



# BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

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## Bi-State Working Group Meeting Summary

Monday, May 13, 2022 | 2:30pm – 4pm  
Port of Hood River – Commission Board Room & Via Zoom  
1000 E Port Marina Drive, Hood River OR 97031

### In Attendance:

**Members:** Chair, Mike Fox (Commissioner), Port of Hood River; Vice Chair, Jake Anderson (Commissioner), Klickitat County; Catherine Kiewit (Mayor), City of Bingen; Marla Keethler (Mayor), City of White Salmon; Kate McBride (Mayor), City of Hood River; Bob Benton (Commissioner), Hood River County

**Alternates:** Kristi Chapman (Commissioner), Port of Hood River; Arthur Babitz (Commissioner), Hood River County; Joe Sullivan, City of Bingen; Jason Hartmann (Councilor), City of White Salmon; David Sauter (Commissioner),

**Staff/Consultants:** Kevin Greenwood (Project Director), Port of Hood River; Michael McElwee (Executive Director), Port of Hood River; Hal Hiemstra, Summit Strategies.

**Guests:** None

### Welcome

Commissioner Fox opened the session and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner Fox turned to Sen. King for a brief update. Sen. King thanked everyone for their efforts with the replacement bridge project and stated that he was available to help in any way that he could and emphasized the importance of getting the new bridge in place as soon as possible. Sen. King has reached out to Dan Newhouse's office to make him aware of the replacement bridge project. Sen. King has also spoken to Raquel Crowley from Sen. Murrays office and plans to reach out to Jaime Herrera.

### Meeting Minutes

The minutes from April 11 regular meeting were approved by consensus.

### Federal Advocacy Trip, Hal Hiemstra

Commissioner Fox noted that there is a trip planned to Washington DC in July. The purpose of the trip is to seek funds and inform others of the Replacement Bridge project. The Port staff is currently working on a grant application for \$195 million. Commissioner Fox commented that it needs to be decided who will attend the DC trip and turned to Hal Hiemstra, of Summit Strategies, for a brief update. Hiemstra was delighted that the Port is interested in coming to Washington and noted that those who show up seem to be the ones that get the most attention. Hiemstra reviewed the agenda and suggested they stay at least two and a half days to meet with everyone. Group consensus was to stay for at least 3 days. Hiemstra will launch their initial request next week.

Commissioner Fox turned to Kevin Greenwood for a brief update on the grant application. Greenwood noted that the deadline is on May 23 and requested Letters of Support (LOS) from each agency. Hiemstra added that the LOS need to emphasize that there is a broad coalition of support and there is local funding that is being put into the project. Commissioner Anderson suggested including LOS from businesses that are currently being affected by the load restrictions.

## Replacement Bridge Management Contract (RBMC) Recommendation

Commissioner Fox reported that the Evaluation Committee has completed its work in scoring the written and oral evaluations. Both the Evaluation Committee and the Bi-State Working Group has made its recommendation. Commissioner Fox reviewed the negotiation schedule with the RBMC firm.

**Motion:** To present the Committee’s recommendation to the Port Commission for a final decision on May 17.  
**Move:** Jake Anderson  
**Second:** Kate McBride  
**Discussion:** None  
**Vote:** Unanimous  
**MOTION CARRIED**

## Project Updates/Other Items

Commissioner Fox noted that Commissioner Benton and Steve Siegel would provide an update at the next meeting on governance for the Bi-State Bridge Authority.

## Adjourn

Next meeting is scheduled for June 13.

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