

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 3, 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)
- Kay Riley (via phone)

Staff:

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

Regular Board Meeting Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am with special guests present:

- Malheur County Commissioner Larry Wilson
- Michael Walker
- Scott Fairley (via phone)
- Larry Meyer, Argus Observer (via phone)
- Tiffany Cruikshank (via phone)

Discussion and Action: Review and approval of August 20, 2019 meeting minutes.

Board Member Corey Maag made a motion to approve the minutes with the addition of Board Member Lynn Findley present during meeting of August 20, 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 updated the board of a meeting with local CPA Lonny Hytrek. During the meeting, Hytrek was briefed on responsibilities of position. Hytrek reported he was comfortable with the position. Smith reported he also met with representatives of Bank of Eastern Oregon, discussing standard language of a line of credit. Smith will meet with Farm Credit Service later this week regarding same subject.

Smith said, as widely reported locally, Umpqua Bank has announced closure of branches in Nyssa and Vale. According to Smith, a local bank is looking at the purchase of the two branches.

Smith recommended to the board the creation of subcommittees to handle specialized projects for the reload facility. Smith recommended Board Member Toni Parish chair the subcommittee regarding finance.

Smith stated to the board the Milestones document will be delivered to ODOT later this date and shared with the public. Smith warned there would need to be flexibility in the process. Kitamura questioned if funds could be used for racking systems or the purchase of rail cars with contingency funding? Smith stated funds could be used for allowable items.

Due to Americold's Doug Olmstead business trips, a meeting may occur now the week of September 16 according to Smith. During this time, a tour of the area will take place and an executive session will occur to discuss the role of Americold.

Smith reported attending a luncheon of onion shippers and being well received. He urged board members to provide updates on organizations needing information and a meeting will be scheduled. Smith also reported joining the Idaho-Oregon Fruit and Vegetable Association.

Executive Session:

The board was called into executive session at 9:23 am per ORS 192.660, section 2, subsection e. The session ended at 9:40 am with members of the audience returning. No decision was made during executive session.

Other business:

After meeting with Tiffany Cruikshank, Smith urged the board to consider a subcommittee dealing with transportation issues. Kitamura agreed those dealing with transportation daily would bring valuable information to answering transportation questions. Kitamura will look into a three-person subcommittee on the subject. Kitamura will also take the lead into finding a replacement board member.

Adjournment:

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 am.

Respectfully Submitted:

Greg Smith, Officer to the Board