



Port Community Liaison Committee

Meeting summary notes

Meeting:	
Date:	Thursday, October 12, 2023
Time:	8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Location:	Hybrid meeting (in-person at the Delta Community Office and over Zoom)
Facilitator:	Michelle LeBaron
Attendees:	<p>Community representatives Randy Anderson-Fennell, Ladner Mike Frost, Ladner Sepia Sharma, North Delta Heather Lapper, Tsawwassen Greg Wirch, Tsawwassen</p> <p>Organizational representatives Chris Bevilacqua, BC Railway Company Mike Brotherston, City of Delta Jill McKnight, Delta Chamber of Commerce Noel Roddick, Delta Farmers' Institute Jennifer Natland, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Greg Andrew, Westshore Terminals</p> <p>Guest: Jodi Waring, Westshore Terminals</p> <p>Committee coordinators Tanya Hawke, VFPA Marc Testa, VFPA</p>
Regrets :	Richard Sparrow, Musqueam First Nation Sheila Williams, Tsawwassen First Nation Marko Dekovic, Global Container Terminals Oliver Busby, Environmental Representative

Agenda topic	Discussion/action items
1. Welcome, acknowledgement and introductions	<p>Michelle began with an Indigenous land acknowledgement and noted the meeting's regrets.</p> <p>Michelle welcomed new member Mike Brotherston who is a City of Delta representative. Additionally, Jody Warring was welcomed as a guest speaker.</p>
2. Westshore Terminals Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greg Andrews and Jodi Waring began the presentation by explaining the history of Westshore and its goals to diversify by exporting potash. - Greg gave general information on their site, capacity, and upgrades such as how they receive nearly 1500 train loads of coal per year and fill 283 ships. - The presenters explained the differences between metallurgical (steel making) and thermal coal. Canada mines both types. - They explained how no viable(lower carbon) alternatives to metallurgical coal have been found to create steel. - Most of the coal used globally is for electrical/heat generating. Global coal use is continuing to increase even as its market share decreases (as of 2022). - Westshore has multiple environmental mitigation techniques such as water towers to lessen dust, nesting sites for local birds and regular tests of both air and water quality. Results can be found here. - Westshore has maintained a Green Marine certification since 2013. - Michelle observed that PCLC members have wanted to learn about coal and Westshore for a long time.
3. Port Update: Jennifer Natland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jennifer Natland presented a Port Update which can be found here. - Question: Greg Wirch - "Does the port need RBT2 capacity with container numbers down?" Jennifer responded – "When the port looks at capacity, we look at long term trends, not small ups or downs that are impacted by short term factors... A slower rate of increase in demand may better align with when terminal comes online". - Jennifer acknowledges that Delta businesses are impacted by industrial land shortage in the Lower Mainland. - CEO search is active, working to have a candidate identified by year end. - Question: Greg Wirch - "Is the port worried about the recent performance rating and how do they plan to improve it?" Jennifer: "The performance rating only reflects on the container sector. The largest sector at the Port of Vancouver is bulk goods. The port authority acknowledges the current congestion of containers on terminals and is trying to incentivize supply chain speed increases." - Question: Jill McKnight –Stated that many community members had concerns about approving a new terminal at a port with such a poor rating and asked if the terminal was even needed. Commented that the community didn't hear a response via the media from the port authority about the poor rating. - Question: Greg Wirch – Asked how Canada Border Service Agency has a bad reputation for slowing down the movement of containers on terminals and asked how they could alleviate their impact on dwell times. - Question: Mike Frost – Asked for perspective on port policing and expansion of RBT2. Jennifer recommended a security representative attend the next meeting to discuss port policing. Jennifer said the port authority acknowledges gaps in the system and that port authority's security is supplemented by on site terminal security and the CBSA. CBSA wants to inspect more containers, but it does not have enough facilities.
4. Roundtable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michelle read a farewell message from Bernita.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike Brotherston explained he was interested in port police and RBT2 discussions to come. (City of Delta policing report can be found here). - Jill McKnight recommended the Delta Community Office's upcoming event with Indigenous storyteller Nathan Wilson. She then included info on the change that brought Tourism Delta under the scope of the Delta Chamber. The annual business excellence awards and citizen of the year finalists will be made public after the meeting. - Randy Anderson-Fennell – Began by recounting his experience at a meeting on the state of local dredging. Topics centered on the responsibility for the maintenance of secondary channels and why the port authority did not have representatives attend. A lot of finger-pointing occurred from all levels of government. Randy also mentioned that the mayor of Delta expressed frustration that despite the port authority offering \$6 million to the community of Delta through the RBT2 community investment program, none would be used for dredging. - Noel Roddick stated that the main channel near Westham Island continues to see an increase in silt build up due to changes that historical dredging has caused. Noel also expressed his frustration that he believed the federal government favoured funding east coast dredging over similar west coast projects. He also asked why the port police were disbanded. - Jennifer stated the port authority was not invited to the dredging meeting and that the community investment fund would be dispersed throughout the community. She suggested having port authority representatives at the next meeting who can talk about dredging and the RBT2 community investment program. - Mike Frost expressed his appreciation for the Port Forward process at which he represented PCLC. The final report is available here. - Chris Bevilacqua gave an update on BC rail upgrades in their office and in their rail corridor. - Sepia Sharma noted this is her last meeting, mentioned the new B.C. masking rules and wished everyone to be safe.
<p>5. Recruitment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Randy, Mike and Oliver to renew their terms. - Will begin recruitment process for new community representatives, need a few committee members to volunteer for recruitment committee. Mike, Heather and Jill volunteered. - Tanya described the process of recruitment/referrals. - Greg Wirch mentioned the one-pager/orientation booklet for new committee members he worked on a few years ago. Tanya and Marc to review and finalize.
<p>6. Holiday Donation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jennifer increased the donation from \$1000 to \$2000. Committee decided to split it between two organizations. - Mission to Seafarers was chosen during the meeting. - Second organization being chosen through online poll of committee members. Suggestions include Delta Assist, South Delta Food Bank, Mamas for Mamas, and Guru Nanak Food Bank in North Delta.
<p>7. Conclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be ready at 5:30 p.m. - Michelle will schedule two year-end feedback sessions at the Delta office in November. - PCLC notes will now be made available in French to comply with the Federal official language act. The committee collectively states they don't believe the port needs to go back more than 2 years and recommended less than two years to make compliance easier. - Committee decides to continue the Zoom option for PCLC meetings.