

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 17, 2019
10:00 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 to the Board (via phone)
- Kay Riley (via phone)
- Toni Parish
- Jason Pearson

Staff:

- John L. Braese
- Julie Hicks (via phone)

Regular Board Meeting Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am with special guests present:

- Jim Maret, City of Nyssa (via phone)
- Mike Walker (via phone)
- Pat Caldwell, Malheur Enterprise (via phone)

Discussion and Action: Review and approval of December 3, 2019 meeting minutes.

Board Member Jason Pearson made a motion to approve the minutes of December 3, 2019. The motion was seconded by Board Member Kay Riley. By unanimous vote, the minutes were approved.

Discussion and Action: Update

Board President Grant Kitamura handed the meeting over to Officer to the Board Greg Smith for updates on the project.

Smith thanked those members of the board who attended the County Court presentation the previous week. Smith commented the meeting was productive and well received. Smith announced he will speak before the Onion Growers Association on February 4, 2020.

Smith stated Anderson Perry had completed work on surveying with the information relayed to Rail Pros. Smith anticipates 30 percent design will be completed the second week of January on the project. The newly formed onion shippers' association is scheduled to meet with the anticipated operator January 3.

Smith said the property purchase is anticipated to occur prior to January 10, 2020. This date was discussed after Smith spoke with county officials this date.

Kitamura announced the impending departure of Board Member Toni Parish due to career advancement taking her out of area. Smith thanked Parish for all her work on the board and her assistance in the appraisal. Kitamura strongly urged the board to consider Randi Svatney as replacement, stressing her background in finance. Smith made a motion to submit Svatney to the Malheur County Court for consideration as a board member. The motion was seconded by Pearson. By unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

Smith suggested to the board a tour of shipping facilities in Oregon and Washington would be beneficial. Due to holidays, the month of January was discussed.

Executive Session:

The board convened in executive session at 10:17 am and reconvened into public session at 10:23 am. No decision was made during executive session.

Public Comment:

Mike Walker requested clarification on news reports stating the facility would not open until 2024. In response, Smith said he had "no clue" where the news organization came up with that date.

Walker also asked if, due to recent appraisal, a contingency agreement was in place with the landowner. Smith explained due to working with a state agency, securing the property was necessary early in the process and the property was preferred by Union Pacific. A discussion with the landowner regarding a change of price is not planned.

Adjournment:

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted:
Greg Smith, Officer to the Board