

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 20, 2019
9:00 am (Mountain Time)
Baker and Murakami Produce
1431 Se 1st Street, Ontario, OR 97914
Conference Call Number: 541-896-1824

Members Present:

- Grant Kitamura, Board President
- Greg Smith, Officer of the Board (via phone)
- Toni Parish
- Corey Maag (via phone)
- Lynn Findley

Staff:

- John L. Braese

Regular Board Meeting Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am with special guests present:

- Malheur County Commissioner Larry Wilson
- Malheur County Building Official Adele Schaffeld

Discussion and Action: Review and approval of August 13, 2019 meeting minutes.

Board Member Corey Maag made a motion to approve the minutes of August 13, 2019. The motion was seconded by Board Member Toni Parish. By unanimous vote, the minutes were approved.

Discussion and Action: Update

Board President Grant Kitamura handed the meeting over to Officer of the Board Greg Smith to discuss updates on the project. Smith started the update with news of meeting with staff of Americold the previous Friday and a nondisclosure agreement has been signed with the company. Work is now being completed to conduct a tour of the property with board members and Americold staff. This tour is expected to occur after Labor Day.

Smith said additional information was being forwarded to the Oregon Department of Transportation today with action by the Oregon Transportation Commission expected September 5, 2019. The first release of money should occur after the OTC meeting.

Smith added interviews with potential bookkeepers for the project will take place this week. This was delayed as one candidate was out of the area.

Smith informed the board a tour of the site will take place Thursday with regional representatives of the Oregon Department of Transportation. Malheur County Commissioner Larry Wilson will accompany the tour as will Brad Baird of Anderson Perry.

Smith advised he will provide updates to the board on the upcoming BUILD grant work.

Smith stressed the importance of managing expectations on the project keeping the community updated on activities taking place. Smith also said the timeline received from Union Pacific was much more aggressive than the plan recently forwarded to ODOT from our entity.

Wilson expressed concern over the timeline in acquiring the needed property for the project. In reply, Smith said a meeting was planned with the sellers later next week and will be led by Malheur County Counsel Stephanie Wilson. Kitamura and Board Member Toni Parish will also attend the meeting via conference line. This meeting will be held confidential under state statute.

Kitamura questioned if Americold had facility designs for the facility? Smith informed the board the designs will begin after a site visit by Americold staff with the assistance of engineering staff.

Kitamura also stated a desire for a racking system within the rail cars for better quality control of shipments. Kitamura said a recent racking system supplier is out of business. Smith asked Kitamura to research other possible suppliers of the needed system.

Smith spoke of possible need for an onion shippers' cooperative. If agreed upon, the cooperative would enter into an agreement with Americold. Kitamura added a cooperative may be best option for leasing of rail cars. Smith stated he would investigate a cooperative and report back to the board.

Smith requested information be forwarded to him on regular meetings of local shippers. Kitamura said the next scheduled meeting is August 29, 2019 and the meetings occur every other week, changing venues each time. Kitamura will forward the information.

Adjournment:

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:19 am.

Respectfully Submitted:

Greg Smith, Officer to the Board