

**MINUTES
NOME PORT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
May 20th, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 6:39 pm by Acting Chairman Henderson at the Public Safety Building located on the Greg Kruschek Ave.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Smithhisler; Henderson; Rowe; Sheffield; McLarty

Absent: Lean; West

Also Present: Joy Baker, Port Director (zoom)

In the audience: Julia Lerner, Ken Morton

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Acting Chairman Henderson asked for a motion to approve the agenda:

Motion to approve made by Sheffield, seconded by McLarty.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Henderson; Rowe; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 15th, 2021
Regular Meeting

Motion made by McLarty, seconded by Sheffield to approve minutes

At the Roll Call

Ayes: Henderson; Rowe; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS none

COMMUNICATIONS

- 21-04-27 Harbor Launch Ramp Repair Project – Construction Schedule (Draft)
- 21-05-10 Harbor Launch Ramp Repair Project Closure – Nugget Advertisement
- 21-05-11 Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska – NG ORION Cruise Passenger Policy

Discussion:

- HM Stotts provided an overview of the Launch Ramp construction schedule and noted the project will be started sometime after the 10th. It was noted that advertisements on the ramp closure are being published in the Nugget and posted at the facility and at local stores.
- McLarty asked if port staff were making notifications by phone of the closure as well; HM Stotts replied that yes, that all users were contacted and advised at the beginning of the season.

- Henderson wanted to confirm that once the construction started, all launches and other local use would have to completely stop at that location. HM Stotts confirmed that was the case but that we have an alternate haul out location identified at the East Gravel Ramp.
- HM Stotts noted that CLAA, our cruise line agent, stated that if cruises were to take place this year, all crew and passengers will be required to be fully vaccinated per on-board policy. At this time 3-5 cruises are still looking to call on Nome and most will be a full turn of passengers in Nome.
- HM Stotts provided a brief overview of the 2021 COVID Criteria that was sent to all commercial carriers stating what Nome's current COVID policies and travel procedures are and where to find more information.
- Henderson asked about the recent governors bill to salvage the 2021 cruise season and if that would make any difference for us here in Nome. HM Stotts commented that he believes that we will not see any additional cruises as this more affects the smaller micro-cruises in the southeast.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES none

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

HM Stotts provided an update on recent activities and prep work at the port;

- Provided overview on staffing at the port office this season regarding the return of Chris Schuneman and Joelene Kacena.
- Working with new port users on basic facility services and set up with storage areas.
- Providing quotes for port services and issuing docking permits.
- Working on collections from last season with decent success.
- On the 12th we had a tabletop exercise with NVFD and NVAD simulating a passenger vessel having an incident in the outer harbor and then sinking in place and spilling 50,000 gal of diesel and a large amount of toxic substance also released into the environment. HM Stotts noted that it was a good exercise and we are looking to hold a live exercise training event on the water at some point this summer as well.
- Improving the surfacing on all port properties, focusing on the City Dock as AML is prepping to stage freight at the Causeway for their first barge. Also noted we are looking to add more armor stone near the City Dock to help prevent future washouts.
- Noted SEAKERS INC is conducting fuel header maintenance and is currently rebuilding one of the valves.
- Planning to improve the east gravel ramp surfacing and have the buried utilities power line located. McLarty noted that there are a few large rocks on the east side of the harbor near the ramp that should be removed before large vessels use it.

Discussion:

- Smithhisler asked about the TBS pad settlement and if we had any work planned this summer. HM Stotts commented that PWR's current plan was to fill all low spots as material came available. Smithhisler commented that the city had just signed a material sale agreement with Bering Straits and they had good material for this type of work. HM Stotts commented that we were hoping to get some of that for this project.
- Rowe asked about Andrew Lee's barge down west beach and if I had heard any new news on if that will be relaunched. HM Stotts commented that he has not heard any news but understands that the bottom of the barge needs to be replaced due to damages.

PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PD Baker provided a brief update on her provided report, stating;

- We have the go ahead from the City and Corps attorneys to finally execute the design agreement for the port expansion. Once copies are distributed, the design team will be selected and a schedule established. The city has an RFP out for design services to design the local service facilities that the city is responsible for. PD Baker commented that we expect the proposals in on the 28th of May, we will then be evaluating those proposals based on qualifications to determine who will attend the charrette.
- We are still working with the Corps on the study to widen and deepen the Inner Harbor.
- Port Rd Improvements; we expect the advertising for the Port Rd construction to go out in July/Aug.

Discussion:

- Sheffield asked about next steps in the process with expansion. PD Baker stated that one the clock starts on the design (PED) phase, there is basically a 2-year window to complete this phase, and produce a full design of the General Navigation Features (GNF) for the federal components of breakwaters/dredging, as well as the Local Service Facilities (LSF) docks/roads/utilities/bridge/dolphins, within a construction solicitation package.
- Sheffield asked what the objective of the charrette is; PD Baker stated, it is to get capture public, agency and sponsor input on the project plans, and initiate discussion between design teams to inform the details for interfacing with the Corps and each other on the selected design.
- Sheffield asked if that means this project is a “for sure thing”. PD Baker stated we have an enormous amount of support at the state and federal level, and the project has received congressional authorization through the FY21 Consolidated Appropriations Act, but has not yet been funded for construction.
- Rowe asked what the timeframe on the Port Rd construction; PD Baker indicated construction is expected in 2022, along with improvements to Seppala Drive.

OLD BUSINESS none

NEW BUSINESS

- Nome Port Road Reconstruction MOA:

PD Baker commented that it’s basically a maintenance agreement between the state and city; talking about the work that each will cover for the project and after, noting ownership and maintenance obligations after completion.

- NJUS Tank Farm Site Prelim Drawings – Request for Comments

Ken Morton provided an overview of the newly proposed site for the NJUS tank farm layout, stating;

- CRW has been given the go ahead to look into technical, environmental, and grading options for placement of fuel tanks on the north end of the USAF property.
- Initial placement of the proposed tank locations may be a little too far to the west, so some additional geo-tech work will be needed to evaluate if the subsurface materials are similar across the area.
- Dynamic compaction has a greater likelihood of pushing any contaminants out of this area and onto surrounding lands due to greater forces when compacting. Therefore, there has been discussion on driving a ring of piling to serve as a tank base, with bedrock down about -35 ft. This type of piling system would need to be strengthened laterally to safely deal with those types of forces. Dynamic compaction helps stiffen up that lateral load to prevent this.

Discussion:

- Smithhisler asked if the location might be inside the flood plain. Morton added that with the permeable cap already in place, new tanks would be higher than the power plant which is out of the flood plain.
- Henderson commented that if the shaded area on the map was contaminated land that is currently planned to be avoided, there looks to be room for NJUS tanks along the West edge, but not much room for anything else.
- McLarty asked for the updated status on the land conveyance. PD Baker stated that she spoke with the new site manager assigned to the project, who indicated she had just arrived in the real estate section and needed to review the project to get up to speed. Baker added, there is a transfer agreement in place, but DEC must buy off on the transfer as they have jurisdiction over the land use controls that must remain in effect through the conveyance. The City continues to wait for USAF and ADEC to complete their coordination
- Henderson asked Ken Morton on the new proposed pipeline route. Ken stated it would run straight down the road from the west to the new location.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

None

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS

Smithhisler had no comment.

Sheffield had no comment.

Rowe commented that Bering Air now requires either a test or a vaccination to fly with them. Rowe stated that Bering Air may have about 600ft of extra fencing left over from the construction of their new hangar later in September if there is a need from the City.

McLarty commented that he appreciated Ken's update on the tank farm status. Also stated the importance of the East side dirt ramp and having fencing would be nice to have for secure storage on that side of the harbor.

Henderson commented there is a lot of working going on at the NJUS and Bonanza tank farm sites this summer and cautions all users in the area to keep a look out. Also stated he is excited for the ORION cruise ship and is hopeful they stay on the schedule. Lastly, he commented the Nome Chamber of Commerce is drafting a letter of support for the deep draft port project.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by McLarty for adjournment 6:42 pm.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 19th day of August 2021.

Jim West Jr.

Jim West, Chairman

ATTEST:

JLBaker

Joy Baker, Port Director