

MEETING MINUTES

Port of Tacoma Commission



REGULAR MEETING

March 17, 2026 - 12:00 p.m. Public Session Start

Fabulich Center, Room #104: 3600 Port of Tacoma Road, Fife

The Port of Tacoma Commission met for a regular meeting on **March 17, 2026**, at the Fabulich Center, 3600 Port of Tacoma Road, Room 104, Fife, WA.

CALL TO ORDER | EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commission President, Dick Marzano, called the meeting to order at **10:00 a.m.** Also present were Commissioners Kristin Ang, Deanna Keller, John McCarthy, and JT Wilcox. A quorum was met.

Commissioner Marzano announced the Commission would meet in Executive Session until **12:00 p.m.** to discuss:

- One (1) Potential Litigation Item RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)
- Two (2) Minimum Price of Real Estate for Sale or Lease Items RCW 42.30.110(1)(c)
- One (1) Evaluation of a Public Employee RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

Eric Johnson (Executive Director—Port of Tacoma) stated the factors allowed to be discussed during Executive Session in relation to sale or lease of real estate are as follows: size and zoning of the property, distance from and connectivity to deep-water marine terminals, potential for job creation and consistency with the Strategic Plan.

PUBLIC SESSION –

1. RETURN TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE:

Commission President Dick Marzano returned the meeting to order at **12:00 p.m.** and stated the Commission met in Executive Session from **10:00 a.m.** until **11:57 a.m.** to discuss the items noted previously. The public session began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Marzano thanked everyone for being here today and acknowledged that we are situated on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup Tribe, who steward these lands, and stated the Commission considers the Tribe to be a partner in many of the efforts we undertake.

Commissioner Marzano also recognized March 2026 as Women’s History Month, and March 8, 2026, as International Women’s Day, acknowledging the achievements and many contributions of women to our community, nation, and world.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Marzano sought approval of the agenda. It was proposed that the item **10A—Blair Waterway Program Update** be moved and heard just before Commission Actions. There were no other changes suggested.

MOTION: Approve the agenda and move item 10A—Blair Waterway Program Update to be heard just before Commission Actions.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ang and seconded by Commissioner Keller.

VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0

Commissioner Ang	Aye	Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye	Commissioner Wilcox	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Aye		

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Eric Johnson

- **Blair Waterway Program** – This item will be heard in today's meeting. It is one of our biggest capital investment programs. Today's action requests approval of an implementation agreement with the Tribe.
 - **Amending Critical Areas Ordinance** – The City of Tacoma is amending their Critical Areas Ordinance, which is a land use statute encompassing a set of requirements affecting the Port. We are working hard to make sure those amendments do not conflict with the Tideflats Subarea Plan.
 - **Ports & Popcorn Event** – Last week we held one of our Ports & Popcorn public events at the Grand Cinema. Rod Koon gave a history of the Port of Tacoma at the sold-out event. The next event will be on April 2nd with a speaker from Tote Maritime.
 - **Social Media Update** – We had over 150,000 people view State of the Port report online. Almost 250,000 viewed our monkey shine posts on Facebook. Eric complimented our Communications team for their work on the Port's social media front.
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4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Dax Koho with ILWU Local 22 recommended memorializing Jim Norton through naming opportunities with the Port Maritime Center.
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5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of the minutes for the 2/18/26 meeting.
- B. Disbursement Certifications during the period of 2/10/26 to 3/6/26:
 - 1. Check numbers 4823 to 4892 and 4894 to 5077 in the amount of \$3,673,151.32, and electronic payments in the amount of \$9,673,320.62 for a total of \$13,346,471.94.
 - 2. Check number 4893 in the amount of \$14,110.00 to the State Auditor's Office.

MOTION 1: Approve the Consent Agenda items 5A and 5B-1 as presented.

Motion was made by Commissioner Keller and seconded by Commissioner McCarthy.

VOTE MOTION 1: Motion Carried 5-0

Commissioner Ang	Aye	Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye	Commissioner Wilcox	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Aye		

MOTION 2: Approve the Consent Agenda item 5B-2 to the State Auditor's Office.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ang and seconded by Commissioner Keller.

VOTE MOTION 2: Motion Carried 4-0-1

Commissioner Ang	Aye	Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye	Commissioner Wilcox	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Abstain		

Note: The following item was moved up in the agenda during Consent Agenda to be heard right before Commission Action.

10. ISSUE BRIEFING:

A. Blair Waterway Program Update

Sara Potter & Tony Warfield (Environmental Department) presented on behalf of the Port. This is an integration of about fifteen different CIP projects: Blair Federal Navigation Channel deepening, two cleanups, berth deepenings, Blair Tribal Cutback, East Commencement Habitat Opportunity and transload facility. Details of work, costs, and the timeline were reviewed for each project. Construction will begin this fall. Discussion was held until after the first action item (6A), immediately following this briefing, given they are related topics.

Note: The Commission continued with the regular order of business from this point forward.

6. COMMISSION ACTION:

A. Blair Tribal Cutback Project Implementation Approval

Sara Potter & Tony Warfield (Environmental Department) presented on behalf of the Port. Two approvals were requested. The purpose and details of the implementation agreement terms were outlined. This is associated with the goal of deepening the Blair waterway discussed in the previous presentation. The cost breakdown associated with the project authorization increase was provided. An approval of the increased project cost is needed as part of the implementation agreement with the Tribe.

MOTION 1: Authorize the Executive Director to execute the Blair Cutback Implementation Agreement between the Port of Tacoma and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ang and seconded by Commissioner Keller. Discussion ensued.

Norman Gilbert (Sr. Project Manager—Engineering) with the Port addressed a question posed during discussion regarding the impact on the terminals and efforts to minimize the reduction to single berths during construction.

VOTE MOTION 1: Motion Carried 5-0

Commissioner Ang	Aye	Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye	Commissioner Wilcox	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Aye		

MOTION 2: Increase project authorization in the amount of \$63,500,000, for a total authorized amount of \$64,834,000.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Keller. Discussion ensued.

VOTE MOTION 2: Motion Carried 5-0

Commissioner Ang	Aye	Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye	Commissioner Wilcox	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Aye		

Note: Action items 6B, 6C & 6D were presented together, but taken as separate motions & votes.

- B. Resolution 2026-02-PT – MRSC Small Works Roster**
- C. Resolution 2026-03-PT – Cybersecurity Services Contracts**
- D. Resolution 2026-04-PT – Master Policy Directives**

Heather Burgess (Port Legal Counsel–Dickson Frohlich Phillips Burgess PLLC) presented three Resolutions on behalf of the Port. All three Resolutions are related, so they were presented and heard together. As part of best practices, the Master Policy Directives are reviewed and updated each year. The purpose and details of changes for each Resolution were provided. The motions and votes were heard after each Resolution was presented.

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2026-02-PT: MRSC Rosters.

Motion was made by Commissioner Keller and seconded by Commissioner Ang. Discussion ensued.

VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0

Commissioner Ang	Aye	Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye	Commissioner Wilcox	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Aye		

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2026-03-PT: Exempting Cybersecurity Services from Competitive Solicitation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Keller and seconded by Commissioner Wilcox. Discussion ensued.

Martyn Adamson (Chief Information Officer—IT Department) addressed a question regarding cost with relation to competitive solicitations.

VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0

Commissioner Ang	Aye	Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye	Commissioner Wilcox	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Aye		

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2026-04-PT: Master Policy Directive as presented, but with a provision added to require annual reporting for cybersecurity contracts exempted from competitive bidding.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ang and seconded by Commissioner Wilcox. Discussion ensued.

VOTE: Carried 5-0

Commissioner Ang	Aye	Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye	Commissioner Wilcox	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Aye		

E. Parcel 132 EPA Grant Acceptance Authorization

Melisa Kegans (Project Manager—Environmental) presented on behalf of the Port. The Port was awarded a \$2,000,000 EPA Brownsfields Cleanup Grant. This request is for the grant acceptance only. Design costs will be addressed at a future Commission meeting.

MOTION: Approve authorization to enter into a grant agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for \$2,000,000 for environmental cleanup at Parcel 132.

Motion was made by Commissioner Keller and seconded by Commissioner McCarthy. Discussion ensued.

Rob Healy (Director—Remediation & Water Quality) fielded a question on remediation costs estimated at the time parcel 132 was purchased in 2023. A cost recovery analysis is expected in the future.

VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0

Commissioner Ang	Aye	Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye	Commissioner Wilcox	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Aye		

F. Parcel 1B Remediation Project Authorization

David Myers (Project Manager II—Engineering) presented on behalf of the Port. The background, project details and scope of the cleanup were presented. The financial summary, including design and construction, was reviewed.

MOTION: Approve an increase in the project authorization in the amount of \$2,500,000 for a total authorized amount of \$3,700,000 for work associated with Earley Business Center (Parcel 1B) Interim Cleanup Action LNAPL Source and UST Removals Project, Master Identification No. 101287.04.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ang and seconded by Commissioner Keller. Discussion ensued.

VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0

Commissioner Ang	Aye	Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye	Commissioner Wilcox	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Aye		

7. **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:** None

8. **NEW BUSINESS:** None

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

10. **ISSUE BRIEFINGS:** *This item was heard earlier in the meeting.*

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMENTS:

- A. **Eric Johnson** – Announced this was Tony Warfield’s last meeting. He is retiring at the end of this month.
- B. **Commissioner Keller** — Lisa Carter was recognized and thanked for her work as the interim Executive Assistant, filling in for Judi Doremus who retired after 18 years with the Port. She also recognized Alisa Praskovich and Helen Hickman for assisting Lisa in this work.
- C. **Commissioner Ang** — Thanked Rod Koon, our Community Outreach staff (Leslie Barstow & Katie Skelton), and our Government Affairs Staff (Alice McDaniel) for the Ports & Popcorn event, as well as other outreach events.
- D. **Commissioner Wilcox** — Echoed Commissioner Keller’s comments and thanked Lisa Carter. He also appreciates the habitat enhancements the Port is making and is excited to see what the barrier island

provides for the habitat. Salmon recovery is of particular interest, but he hopes we also consider predator prevention around this work.

E. **Commissioner Marzano** — Echoed that the Port will miss Tony. He also thanked Lisa Carter for her work.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Marzano adjourned the meeting at **1:35 p.m.**

ATTEST:



Dick Marzano, President
Port of Tacoma Commission



Kristin Ang, Secretary
Port of Tacoma Commission



Helen Hickman, Clerk
Port of Tacoma