

**PORT DISTRICT OF SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND**

Minutes of the Public Hearing on the Amendment of the Comprehensive Scheme

June 11, 2008

Freeland, Washington

**Present at the meeting were:**

Commissioner Lynae Slinden, Clinton  
Commissioner Rolf Seitle, Langley  
Commissioner Geoff Tapert, Freeland  
Ed Field, Port Manager  
Dane Anderson, Port Financial Coordinator  
Molly MacLeod-Roberts, Port Clerk

The following individuals signed in:  
Marianne Edain, WEAN  
Sharon Hart, Island County EDC  
David Powers, Clinton Resident  
Jeff VanDerford, South Whidbey Record  
Christine Hurley, Langley Resident  
Richard Guenther, Freeland Resident  
Fred Lundahl, Langley Resident  
Drew Dixon, Langley Resident  
Linda Perkins, Langley Resident  
Bob Boehm, Greenbank Resident  
Christina Drake, Langley Resident  
John Rees, Langley Resident  
Steve Strehlau, Langley Resident  
Harrison Goodall, Langley Resident  
Lee Chavor, Langley Resident  
Ron LaCour, Freeland Resident  
Duane Fulgham, Langley Resident  
Walt Jackson, Bellingham Resident  
George Buehler, Freeland Resident  
Ken Biddle, Clinton Resident  
Rhonda Salerno, Langley Resident

**Absent:** None

**1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER:**

The Public Hearing on Amendment of the Port District of South Whidbey Island's Six-Year Comprehensive Scheme 2007-2013 was convened by the Board of Commissioners on June 11, 2008, in Grigware Hall at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland, WA. Commissioner Seitle, President, called the Hearing to order at 7:03 pm., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. PUBLIC HEARING FOR AMENDMENT:**

Port Manager Ed Field explained that the Port's Six-Year Comprehensive Scheme did not identify any projects or initiatives that were specifically dive-related. Ed read aloud the proposed Amendment to add the following dive-related Potential Project Initiatives to the three Comp Scheme categories as follows:

- Economic Development: *“Encourage dive-related businesses and tourism, and support establishment of dive-related facilities.”*
- Environmental Stewardship: *“Support the enhancement of habitat and improvements to Puget Sound marine conditions.”*
- Marine Access and Recreation: *“Support and/or sponsor expanded dive access opportunities by means of enhanced uplands support and/or offshore/underwater facilities.”*

### **3. COMMISSIONERS’ AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AMENDMENT:**

**ACTION:** A motion was made by Commissioner Slinden and seconded by Commissioner Tapert to approve the Amendment to the Comprehensive Scheme as stated.

Commissioner Slinden said it is timely and needs to be added. Commissioner Seitle noted the dive community had provided a lot of input. He asked if there was any public comment on the issue, but there was none.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Dave Anderson, residency not stated:** Anderson asked if there is a liability associated with people diving around marina facilities. He asked if a diver caught their air hose on something and panicked, would the Port be liable. Port Financial Coordinator Dane Anderson explained that there is a Revised Code of Washington (RCW) that protects public agencies from inherently risky activities. Commissioner Slinden added that the Port also has insurance through a state insurance pool.

**Larry Bucklin, Seattle Resident:** Bucklin said he was concerned that with relatively small areas, the Port might find liability on encouraging inherently conflicting activities. To him, encouraging divers in and around boating areas is a direct conflict of activities. Commissioner Slinden explained that the proposed dive area is an area separate from the central boat basin where there are not any motorized boats. Commissioner Tapert noted that the Port of Edmonds has an underwater dive park.

### **4. ADJOURNMENT:**

The Public Hearing on the Amendment of the Comprehensive Scheme was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Approved:

Minutes prepared by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Rolf Seitle, Langley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edwin S. Field, Port Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Lynae Slinden, Clinton

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Geoff Tapert, Freeland