminal. Over the years, the port expanded, building a 1,000-slip marina, gaining a general aviation airport, and developing upland property for industrial and commercial use.

The port has also engaged in significant environmental cleanup efforts, with the knowledge that a healthy environment supports quality of life, facilitates economic growth, and helps Anacortes' maritime economy expand.

"Our commission is very focused on the economic development and job creation aspect of our mission," said John Dumas, Executive Director at the Port of Anacortes. "When we approve projects, we're always keeping those at the front of our minds."

The port continues to deliver on this mission and recently planned and is implementing projects funded through a \$74 million EPA Clean Ports grant, a \$7.5 million Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant, and several Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Marine Electrification grants.

The port, working with public and private partners at Stabbert Marine & Industrial, Arrow Launch Service, Culbertson Marine Construction, Island Express Charters, Skyline Marine Center and Washington State Ferries, sought to increase the capacity of all tenants and partners and reaffirmed their focus on expanding the workforce and supporting the maritime industries based out of Anacortes. The EPA Clean Ports grant will drive significant infrastructure investment into Anacortes' waterfront, allowing the port to use improved and cleaner equipment, increasing their capacity and helping the waterfront operate as efficiently as possible.

"It is clean tech, but the infrastructure investments are also going to result in job creation and economic development for our partners," Dumas said. "You're able to provide a larger amount of services or more efficient services for these private businesses, which means additional maritime work and additional jobs through the operation and maintenance of equipment."



Pier 1 at the Port of Anacortes.

The WSDOT and PIDP grants allow the port to better support maritime industries with new commercial pump-out capabilities and shore-to-ship power at the port's Curtis Wharf. This funding also frees up money to rebuild the commercial marine and fishing dock at Cap Sante Marina, which facilitates \$14 million in commerce.

The port Commission also prioritized the replacement of Pier 61, which serves barges that move supplies out to the San Juan Islands. The replacement allows for establishing a larger barge hub next to a commercial ramp for easier loading and unloading, helping barge operators move critical supplies even more efficiently.



The Marina and the adjacent RV park, which has been developed by the Port

The port is also busy developing inland, as well.

"We're seeing progress in our West Basin redevelopment, which has been talked about since 1983," Dumas said.

The West Basin master planning process is a partnership with the City of Anacortes to build a community event facility while the port finishes developing the marina uplands.

"The key now," said Dumas, "is to finally deliver on all of that significant discussion, planning and input that has gone into master planning."

Plans for the community event facility are now in the design phase, and construction will start as early as 2027. When completed, the facility will provide space for community events and draw in tourists, supporting the local hospitality industry.

Anacortes is a unique city that has leveraged its geography to build an identity centered around its working waterfront and maritime industries. For nearly 100 years, the Port of Anacortes has facilitated this process, and it looks ahead to a host of projects in planning and development that will continue to define and strengthen the area's economy for years to come.

"We're a small port that does big things," Dumas said. "Whether it's \$66 million in environmental remediation, building a \$10 million dock facility that is no cost to the commercial fishing and marina users, or creating a public-private partnership that resulted in a \$74 million Clean Ports grant, that's generational. The port, even though it's small, has been able to accomplish great things for our maritime community."

Legislative Spotlight: Washington Ports Symbiosis Study Tour: Denmark

Carly Michiels, Environmental Policy Director

The [Center for Sustainable Infrastructure](#) recently organized a study tour to explore how Danish industries and ports are leading the way in industrial symbiosis. For an entire week in September, a group of 24 state agency and industry professionals, legislative leaders, and port representatives traveled across Denmark on an intensive learning excursion. WPPA was thrilled to take part and is eager to GOAT “Get Out and Talk” about the opportunities industrial symbiosis could bring to Washington. We are sharing more during our Environmental Seminar at Alderbrook Resort on September 26th and hosting a general session panel on the topic at our Annual Meeting, held this year in Tacoma in November.

The study tour offered attendees a chance to see firsthand how ports, utilities, and industries are working together in Denmark to turn waste into value. Hearing directly from Danish ports underscored their critical role in advancing these projects and provided valuable insights for how Washington ports might lead similar efforts at home.

Here in Washington, there is growing momentum as well. In the 2025-27 State Capital Budget, Senator Mike Chapman (D-24) championed an initiative to fund \$5 million from CCA at the Department of Commerce for industrial symbiosis. This builds on previous investments in Commerce’s program and a recent study examining future uses of refinery sites that includes opportunities for industrial symbiosis ([See study here](#)).

So, what exactly is industrial symbiosis? At its core, it’s about collaboration. Industrial symbiosis is a broad term referring to multiple industries or businesses exchanging resources, materials, or energy so that one’s waste becomes another’s resource. By allowing for a circular transformation of materials through industrial processes, interdependent networks are created, and excess or waste materials from one can be used in the production process of another.

A great analogy from the trip: think of it [like](#) a dating app only instead of matching people, it matches resources. *One industry’s trash is another industry’s treasure*. Creating exchange networks that reduce emissions, reuse waste materials, boost efficiency, and strengthen competitiveness.

The study tour started with a facilitated introduction from the [State of Green](#) on Denmark’s green transition and history. We learned that energy efficiency is a long-standing tradition in Denmark and is heavily invested in, across all sectors. The Danish Climate Act sets a near-term target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 by 70% compared to the level of emissions in 1990, and to achieve a climate-neutral society by 2050 and climate-negative thereafter. They currently are set to meet and expect to achieve their goals.

Their successes didn’t happen overnight, but Denmark, as it’s transitioned its energy system has effectively decoupled energy demand from economic growth while maintaining security of supply. Since 1990 the Danish economy has grown 80% while at the same time energy consumption has dropped, water consumption has dropped, and GHG emissions have dropped by over 40% (2023). Their approach emphasizes three consistent priorities—green energy, security of supply, and affordability. From all the presentations, site visits, and workshops it became clear that Denmark takes a very measured and society-wide approach to reaching their climate goals.

We heard from some distinguished speakers throughout the week who were willing to share their experiences and expertise with our group. Below is a list of the onsite visits and tours we made:

- The first and largest public-private symbiosis project in Kalundborg, on the [Kalundborg Symbiosis](#) campus, including visiting Kalundborg Utility. More than 20 different streams of excess resources flow between the companies in this project.

- [Fredericia College](#) of Marine and Technical Engineering to hear from the Triangle Energy Alliance and how education plays a critical role in workforce development and the innovative approach to Power-to-X.
- The historic fishing harbor turned largest base port for offshore wind and a frontrunner in Europe's offshore sector at the [Port of Esbjerg](#).
- We had an intensive learning session at Esbjerg Municipality and heard about the advantages gained in connecting district heating and cooling for all residents.
- [Arla Foods](#), the world's largest whey protein and lactose factory, hosted us for an afternoon to share how they are increasing efficiencies and producing protein from waste in their cheese production.
- [GreenLab](#) in Skive gave us a tour of their circular energy business park and demonstrated how they have a competitive advantage for energy affordability.
- [Ejby Mølle \(VSC Denmark\)](#), an efficient wastewater treatment plant and state-of-the-art resource recovery facility, where the main treatment plant has achieved 180% energy self-sufficiency.

Denmark is serious about reducing emissions, energy efficiency, and industrial symbiosis. They have stringent European Union and national regulations, additional carbon taxes, as well as numerous economic schemes, subsidies, and incentives to help make this transition possible. They are also a leading financial hub for green investments including a pledge from Danish pension funds to invest \$66.5 billion in clean energy technology by 2030.

Washington's ports are already on the front lines of the clean energy transition, and lessons from Denmark show us how industrial symbiosis can be a tool for competitiveness as well as sustainability. By working across industries, connecting resources, and finding value in what was once considered waste, ports can help create resilient, circular economies here at home in our own business districts. It isn't just about meeting climate goals—it's about positioning Washington's ports and communities to thrive through the energy transition as we move toward our own 2050 carbon-free goal.

Knowing the Waters

In September's Knowing the Waters, Tim Schermetzler of CSD Attorneys at Law responds to a question posed in a recent WPPA Marina Committee meeting—exploring whether a port district can charge different moorage rates depending on whether customers live in or outside of their taxing jurisdiction. The simple answer is yes, but there is plenty for ports to consider regarding what is reasonable and justified. Find more guidance and examples in this month's [Knowing the Waters](#).

Looking to Hire? Don't Forget Our Employment Page!

Did you know WPPA offers a dedicated space on our website for members to post job openings? Whether you're hiring for entry-level roles or executive positions, this page is a great way to get the word out across the port community. It's easy to use and helps connect you with candidates who understand the unique nature of port work.

To have your job listed, just email the details to Mandy Lill at mlill@washingtonports.org. Check out the page or browse current listings by [clicking HERE](#).

WPPA Education Foundation Auction – Coming This November!

We're thrilled to announce that this year's WPPA Annual Meeting in Tacoma will feature a live and silent auction to benefit the WPPA Educational Foundation, and we invite you to get involved!

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that funds two annual scholarships:

- The Winter Scholarship supports continuing education for port employees.
- The Spring Scholarship supports students with family ties to Washington ports pursuing port-related careers.

Your auction donations help make these scholarships possible. Popular contributions include tickets, gift baskets, weekend getaways, professional services, unique experiences, and more. All donations are tax-deductible (Tax ID#: 91-2029218).

If you'd like more information, [visit our website](#). Thank you for helping us invest in the future of Washington's ports!

Grants and Resources for Ports

The Community Builders Collective: A Statewide Network for Project Leaders

Launching this fall, the Community Builders Collective (CBC) is a free, statewide peer network from the Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board ([CERB](#)) for the people behind community and economic development infrastructure projects in rural, tribal, and historically under-resourced communities.

CBC members get:

- **A statewide network of peers** facing similar challenges and opportunities
- **Practical resources and tools** to support project development
- **Live training and learning opportunities** focused on real-time needs
- **24/7 access to the community** (plus CERB staff when needed)

If you're navigating complex infrastructure projects with limited time and staff— the CBC is here to help you get it done, together.

For more information sign up [here](#).

Commerce Clean Energy Siting and Permitting (CESP) Grants – applications due October 9, 2025

The WA Dept. of Commerce is accepting applications for \$4.85 million in Clean Energy Siting and Permitting (CESP) grants to fund planning and process improvements that reduce barriers, streamline reviews, and help communities prepare for clean energy projects such as solar, wind, and energy storage.

- Awards will range from \$30,000-\$1,200,000.
- No match is required
- Eligible projects include:
 - Predevelopment work
 - Land use and environmental studies
 - Planning efforts such as planned actions or programmatic environmental impact statements
 - Staffing to improve permitting timelines and certainty
- Completed applications are **due by 11:59 a.m. on October 9, 2025**.
- Access the [CESP program documents box](#) for more information.

Tribal Electric Boats Program – applications due October 23, 2025

For our ports that partner with tribes, we are sharing a funding opportunity you may wish to pass along.

The Tribal Electric Boats Program (TEBP), funded by the Climate Commitment Act, is awarding \$4,750,000 to tribes to support the electrification and hybridization of marine propulsion power for tribal fishing vessels, including boats for research and patrol activities. Grants include marine charging equipment needed to power the boats.

- Federally recognized tribes, tribal enterprises, and tribal members are eligible to apply for grant funds for the purchase of or conversion to electric motors and engines for fishing vessels.
- “Fishing vessels” includes vessels for patrol, research, or other uses that ensure tribal fishing rights and activities. Projects must include the “purchase of or conversion to electric motors and engines,” including charging infrastructure.
- For application documents and additional details including eligibility, allowable costs, and timeline, see the [TEBP webpage](#). Tribes with questions can contact Caitlin Roberts at 564-250-1887.

Commerce Clean Energy Tax Credit Assistance Program – open office hours

Commerce is hosting office hours through the [Clean Energy Tax Credit Assistance Program \(CETCAP\)](#) to provide technical assistance in accessing federal tax credits for clean energy projects, including solar, battery storage, wind energy, geothermal systems, electric vehicles (EVs), and EV charging infrastructure. Register here for [second Wednesday](#) or [third Friday](#) office hours.

Washington State Treasurer’s LOCAL Program

The LOCAL program, offered through the Office of the Washington State Treasurer, provides Washington municipalities with a cost-effective way to finance equipment and/or real estate projects. Participants can take advantage of the current program rating of Moody’s Aa1, low fees and expenses, technical assistance, and access to the tax-exempt bond market.

The Port of Port Angeles [recently took advantage of the LOCAL program](#).

Check out the [LOCAL Program guide](#) and visit the [Program FAQs](#) for more information.

Climate Resources at Washington Climate Action

The [Washington Climate Action](#) website is a first-stop shop for funding or other resources related to climate and natural resources, including grant writing support and contracting information.

Commerce Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) – applications accepted on rolling basis

The [Brownfields RLF](#) provides low interest loans to entities undertaking cleanup of contaminated properties to support redevelopment, promote public health and safety, improve environmental quality, and create jobs at and around brownfield sites. Average loan amounts are approximately \$500,000 and up to 50% of the loan may be forgiven for public entities. Loan terms are typically 5 years or less, and the interest rate is negotiated based on project need. A 1% loan fee is required. Learn more [here](#).

Commerce Small Business Credit Initiative – accepted on a rolling basis

Through the Washington State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), the Washington State Department of Commerce is collaborating with Heritage Bank to offer the Owner-Occupied Commercial Real Estate Loan Program. The program allows Heritage to make loans to businesses that own the buildings in which they operate, and who wish to purchase new buildings or expand current operations. This means port tenants who are contemplating expansion but need capital could have access to low-interest loans to support their downpayment.

Heritage Bank administers the program. You can find more information [on their website](#). The bank has also worked with Commerce to [publish an informative one-pager](#).

EPA Thriving Community Grant Makers – accepted on a rolling basis

The Environmental Protection Agency opened their Thriving Community Grantmakers Program on January 15 and is accepting applications on a rolling basis. The Grantmakers partner with community-based organizations from across a region to select partnerships and distribute funding. Funding is awarded in four categories: assessment projects, planning projects, development projects, and non-competitive fixed amounts. [Read more about how to apply here](#). A [recorded webinar](#) on the program is available through the Center for Creative Land Recycling.

The Federal Funds Grant Writing Assistance Program

The [Federal Funds Grant Writing Assistance Program](#) is designed for tribes, community-based organizations, local government agencies, and other entities to help prepare and submit federal grant applications. This resource is available now and can include services such as grant application planning, writing, and review and guidance for managing federal awards.

Federal Clean Energy Tax Assistance Program – free and available now

Administered through Commerce, the [Federal Clean Energy Tax Credit Assistance Program](#) offers tax incentives to eligible entities (including ports) through the Inflation Reduction Act. Free resources, including personalized support from clean energy tax attorneys, are available [here](#).

Highlighted Events



WPPA Port Academy Series – Third Edition: October 29 at the Port of Port Angeles

Attention Port Staff: We are excited to announce we have opened registration for our third and final academy series event of 2025. This is a new educational initiative where we are offering port staff an opportunity to learn from one another through hands-on, port led forums. The third edition will be hosted by the Port of Port Angeles on October 29th from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Registration is open, you can

find information for this event [here on our website](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to [James Cockburn](#) at WPPA.



Small Ports Seminar, October 23 – 24, Campbells Resort, Lake Chelan

This year's seminar will run from Thursday, October 23 to Friday, October 24, with an optional intensive training on Brownfields 101 held on Thursday morning. [Registration](#) for the seminar is open, and no additional registration is required for the optional intensive on Thursday morning—anyone can attend that portion and you can just show up! View the agenda, event FAQs, and hotel information [here on our website](#). Please email [Mandy Lill](#) with any questions or to ask about sponsorships.



WPPA Annual Meeting, November 19 - 21, Marriott Tacoma Downtown & Convention Center

Registration for our [2025 Annual Meeting](#) is now open! This year's event takes place at the Marriott Tacoma Downtown & Convention Center, November 19 - 21. You can also sign up for the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) which takes place November 18 as well as the New Commissioner Seminar, November 18 - 19. Find the [agenda](#) and other key details here, including the [FAQs](#) with information about hotel registration. Be sure to [sign up for the event](#) by October 20th to take advantage of the early bird rate. Please email Mandy Lill with any questions and for sponsorship opportunities.



Eric and Artie, cruising the state, discussing the inner workings of the Executive Committee.

As Arthur Sees It

Notes from the Executive Director and his dog

One preoccupation of my dog Arthur's, and indeed of his owners, is the Washington Public Ports Association's Executive Committee. So, for this month's installment of my column and the perspective of my pooch, I thought it was worth talking a bit about the men and women who oversee our organization. And for anyone tempted to stop reading there, if you make it to the end there is a surprise!

First, a note on the time commitment of our Executive Committee members: it dawned on me as I was planning our September meeting, for which we traveled to the Port of South Whidbey, that for many of our board members this is their third job! Whether or not they're still working, a commissioner has been balancing a day job, their elective role as a port commissioner, and their decision to put themselves forward for a leadership role at WPPA. That is a staggering amount of time during which they could be doing almost anything else, like seeing their families, traveling the world, or just relaxing! So,

when so many of them traveled to Whidbey Island to see the home port of our newest board member, I was gratified at the sheer time sacrifice they were making.

Now, on the subject of our Whidbey trip, the work of our Executive Committee embodies another key trait of our Association as a whole: the importance of connecting with other ports, to understand the role of WPPA and to help advance their interests. As I came into this role at WPPA, I asked the board members about their priorities: and starting with Cmr. Baldwin's tenure as President in 2024, most agreed that we needed to prioritize traveling to see the ports that were represented on the Executive Committee. Last year, we spent a day at the Port of Skagit, where we were graciously hosted by the Port, in spite of the fact that they had recently suffered the tragic and untimely loss of Cmr. Steve Omdal. Without our Port of Skagit member in attendance, we still got to see the port he had represented, and we also had the chance to connect as a group outside of Zoom or our normal seminar schedule. Next year, we'll head

to Clarkston to visit Cmr. Brigham's port, and beyond that we will continue to emphasize the importance of getting our leadership committee into ports around the state.

Beyond those fun port tours, have you noticed that your WPPA Executive Committee tend to be sitting at your lunch table at the Spring Meeting, and are in the audience at the Finance and Administration Seminar? We ask our board to be present as we execute on our educational mission, and that sometimes includes helping present content themselves. As we host a New Commissioners Seminar, the WPPA Executive Committee will help onboard the new electeds who are joining our port family. I have observed, in my tenure, that some of the best conversations in our educational program come from what I like to call "ports on ports." In other words, peers connecting about problems they've seen and how they've addressed them, is a powerful part of our Association's value proposition.

Lest you think, however, that it is all port tours and sunny seminar locales, there is the brutal work of budgeting as well – this October, I will brief our Executive Board on a draft budget for 2026. That will be informed by one-on-ones I'll hold with each board member, and by our monthly review of the organization's current financial picture. They will direct me and the staff to make difficult decisions, and they'll weigh challenging decisions themselves. And again, this is in addition to the difficult decisions they make on their own port budgets every year.

If this now sounds a bit more of a tough brief – lots of travel, time commitments, and budget debates – never fear, there is some help on the way, in the form of a new, non-voting Executive Director!

With an opening on our WPPA Executive Committee for an ex-officio Executive Director position, I am happy to announce that on Thursday, September 18th, the Executive Committee decided to appoint Mark Wilson, from the Port of Kalama, as our final member. Mark was recommended by our WPPA Nominating Committee, and in spite of having served nearly three decades with the Port of Kalama, he has not served on our Executive Committee before. Following one year in the ex-officio role, Mark will assume the role of WPPA Treasurer for the years 2026 and 2027. He will join the committee for our next meeting, on October 22nd!

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