

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 19, 2019

1:15 p.m. (Mountain Time)

Conference Call Number: 541-896-1824

Members Present:

- Grant Kitamura, Board President
- Lynn Findley, Board Vice President
- Greg Smith, Officer of the Board
- Kay Riley
- Corey Maag

Staff:

- John L. Braese
- Sarah Vargas
- Julie Hicks

Regular Board Meeting Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:19 pm with special guests present.

- Malheur County Commissioner Larry Wilson
- Robert Quick
- Larry Meyer, Argus Observer

Discussion and Action: Update on Oregon Transportation Commission meeting

Board President Grant Kitamura handed the meeting over to the Officer of the Board Greg Smith to discuss the recent Oregon Transportation Commission meeting.

Smith thanked Malheur County Commissioner Larry Wilson for his presentation before the commission in Salem and discussed the commission's questions regarding the financial feasibility of the project and the need for cost comparison showing rail's lower rates versus trucks.

Smith briefed the board on the plan going forward with a report to the commission. The office will gather truck rates and rail rates and prepare a report for the commission. The identity of the shippers will be kept confidential as per a letter received from the Oregon Department of Justice.

After a question from Kitamura regarding contacting the Tioga Group directly, Smith stated a call to Deputy Director Erik Having had been made requesting direction the previous day. No response has been received.

Corey Maag stated concern the commission was relying on old data and the need for the commission to look at data supplied recently.

Smith briefed the board on public record requests. To date, 123 requests have been received. Kitamura voiced his support of Smith and the process moving forward.

Wilson questioned if a letter was necessary to Oregon Transportation Commission Chair Tammy Baney requesting the Treasure Valley project be considered apart from the two competing projects in Linn County. Smith stated his office would draft two letters, one signed by Kitamura with the second signed by the Malheur County Court.

Adjournment:

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Greg Smith, Officer to the Board