



WASHINGTON PUBLIC PORTS ASSOCIATION

THE MANIFEST

April 23, 2026



Festivalgoers in the sun at the Snake River Family Festival. Photo courtesy of the Port of Whitman County.

April Updates from WPPA

Wow, what a month to be a WA Port Booster! Spring is springing, if not quite sprung, over at WPPA HQ, with cherry blossoms and some scant sunshine as the winter gloom seems to be lifting. And we had an exciting occurrence happen on Monday, April 13th: a full complement of six hardworking WPPA staffers, in the office and at the conference table together, welcoming Martin Presley to WPPA.

Monday was Martin's first day, and you can read more about his personal likes and dislikes below. But the truth is it was actually more like his *third day*, as he hit the ground running with the Freight Mobility Board tour of the Boeing factory in Everett on Thursday (more on that in the *As Arthur Sees It* column below), and the Port Academy Series at the Port of Olympia on Friday! WPPA staff are diligently filling his calendar with port tours, introductions to key partners, and various ongoing studies and surveys. So, consider this an additional plug: invite Martin out to visit, he has keys and plans to drive to your port!

Speaking of the Port Academy Series, we kicked off the second year of that port-to-port educational series at the Port of Olympia on Friday, April 10th, with a full house of port staff from around the state. Sincere thanks to the Port of Olympia for hosting and developing content that made for another compelling installment, and thanks to all of you who traveled to be there! We will head east for the second edition in 2026, with Port of Moses Lake playing host on Friday, June 5th. It's filling up fast, so be sure to [visit our Events page to register now!](#)



And while you're at our Events page, you might as well get signed up for some more upcoming seminar fun. The Spring Meeting is only a month out, and the [Finance Seminar registration opened](#) last week, this year coming to the hub of activity that is the Everett Waterfront!

The Spring Meeting brings us back to Skamania Lodge and will once again feature a kickoff mini-golf tournament with anyone who wants to join us on Monday, May 18th, at 3:30 p.m. just up the hill from the main lodge. There are bragging rights at stake, so come early and get in some trash-talking before we kick off the official conference program the next morning. Also that evening, we are thrilled to announce that the Port of Skamania is hosting another welcome barbecue! All are welcome at [Port HQ down on the Stevenson waterfront](#), where we will gather at 4 p.m. for food, beverages, and the early chance to say hello to your favorite port friends from around the state.

The bustling sensation you're getting is the beginning of a busy spring and summer, and it really does fill us with energy and positive spirit here at WPPA. We will see you out on the road, and please keep reading for more good information from your friendly local trade association.

-WPPA Team

Spotlight: Summer of Celebrations at Washington's Public Ports



Wooden boats lined up at the Liberty Bay Festival in Poulsbo. Photo courtesy of the Port of Poulsbo.

As the sun comes out and Washington prepares for summer, Washington's public ports are entering their busiest season. In addition to the usual work of economic development and environmental stewardship, the public ports of Washington are also gearing up for a summer of festivals! From the Port of Anacortes' centennial celebrations to the Port of Poulsbo's Viking-themed festival, ports all around the state have dozens of exciting events on the horizon.



Port of Anacortes

*Celebrating 100 Years of Economic Development,
Job Creation, and Environmental Stewardship.*

May	Working Waterfront Boat Tour Tour the working waterfront and learn more about its benefits to Anacortes and the region.	
July 4	Parade Float & Rock the Dock Watch for our float during the Fourth of July parade! That evening, join us at Seafarers' Memorial Park!	
July - Aug	Summer Concert Series This year's free concert series will be clad in Centennial branding. Stay tuned for info on a fun event following a concert!	
Aug	Seafarer's 50th Anniversary Honoring community members lost at sea; this prominent monument was dedicated in 1976.	
Sept	Airport Open House Bring the family to enjoy a day of games and refreshments and learn more about our Airport Layout Plan!	
Oct	Community Event Wrap up 100 years with great food, drinks and live music! Take a tour and learn more about upcoming updates at the Marina, and play some games with the family!	

Stay Tuned for More!
www.portofanacortes.com/centennial



The Port of Anacortes has a packed summer schedule as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. . From May until October, visitors are invited to celebrate 100 years of the Port of Anacortes at events all around town. Highlights include a summer concert series in July and August, the 50th anniversary of the monument at Seafarer's Memorial Park in August, and a 100th anniversary party in October. For more information, visit the link [here](#).



In May, the Port of Poulsbo hosts their annual [Liberty Bay Festival](#), held in conjunction with the Poulsbo Historical Society. Held from May 29 to 31, the Liberty Bay Festival is a multi-day celebration of Poulsbo's maritime heritage, local arts, and community spirit. Historical, unique, and iconic vessels will be docked at the marina for the public to enjoy, as well as live music, food vendors, and more.

Some of the vessels that will be at the festival include the Virginia V, the last operational Mosquito Fleet steamer; the Valkyrie Viking Ship, a full-scale replica of an ancient Viking ship; the Poulsbo Boats constructed in downtown Poulsbo and designed specifically for Puget Sound; the Carlisle II, a former Mosquito Fleet ferry that has run between Bremerton and Port Orchard since 1936; and the Air Snipe, one of the last surviving World War 2-era submarine hunters.

2026 KALAMA COMMUNITY EVENTS

With free outdoor concerts, art shows and annual special events, there's always something fun to do in beautiful Kalama!

<p>Monthly: Mountain Timber Market Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pop-Up Market: 3rd Wind. (11-5p) • Kalama On A String: 2nd Sat. (11-1p) • Live Music Every Sunday (1-4p) (Mountain Timber Market) <p>Monthly: Kalama Mixtape Concerts (free) One55Elm - Every 3rd Thursday (Kalama Mixtape / One55Elm)</p> <p>4/4: Lions Easter Egg Hunt Camp Kalama (9a) (Kalama Lions Club)</p> <p>4/4: "Easter Egg" My Yard Have your yard 'egged' for Easter Contact: kalamafair@gmail.com (Kalama Fair Board)</p> <p>4/18: Kalama Chamber Awards Banquet Haydu Expo Building (Time TBD) (Kalama Chamber)</p> <p>5/2: Community Spring Clean-Up Downtown Kalama (9a) (Kalama Chamber / Envision Kalama)</p> <p>5/8-9: Annual Plant + Treasures Sale Haydu Expo Building (9-4p) (AMALAK)</p>	<p>5/9: Mother's Day Art Market Lot next to Poker Pete's (10-4p) (Kalama Artist & Makers Association)</p> <p>5/15-17: Lions Club Garage Sale 191 Cloverdale Road (Kalama Lions)</p> <p>6/3-4: Summer Concerts + Market Westin Amphitheater (6p) * Every Wed/Thurs thru Sep. 4 (McMenamins / Port of Kalama)</p> <p>6/21: Father's Day Breakfast Location TBD (8-11a) (Kalama Lions Club)</p> <p>6/26-28: Big Smoke Weekend All Events @ Haydu Park • Pre-Smoke Concert (6/26 @ 6p) • BBQ / Brewfest (6/27-28 @ 10a) (Big Smoke Planning Group)</p> <p>7/4: America 250 Event Westin Amphitheater (12-9p) (Port of Kalama / McMenamins)</p> <p>7/16-18: Kalama Community Fair Haydu Park (12-10p) (Kalama Fair Board)</p>	<p>7/18: Annual Summer Parade Downtown Kalama (11a) (Kalama Chamber)</p> <p>8/4: National Night Out Haydu Park (6-8p) (Kalama Police Department)</p> <p>8/14-16: All City Garage Sale Throughout Kalama (All Day) (Kalama Chamber)</p> <p>8/16: Untouchables Car Show Downtown Kalama (7-5p) (Untouchables Car Club)</p> <p>8/28-30: Kalama Cultural Festival Westin Amphitheater (10-6p) (Port of Kalama)</p> <p>10/3: Autumn Art Market Location TBD (10-4p) (Kalama Artist & Makers Association)</p> <p>10/3: Walk-N-Knock Food Drive Throughout Kalama (9:30a) (Kalama Lions)</p> <p>10/10: FOLK Annual Tea Fundraiser Church of the Nazarene (2p) (Friends of the Library at Kalama)</p>	<p>10/17: Halloween Family Monster Mash Haydu Park (5-7p) (Kalama Fair Board)</p> <p>10/31: Halloween Trick or Treat Downtown Kalama (4-6p) (Kalama Chamber)</p> <p>10/31: Halloween Movie Night Port of Kalama (7pm) (Port of Kalama Interpretive Center)</p> <p>11/28: Shop Local Saturday Throughout Kalama (All Day) (Kalama Chamber)</p> <p>12/4: Christmas in Kalama • Photos w/ Santa @ Library (4-7p) • Parade of Lighted Floats (6pm) (Kalama Chamber)</p> <p>12/5: Holiday Bazaar + Bingo Kalama Elementary (9-4/6-9p) (Kalama Fair Board)</p> <p>12/5: 'Polar Express' Movie Port of Kalama (4pm & 6:30pm) (Port of Kalama)</p>
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The Port of Kalama has a busy summer ahead, with a celebration of America’s 250th Anniversary at the waterfront in July and the [Kalama Cultural Festival](#) in August. In addition to those events, the port’s Westin Amphitheater hosts live music twice a week from June to August.

On July 4th, visitors are invited to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of America’s founding at the [Westin Amphitheater](#). The Port of Kalama will be hosting live music, games, food, and fireworks at night. In addition, the port will be unveiling the new metal Eagle Sculpture.

In August, the port will host the Kalama Cultural Festival, a weekend-long celebration of art and music at the port. New for this year is a Friday night Luau hosted by McMenamins and featuring a performance from Anavai O Te Ora, a Tahitian dance group. Live music will continue all weekend, and the event will also host more than 50 cultural vendors on the grounds. Tickets are not on sale yet but will be available through McMenamins.

For more information on these two festivals and Kalama’s weekly concerts, visit the Port of Kalama's [website](#).

Port of Port Townsend

The Port of Port Townsend hosts two events every summer, Airport Day on August 2 and the Boatyard BBQ on September 17. They also support the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival from September 11 to 13.

[Airport Day](#) is an annual celebration of aviation in Jefferson County. Visitors are invited to Jefferson County Airport to see live music all day long, a classic car show, food vendors, and historic aircraft and helicopters. There will be exhibits from the Aero Museum, Cascade Warbirds, helicopters from Life Flight and the Navy Search and Rescue team, and more.



[The Boatyard BBQ](#) celebrates the return of the fishing fleet to Port Townsend. Visitors are invited to learn about the crucial role Port Townsend's Boatyard plays in the community and celebrate boatyard workers and the town's maritime heritage. There will be food vendors, live music, and a salmon dinner at the end of the day. The suggested donation for entry is \$10, but boatyard workers get in for free.

The port is also a sponsor of Port Townsend's annual [Wooden Boat Festival](#), a celebration of the town's tradition of wooden boatbuilding. Wooden boat owners from all over the world head to the town to show off their handmade and historic vessels.

Port of Whitman County

The Port of Whitman County is hosting their annual [Snake River Family Festival](#) on June 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visitors are invited to celebrate the Snake River, the waterway that provides the region with water for crops and power for Whitman County's homes and businesses.

Held at Boyer Park & Marina, the festival will feature live music, a complimentary barbecue lunch, ice cream, activities for kids, and various exhibitors with entertainment and giveaways.

Port of Port Angeles

On May 2-3, the Port of Port Angeles is partnering with the North Olympic Mustang Club for a weekend celebrating classic cars, particularly Ford Mustangs and Mercury Cougars. On Saturday, May 2, participants will gather for a cruise through town, followed by a car show on Sunday, May 3, in downtown Port Angeles. If you're looking to show off your own car, registration is \$25 and you can register at www.n-olympic-mustangs.com.

The Port of Port Angeles is also hosting their annual [Maritime Festival](#) on June 6 at the Port's Boathaven Marina. The day celebrates maritime careers, with a fishing derby and other family-friendly maritime activities. There will be live music, as well as food provided by Pizza Hut and El Taco Loco.

Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority

The Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority is hosting [Pangborn's Festival of Flight](#) on June 20 at Pangborn Memorial Airport. The event commemorates Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon's first-ever non-stop Trans-Pacific flight, which ended in a crash landing on the bluffs above East Wenatchee. The event is a celebration for two communities: Wenatchee, where the flight ended, and Misawa, Japan, where Pangborn and Herndon began their flight.

Visitors are invited to celebrate East Wenatchee's aviation history and international friendship, where visitors can walk among historic airplanes, visit local food vendors, and view local exhibits and Japanese cultural activities.

Port of Bremerton

PORT OF Bremerton Washington

2026 Sponsored Events

BREMERTON MARINA | FLIP FOR PORT ORCHARD

Bremerton: Your destination for a taste of the City. Adjacent to Seattle ferries!

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK YEAR-ROUND, Every First Friday, 5-8 PM Downtown Bremerton	BREMERTON BEER FESTIVAL Sunday, June 21 Downtown Bremerton
ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE Saturday, March 14 Downtown Bremerton	BREMERTON BRIDGE BLAST Saturday, June 27 Bremerton Marina
BREMERTON NIGHT MARKET Fridays: May 1, June 5, July 3, & October 2 Bremerton Marina	TASTE OF KITSAP Friday-Saturday, August 7-8 Bremerton Marina
ARMED FORCED DAY FESTIVAL Saturday, May 16 Downtown Bremerton	BLACKBERRY FESTIVAL Labor Day Weekend Bremerton Marina
BREMERTON FAN ZONE Monday, June 14 Friday, June 26 Friday, June 19 Wednesday, July 1 Wednesday, June 24 Monday, July 6 Downtown Bremerton <i>An Official Fan Zone for the 2026 Soccer Event.</i>	TRICK-OR-TREAT STREET Saturday, October 31 Downtown Bremerton
	WINTERFEST TREE LIGHTING Saturday, November 28 Downtown Bremerton

www.portofbremerton.org/request-moorage linktr.ee/portofbremerton

Scan QR code to visit our **online booking!** Scan QR code to find us on **social media!**

The Port of Bremerton has a packed summer of events ahead, from regular farmers and night markets in Bremerton and Port Orchard to a two-day blackberry festival. Highlights include the Bremerton Air Show, held July 11-12 at Bremerton National Airport, which will feature flights from historic fighter planes, aerobatic stunt planes and more; the Taste of Kitsap on August 7 and 8, a celebration of the Kitsap Peninsula's unique and diverse food scene; and the Bremerton Blackberry Festival, held September 5-7: a celebration of all things blackberry featuring some very unique local vendors.

Those events are only a sampling of all of the events the Port of Bremerton is either hosting or sponsoring. For more information, visit the link [here](#).

Port of Longview

From August 13-15, join the Port of Longview for their [2026 Summer Tour Series](#), where the public will get to take a closer look at port facilities and cargo operations, and get to know port leadership and staff. The tour takes visitors from facility to facility, with light refreshments provided and a brief presentation on the port's history.

Tours are free and open through a reservation process, which opens on July 6. If you've ever been curious about the Port of Longview's operations, it's the perfect chance to learn more!

Port of Bellingham

The Port of Bellingham is once again celebrating the annual [Northwest Tune-Up Festival](#) from July 10 to 11 at the Downtown Waterfront, a festival dedicated to mountain biking, live music, craft beer and more. The festival will feature mountain biking competitions, demonstrations, local food, live music from local musicians, and exhibitions all over the festival grounds.

Later in August, the Port of Bellingham invites acclaimed muralists from all over North America to the [Noisy Waters Mural Festival](#) from August 14 to 16. Over those three days, some of America's best muralists will create original murals live, while festivalgoers can watch them paint, listen to live music, and vote for their favorite art pieces. The top three artists will be invited to return to Bellingham and paint large-scale murals across town.

Port of Everett

WATERFRONT WATCH PARTIES

EVERETT IS AN OFFICIAL SEATTLE FWC26 FAN ZONE.

We're hosting free, all-ages World Cup watch parties on the waterfront—bringing the game to one of the most beautiful and iconic settings in Washington.

This June, the Port of Everett transforms into a matchday marina celebration with:

- ✔ Giant Screen
- ✔ Food Trucks
- ✔ Live Entertainment
- ✔ Games
- ✔ Kids Activities
- ✔ Beer Garden
- ✔ Free Fan Shuttle
- ✔ And More!

PORT OF EVERETT • BOXCAR PARK • JUNE 11, 12, 18 & 19 • ALL AGES

GAME ON. EVERETT.

MATCH SCHEDULE	
JUNE 11	Mexico vs South Africa at 12pm
JUNE 12	USA vs Paraguay at 6pm
JUNE 18	Mexico vs South Korea at 6pm
JUNE 19	USA vs Australia at 12pm

PRESENTED BY: EVERETT WASHINGTON, PORT OF EVERETT, SNOHOMISH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION

LEARN MORE AT VISITEVERETT.COM/WORLDCUP

EVERETT OFFICIAL SEATTLE FWC26 FAN ZONE

The Port of Everett has a busy summer ahead! Some highlights include [Music at the Marina](#), a free weekly concert series; [Sail-in Cinema](#), free family-friendly outdoor movies held on Fridays from July 24 to August 21; the [Rock the Boat](#) concert series on July 17 and 18; and the [Float Find](#), where handmade glass floats will be hidden around the waterfront and on Jetty Island, on Fridays between July 10 and August 28.

In addition to those events (and more!), the port will host the [Waterfront Watch Party](#) for the World Cup in June. The port will partner with the City of Everett and the Snohomish County Sports Commission to host a series of watch parties on June 11, 12, 18 and 19 at the port's Boxcar Park, where they will have an official World Cup Fan Zone. The fan zones will show the games on a giant screen and host food trucks, games, pre- and post-match entertainment, family-friendly activities, a beer garden and more.

Port of Tacoma

From June through October, the Port of Tacoma is full of activity with festivals and other events happening nearly every week, either hosted or sponsored by the port. In addition to the port's sponsorship of events all over town, from Washington's largest [Juneteenth Celebration](#) to weekly farmers' markets.

In addition to the port's presence at community events all summer, the port will also be hosting boat tours of the port's facilities all summer. On October 3, the port hosts their fan-favorite [Touch-A-Truck event](#), where visitors will be able to tour several port vehicles and get to learn more about the Port of Tacoma's everyday activities.

Port of Coupeville

Every day is Earth Day at the [Port of Coupeville](#). At Coupeville Wharf and Greenbank Farm, visitors can take self-guided environmental education tours to learn more about the world-famous Penn Cove's marine life and the Saratoga Passage Marine Stewardship Area at Coupeville Wharf. In the wharf's lobby, visitors can learn more about the area's Native American history and traditions, including May's Penn Cove Water Festival and the canoe races that cut across the water every year. At Greenbank Farm, visitors can stop at several learning stations, which have historical displays and educational gardens that showcase native plants, pollinators, wildlife, and the unique Northwest Native Prairie on the hillside overlooking the farm.

Legislative Spotlight - Interim To-Do List

Carly Michiels, Senior Director of Environmental Policy

The 2026 Legislative Session is officially over, and we have transitioned to spring here in Olympia! When the legislative session gavels to a close each year, the pace feels slower, but we all know the work of advocacy never ends. In many ways, the interim is where some of the most important and meaningful efforts take shape.

With fewer day-to-day demands at WPPA HQ, the interim creates space to focus on in-district engagement and longer-term strategy. It's a great time to identify emerging issues, track agency rulemaking, and stay engaged in the studies and workgroups that often shape future policy decisions before they ever become legislation. What happens during the interim frequently sets the stage for the next session.

This upcoming, 2027 session will see a new biennial budget proposal from the Governor and have some brand-new faces in the legislature. All ten of the US Congress districts are up for election, as well as all the State House of Representatives seats and 24 State Senate seats. Most notably, five of the nine State Supreme Court judge positions are turning over in 2026. The State Supreme Court election will surely garner a lot of attention as the newly passed 9.9% tax on annual income above \$1 million is a dispute that could come before the court.

The "slower" interim period is also the right time to maintain and strengthen relationships. A simple thank you to your legislative and agency partners goes a long way in reinforcing collaboration and appreciation for their work during session. From there, maintaining regular communication helps ensure ports remain a trusted resource when questions or issues arise. Don't let them forget about you!

Visibility matters just as much. Inviting legislators to visit your port, especially to see current and future projects firsthand, will help ground policy conversations in real-world impact. With all the great upcoming local events happening, it's a great opportunity to extend an invite! These visits provide valuable opportunities to highlight the unique economic, environmental, and community benefits ports [deliver](#) across Washington.

The interim is also a time to stay actively engaged with WPPA. Join our internal standing committees, invite us to your local community events, and connect through partner engagement opportunities. These efforts help share information, strengthen support for port priorities, and keep our collective momentum moving forward.

And looking ahead, engagement with all of us at WPPA is essential as we transition into crafting our legislative priorities for the 2027 session. Attending upcoming events, contributing to the legislative priority-setting process, and participating in committee work and workgroups ensures that the port community is aligned, prepared, and effective when the next session begins.

While the pace in Olympia may slow down a bit, the interim is anything but quiet. It's a great time to connect, prepare, and help lay the groundwork for continued success.

New Staff Spotlight: Meet Martin Presley



WPPA's new Director of Transportation and Economic Development Policy, Martin Presley, is looking forward to meeting and working with you this spring! In the meantime, we asked him to share a few things about himself. Read on for more about Martin.

What excites you most about working with WPPA?

That I can assist the members in the development of policies that not only improve the ports and their localities, but the state of Washington, from the Peninsula to the Palouse. It is exciting to know my work for the members could have impacts on nearly every corner of the state.

What about WPPA's mission is important to you?

Facilitating collaboration between members to achieve their goals. To paraphrase what I overheard attending the most recent WPPA Port Academy: "We are all unique, but when we get together and I hear 'us too,' 'us too,' 'us

too,' it makes me realize that we share a lot of the same issues." Being a conduit for members to make connections and promote their shared priorities is truly significant.

What do you love most about living in Washington?

The summers on the west side of the Cascades are about as perfect as can be. I enjoy touring the east side as well, the landscapes along the plateaus and rivers are beyond compare. Plus, Washington is home to one of my top three favorite music venues, The Gorge.

What is one thing that would surprise people about you?

I have lived in Washington since January 2019 and still have not been to Mt. Rainier.

What are some of your hobbies?

My main hobby is studying the ports-focused materials Eric has graciously provided! Jokes aside, the mainstays are collecting vinyl, smoking meats on the Big Green Egg, attending as many concerts as possible, and weekend pick-up lacrosse. In the fall my brain switches to Ohio State football, so if you want to talk obscure midwestern football I'm your guy!

What motivates you to work hard?

Establishing myself as a trustworthy and respected government relations professional. I value being an appreciated resource for members, legislators, and colleagues. The best way to achieve that is to work hard to show your reliability.

What's your favorite midnight snack?

My wife attests that it is chips, but not much beats a late-night taco truck.

Knowing the Waters

This month's installment of [Knowing the Waters](#), written by Tim Schermetzler of CSD Attorneys at Law, steps through a few examples and scenarios in which ports can share powers using interlocal agreements authorized by Chapter 39.34 RCW. This can allow ports to do things they wouldn't be able to do alone, such as respond more effectively to emergencies, improve transportation networks, or provide broadband to rural communities.

Grants and Resources for Ports

Engage with WSDOT in 2026 Freight Systems Plan Development – online open house still open!

If you haven't yet, please consider engaging in the [WSDOT 2026 Freight System Plan \(FSP\) Online Open House](#) to help inform their 2026 FSP. Those of you who attended their session at our 2026 Trade and Transportation Committee meeting will have some familiarity with this tool, which includes a survey and an interactive map. This online open house is a chance to **ensure port facilities and the freight routes of our partners, tenants, and customers are accounted for** in this important transportation planning document.

Eric and the WPPA Trade and Transportation Committee convened a meeting in mid-January 2026 to discuss this exercise and develop coordinated messages to share with WSDOT.

Ecology Oil Spill Restoration Grants – applications due April 29, 2026

Funds from oil spill penalties (the Coastal Protection Fund) can be applied for restoration and enhancement projects and natural resource studies through Ecology's [Oil Spill Restoration Funding](#). Projects may include remedial investigations, development of remedial action plans and reports, feasibility studies and remedy selection, engineering design and remedy construction, and operation, maintenance, and/or constructed remedy monitoring for up to one year.

- There is no match requirement.
- Awards typically range from \$10,000-\$50,000.
- **Applications are due April 29, 2026.**

RCO Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account – applications due April 30, 2026

Up to \$500K-\$1M per applicant is available from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) [Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account](#) to fund projects to **preserve and restore state shorelines and navigable water bodies**. Projects may also focus on improving or creating public access and/or increasing public awareness of aquatic lands and their role in aquatic ecosystems.

- A match of 50% is required.
- **Applications are due April 30, 2026.**

RCO Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – applications due April 30, 2026

\$54M has been made available for land protection and outdoor recreation in Washington by the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#) through RCO. Grant funds can be used to **create or improve local parks, public trails, or access to the water** for nonmotorized boating and recreation. Up to \$500K-\$1M per applicant is available, depending on project type.

- A match of 50 percent is required unless the project serves an underserved population or community in need or is in a federal disaster area. At least 10 percent of the contribution to the total project must be in the form of local matching funds.
- Applicants' comprehensive plans must be submitted by March 2, 2026.
- **Applications are due April 30, 2026.**

MARAD Small Shipyard Grant Program – applications due May 15, 2026

\$35M has been approved for the MARAD Small Shipyard Grant Program, which funds capital and workforce training projects for eligible shipyards across the country. The FY 2026 NOFO is not yet available but much of the same information, covering shipyard eligibility and types of projects, is included in the [FY 2025 NOFO](#).

- Join the [Small Shipyard Grant Coalition](#): if you have questions about future projects, need assistance from a grant writer, or need to find a contact at MARAD, reach out to us! Dues-paying Coalition members also have access to application tools.
- Reach out to [Xochitl Castaneda](#), Pacific Northwest and Alaska Gateway Director with questions about the Small Shipyard Grant Program.

MARAD PIDP Grant Program Open Now – applications due June 1, 2026

\$38.6 million has been made available in FY 2026 for the [US Maritime Administration \(MARAD\)'s PIDP grant program](#) for projects that improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods into, out of, around, or within a port. The PIDP provides funding to ports in urban and rural areas for planning and capital projects and includes a statutory set-aside for small ports. **Applications are due June 1, 2026.** View the FY 2026 NOFO [here](#).

Note that the FY 2026 NOFO includes the following changes to the PIDP: updated rating rubrics for the statutory merit criteria; a new priority for projects located in Qualified Opportunity Zones (26 U.S.C. § 1400Z-1), projects that incorporate innovative technology, and projects that support national multimodal freight goals; removes Workforce Development as a selection consideration; and projects to provide shore power at a port are no longer automatically treated as satisfying the determination that the project improves the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods. Applicants must describe in the narrative how such projects satisfy that statutory determination.

WA Department of Ecology's IRAG Program – applications due June 16, 2026

The solicitation for [Independent Remedial Action Grants](#) is open. This program is administered by Ecology to provide **post-cleanup grants to local governments that independently clean up contamination** under the [Voluntary Cleanup Program](#). A [Focus Sheet](#) and [Guidance Document](#) on the IRAG program are available on the Ecology website.

For the 2025-27 biennium only: because the recent EAGL system update caused a delay in opening the application solicitation, Ecology will consider up to an additional six months of costs incurred past the five years of the grant application, if it was submitted in EAGL within 30 days of the application solicitation opening date.

RCO Boating Infrastructure Grants – applications due July 15, 2026

RCO administers a US Fish and Wildlife Service funding stream for developing, renovating, and maintaining public boating facilities, boating information, and boater education in Washington: the [Boating Infrastructure Grant Program](#). Projects may include acquisition, development, maintenance, and/or renovation of facilities that serve recreational boats at least 26 feet in length providing day use or stays of up to 15 days. Up to \$288,046 is available for Tier 1 (state reviewed) project applications, and up to \$1.4M for Tier 2 (federally reviewed) projects.

- A match of 25 percent is required.
- Applicants contributing 26 percent or more will receive additional evaluation points.
- **Applications are due July 15, 2026.**

RCO Planning for Recreation Access Grants – applications due in July 2026

The RCO [Planning for Recreation Access program](#) funds planning projects in communities lacking adequate access to outdoor recreation opportunities, including diverse, urban, and small rural communities across the state. Up to \$1.7M is set aside to fund activities such as planning, community engagement, and collaboration to define needs and priorities for projects that would lead to capital investment.

- No match is required.
- **Applications are due July 15, 2026**

Coming Soon: Washington Zero-Emission Incentive Program – April 29, 2026

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) [Washington Zero-Emission Incentive Program \(WAZIP\) launches April 29 2026](#), offering \$112 million in vouchers to help businesses purchase zero-emission medium and heavy-duty (MHD) commercial vehicles and equipment. Breaking Barriers Collaborative is hosting [free webinars](#) for medium- and heavy-duty fleet operators in Washington to learn more about how your business can access WAZIP funding and make your fleet electrification project a success.

Webinar on Historic Preservation and Building Performance Standards – April 23, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Preservation intersects with policy tools called Building Performance Standards that require commercial and multifamily buildings to meet certain performance levels, typically for energy use or greenhouse gas emissions. This webinar explores the history and framework of the standards, how they fit into larger sustainability goals, and how they're being applied in Washington state. This webinar is jointly hosted by [Washington Trust for Historic Preservation](#) and [Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation](#). **Register [here](#) for the webinar on Thursday, April 23, 12:00-1:00 p.m. PT.**

Commerce Webinar Series on Starting Capital Projects – April-June, 2026

The WA Dept of Commerce is hosting a free, four-part webinar series to help prepare organizations to start capital projects, such as buildings, facilities, or infrastructure improvements. [View the flier \(PDF\)](#). Pre-registration is required.

- **April 29:** *Are we ready for a capital project?* — Organizational readiness and decision framework. [Register for the April 29 session.](#)
- **May 13:** *Who makes decisions?* — Leadership roles and governance. [Register for the May 13 session.](#)
- **May 27:** *Can we manage the money?* — Financial readiness and public funding. [Register for the May 27 session.](#)
- **June 10:** *What does a capital project really require?* — Team roles, risk, and compliance. [Register for the June 10 session.](#)

Ecology Webinar on Brownfields Job Training Program – May 5 at 11:30 a.m.

Register here for a free webinar on the WA Department of Ecology’s Brownfields Job Training Program (BJTP): [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#). BFJT grant funding enables eligible organizations to develop training programs that equip unemployed and underemployed residents with the skills needed for careers in environmental cleanup, hazardous waste management, and sustainable land reuse to support community development and revitalization.

Commerce Short Courses on Local Planning – upcoming dates in April-May

The WA Department of Commerce’s [Short Course on Local Planning](#) provides an overview of land use and comprehensive planning laws in Washington. All courses are free and open to the public. **Visit the [training webpage](#) to learn more**, register for Zoom trainings, and view the training materials.

MRSC Trainings for Local Government – April-June, Virtual and In-Person

MRSC produces virtual webinars every month, several virtual workshops throughout the year, and a small number of in-person events across Washington State. Check out [their website](#) for a list of all currently planned trainings; additional information will be added as it becomes available.

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) Diesel Program – Grants Available

If your organization’s diesel emissions reduction project prioritizes old, large engines, engines with daily usage, and/or engines that operate within areas or close to businesses or communities with high diesel pollution, [send your project information to PSCAA](#) for a chance to receive a 25-60% reimbursement for diesel equipment replacement.

Clean Buildings Performance Standards: Resources and Grants Available

The [Tier 1 Early Adopter Incentive Program](#) will provide up to \$16 million in incentives for approved applicants. Tier 1 applies to non-residential, hotel, motel, and dormitory buildings greater than 50,000 square feet. Demonstrated early compliance with the Clean Buildings Performance Standard can earn building owners a one-time base incentive payment of \$2/square foot, up to \$75 million. This incentive is to cover up to half the cost of energy-saving measures identified in an energy audit. A [Tier 1 incentives estimator](#) is now available to assist building owners in planning their Clean Buildings Performance Standard compliance path.

The [Tier 2 Early Adopter Incentive Program](#) will provide a base incentive of \$0.30/square foot to owners of buildings between 20,000-50,001 square feet who benchmark their building’s energy use, identify an energy use intensity target, and develop and implement an energy management plan and operations and maintenance program. Additional incentives are available for multifamily building owners who are willing to sign an [anti-displacement agreement](#).

Commerce Clean Energy Tax Credit Assistance Program – office hours

Commerce provides **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 through the [Clean Energy Tax Credit Assistance Program \(CETCAP\)](#). Updates and technical assistance are provided in office hours held on the second Wednesday and third Friday of each month. Register here for [second Wednesday](#) (next: May 13th, noon) or [third Friday](#) (next: April 17th, 9:30 a.m.) office hours.

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 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](#).

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.

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.

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](#).

DOE Energy Ready Charging Smart Program – free technical assistance

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) [Energy Ready Charging Smart Program](#) offers free technical assistance to help local governments adopt procedures and practices that facilitate the growth of electric vehicles (EVs).

DOE E2C Program Expert Match – free technical assistance

The DOE's [Energy to Communities \(E2C\): Expert Match](#) program offers free, short-term technical assistance to address near-term energy challenges in local communities.

179D Energy Tax Credit – expiring soon

Act now to take advantage of the [179D deduction](#) before it expires. Recent federal legislation discontinues several energy tax credits including the 179D deduction, but there is still time to take advantage of the program before it ends. **To quality, construction must begin by June 30, 2026, meet energy efficiency standards, and building owners must obtain proper documentation and certification**, including an energy study and allocation forms.

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



Spring Meeting: May 19-21, Skamania Lodge, Stevenson

The WPPA 2026 Spring Meeting is right around the corner! We are returning to the beautiful Skamania Lodge in Stevenson and this year, our event will run from Tuesday through Thursday, May 19th - 21st. **Registration is open!** If you have any questions or are interested in sponsorship, please contact [Mandy Lill](#) for more information.



Finance & Administration Seminar, June 24 - 26 at Hotel Indigo, Everett

Registration is now open for the [2026 Finance & Administration Seminar](#). Please plan to join us in June for this informative event! You must make hotel reservations by May 22nd to get our guaranteed rates, but our room block is booking up fast and we may sell out before then! You can find the hotel information on the [event FAQ page](#) on our website. You can also [click here to view the agenda](#) and please be sure to reach out to [Mandy Lill](#) if you have

any questions or if you would like to inquire [about being a sponsor](#). Please register by May 26th for the early bird registration rate. After that, the rate will increase. You have until June 17th to register online.



WPPA Port Academy Series Second Edition: June 5, Port of Moses Lake

Attention Port Staff: Registration is now open for the second installment of the [Port Academy Series of 2026](#) held at the Port of Moses Lake! This educational initiative is designed to provide port staff with an opportunity to learn from one another through hands-on, port-led forums. Participants will gain insight into how the port approaches long-range planning, economic development, and asset management. Whether you are a Port Manager, Finance Officer, Environmental Specialist, or work in another area of port

operations, this event offers a practical opportunity to learn from peers and explore approaches that may be applicable to your own port. The program will include a mix of presentations, facilitated discussion, and a tour of port facilities. Lunch is provided. To support meaningful discussion, registration is limited to a small group of 25 participants.



Lunch & Learn: Building Talent Pipelines - How Ports Partner with Local CTE Programs

[Registration is open](#) for our upcoming Lunch & Learn on partnerships between ports and local Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs! Hear from leaders in Tacoma, Vancouver, and Kalama as they share creative approaches to CTE, from maritime tech programs and skill center collaboration to student-run retail stores, internships, advisory boards, and hands on learning experiences. You'll leave with practical ideas you can bring to your own community. This event will be virtual via Zoom on April 28th at 12:noon. Information for this event is available [here on our website](#). If you have any questions, please contact [Mandy Lill](#).

WPPA 2026 Conference Calendar

- **Directors Seminar:** July 8-10, Courtyard by Marriott, Pullman
- **Commissioners Seminar:** July 20-22, Hilton Garden Inn, Wenatchee
- **Environmental Seminar:** September 24-25, Renaissance Hotel, Seattle
- **Small Ports:** Oct. 22-23, Campbell's Resort, Chelan
- **Winter Meeting: Dec 9-11**, Hilton Vancouver
(formerly known as the Annual Meeting)



The grind never stops for Arthur at WPPA HQ.

As Arthur Sees It

Notes from the Executive Director and his dog

If you know me (and my dog Arthur), you know that we are fueled by a few simple things: Mariners wins (not easy to come by yet...), good bourbon whiskey (well ok, that's me not Arthur...), a perfectly-cooked steak (we both enjoy this), and maybe most of all, Pride in Washington Ports!

I collect port success stories like I collect little golf trinkets, and one collection is significantly less annoying to my lovely wife Brooke. She wonders at how many ball-markers one man needs, but she never tires of hearing my elated retelling of stories from my port travels about the cool work underway at Washington port districts.

One thing I tell people when they ask me about my job, is that this has made me a shameless braggart of all things Washington. From our apples to our wine to our waving fields of wheat to our evergreen forests, you can't drive around the state without developing deep affection for its people, places, and industries.

Early in my professional career I encountered a similar sentiment, when I was a low-ranking congressional staffer in the office of then-Congressman Jay Inslee. I was hired initially to respond to constituent correspondence and worked my way up to a policy advisor role by basically asking my boss, over and over again, for more responsibility. The first issue area I was assigned was "Labor Policy," and among the groups I interacted with most frequently were the Boeing employees who were members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) and the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA).

At the time, the whole WA congressional delegation, plus our labor partners *and* business leaders were pushing for the Dept. of Defense to award the contract for the next refueling tanker to Boeing. [And in February 2011, to everyone's surprise, the contract was awarded to Boeing.](#) and our group of sometimes divergent partners and interests could celebrate a collaborative success. The next time I was in Washington, I went to Everett to visit the Boeing manufacturing facility and see firsthand the craftsmanship and ingenuity that this workforce of Washingtonians had used to win over the DOD decision-makers.

Even at that time, I was struck by how many people in Washington had a personal connection to Boeing. It seemed like everyone I knew from growing up had some family member or friend who worked at Boeing. In Inslee's office, we boasted that 100,000 of our 700,000 district residents either worked at Boeing, a supplier, or some associated economic sector. Washington's economy was seen as directly tied to Boeing, and business was booming! The Mariners outfield wall had that big Boeing logo, and any visitor I picked up at the airport drove right by the can't-miss-views of Boeing Field. It was how you knew you'd arrived in Washington.

So, you can imagine my sense of full-circle state pride when I joined the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board in Everett last week to once again tour the *largest building in the world* as a guest of Boeing's Global Supply Chain Transportation and Logistics (GSCTL) team. We drove around the perimeter of the building by bus, and saw a number of the KC-46A tankers that had initially brought me here, some even still mid-production (they [were awarded an add-on contract to build 15 more in November 2025](#)). We heard from the supply chain team about the challenges they face with any disruptions in the progress of component parts to the Everett facility, and thrilling tales of recent wins, like rapidly building a freeway offramp in Nebraska to keep 737 fuselages on time for arrival even after a rail bridge collapse.

But the thing that caught my ear and eye and gave me a huge boost of WA Port pride was the conversation we had in the conference room before the tour. The GSCTL team provided an overview of current operations, including happy news of planned increases in their rate of production for a few planes at the facility. Freight board members asked a range of questions about the impact of that growth on the supply chain, new workforce numbers, and more. But the real golden moment came when someone asked, “What advantages do you see in Washington state, compared with your operations in a place like South Carolina?”

“The Port of Everett, without a doubt,” came the near-immediate reply from GSCTL staff. Our hosts went on to speak at some length about how important the nearby deepwater port terminals were to their work at the factory. The access to Japanese suppliers, the easy relationship with the port, the flexibility that it offered them—these were the first things cited as the advantages to operating in Washington, compared to their operations across the country in South Carolina.

At a time when we focus on the hurdles to manufacturing in our state, the challenges to siting industrial operations, or the seemingly dark approaching clouds of economic slowdown, this is worth pausing for a moment to focus on. This is, after all, exactly what we tell people about WA ports. They facilitate commerce! This is what we were created to do! The world’s foremost aerospace manufacturer, owner of the world’s biggest building, *leans on our port member* for the overseas supply chain that is vital to their success as a company.

And while I don’t usually focus on just one port in this column (Arthur and I love all 75 equally!), I thought it was worth pausing to give the Port of Everett some justly deserved praise here. They have, after all, had a tough recent go. As an operating port, they’ve felt the shifting trade winds more acutely, reflected in a 10 percent reduction in their operating budget from 2024 to 2025. Boeing’s troubles over the past five years also had an impact on their business, with less cargo heading up “Japanese Gulch” to the factory from the Mount Baker Terminal.

Through it all though, they remain determined to continue supporting global trade and the huge impact it has on the economic livelihood of people in Everett, Snohomish County, and all of Washington. Their partnership with Boeing is a shining example of how public ports, through investment in public infrastructure, can foster private sector success and bring regional economic growth along with it. This is what we do, we WA Ports. And I was happy to celebrate that in Everett, sitting in the back of that conference room beaming with satisfaction, and basking in that familiar feeling: Port Pride!

Washington Public Ports Association
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