

The Conversation

A/B Dock design informed by citizens advisory committee

Rotten piles, sagging flotation, crumbling bull rails. Look closely and the deficiencies of the 40-plus-year-old A/B Dock at the Port of Port Townsend Boat Haven become clear.


Having outlasted its useful life, the dock system with its 175 slips is beyond repair, and replacing it is a top priority for 2010-11.

"There are a lot of marinas around that look worse," says Tike Hillman, a member of the citizens advisory committee that will be making its design recommendations to the Port Commission in August. "But looks can be deceiving."

Since the committee was formed in late 2007, "most of the people who were skeptical are now convinced that it [the dock] is not repairable, and that was the first hurdle," he says.

Hillman is retired from marine construction management and was the project manager when the 15,000-s.f. dock system was constructed in 1965-66. His own boat is moored on A/B Dock, and what most concerns him is upper pile failure caused by wind loading at a high tide.

Committee members are Mark Jochems and Leif Erickson (marine trades reps), Susan Moffat (live-aboard rep), Barbara Nightingale (environmental rep), Steve Tucker (trailerable boat owner), Chelcie Liu (small boat owner), Bob Steele (Moorage Tenants Union rep), Sandy Oen (taxpayer at large), Hillman (citizen at large) and Keith Marzan (alternate).

 An expanded article & photos are posted online at www.portofpt.com/newsletter.htm.



Degrading styrofoam flotation is one of the irreparable aspects of the A/B Dock at Boat Haven. The dock system is slated for replacement in 2010-11.

Utilities upgraded at Quil Marina

Showers facilities are open again at the Herb Beck Marina & Industrial Park in Quilcene after being shut down for two years while the Port replaced a failing shoreline septic system.

The world's largest oyster hatchery will soon be hooked up to the new septic system as well. Coast Seafoods Co., a Port tenant, paid for its portion of the new infrastructure and benefits from the reduced risk of pollution to its famous Quilcene Bay shellfish beds.

"We are very glad to get on a nice new system, that's for sure," says Judy Edwards, hatchery site manager.

Reeves Excavating of Quilcene helped install the septic system, which was sized to serve more businesses in the future. "We built

a system far bigger than required so we would have room to expand," says Port Maintenance Supervisor Larry Aase.

Other utility upgrades now coming online in Quilcene are a new water main for the Port's Class A public water system, and a new access road to the hillside wellhead and reservoir.

The Port also recently replaced 80 feet of dock that was damaged in a storm, redid the electrical system for the fuel dock pumps, and regraded the parking lot. Next on tap are upgrades to the parking lot's stormwater system and applying for permits to dredge the harbor mouth.

"These are much-needed upgrades to the facility to make it more friendly for the local community to use and appreciate," says Aase.

The Coffee and The Conversation Are On Us

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Conversation*! The Port's quarterly newsletter has a new format and fresh insights for our tenants and stakeholders.

Communication with you is our top priority. That's why we'll always ask ourselves, "How does this article advance the conversation?"

Let us know how we're doing, and if you have a question or comment, call Executive Director Larry Crockett at (360) 385-0656 or drop by our administrative offices at Point Hudson. The door's always open and the coffee's always on!



Beck Family Legacy

On October 4, 1926, the first "Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements" was adopted and signed by Port Commissioner Herbert R. Beck. No, not our Herb Beck, although he has been a Port Commissioner for almost 35 years!

Herbert Rudolph "Pete" Beck was namesake and uncle to our Herb Beck, and served on the Port Commission from 1926-31. Along with his brothers, he ran one of the largest logging operations in the county, employing 75 people. Over the past 35 years, Herb has championed "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs" for Jefferson County, just as his uncles did in earlier days.



Contact a Commissioner

- John Collins, District 1—(360) 643-1410, jcollins@portofpt.com
- Dave Thompson, District 2—(360) 643-2050, info@portofpt.com
- Herb Beck, District 3—(360) 765-3728, herbbeck@embarqmail.com

From the Commission

Director Crockett has brought some original documents to light which remind us that the Port District was brought into being by a narrow margin of the voters in 1924. The taxpayers funded the original Boat Haven, which created the revenue source that has allowed the Port to build the Herb Beck Marina in Quilcene, build boat ramps, and take on and improve Jefferson County International Airport and Point Hudson Marina. That revenue source has also funded a marina expansion and upland improvements which support 500 marine trade jobs. This represents 17% of the wages paid in the county as measured by the Economic Development Council in 2005.

The declining activities of travelers on water, land and in the air have reduced the Port's operating revenues to just under operating expenses. This, combined with the climbing inflation rate (5.8% for June), presents an awkward time to replace A/B Dock, but necessity requires just that. We are tremendously fortunate to have a highly skilled and dedicated citizens advisory committee working with the selected engineering firm (PND) to develop a plan that we can implement.

The strategic planning process has opened a more formal avenue of communication, welcoming input from marine trades, moorage tenants, recreational boaters, nonprofits, businesses and educators. So far, this dialogue has been largely constructive. We know about the problems, but we are looking for solutions.

We've initiated two more expenses that won't add to the revenue stream and those are permits for and cost of dredging at the Quilcene marina, and the survey for the establishment of a no-precision approach at Jefferson County International Airport. This will allow scheduled traffic such as Fed Ex and UPS, along with Medevac flights, onto the field. And there's more—any questions, call me at (360) 643-2050.

—Dave Thompson, President



Business Spotlight: Craftsmen United, Inc.

Don't ask an employee at Craftsmen United, Inc. (CUI) his job title. You won't get a straight answer, and there's a reason for that.

"You're not a welder, pipe fitter or electrician," says CUI Vice President Jim Warner, explaining the company's philosophy. "You're a craftsman."

Collectively, the 16 skilled craftsmen employed at CUI did \$1.3 million in business in 2007 and CUI President Dan Wiggins expects that amount could triple in 2008.

Impressive for a 3-year-old company that for the last two years has occupied an unassuming building in the Port of Port Townsend Shipyard (formerly occupied by Waste Not Want Not).

"We don't try to stay under the radar," jokes Wiggins, "we're just too busy working!"

CUI specializes in aluminum boatbuilding, retrofitting and fabrication. Their first big job was widening the hull of the 58' Alaska fishing vessel *Tanusha* by six feet, and their next big job is retrofitting the X-Craft, the navy's *Sea Fighter* FSF-1. CUI also subcontracts to (and often travels to) regional shipyards and yacht manufacturers. Construction in Port Townsend of a helicopter landing pad for a yacht being built by Seattle's LeClercq Marine is a recent example.

"Scheduling and skills" are CUI's competitive advantage, says Wiggins. They don't advertise, but the work has been steady.

Ably aided by project managers Dave Breining, Kurt Helley and Billy McCabe, Warner says, "we're almost at the point where Dan and I can step away from the tools and concentrate on the path we want this business to take."

The two have been working together in the aluminum industry for 25 years, first at a Beall truck trailer factory in Oregon, then at Nichols Bros. shipyard on Whidbey Island. Launching CUI is their first joint business venture.

And the owners are looking ahead. "If [the Port] had a bigger haul-out facility, we could probably hire 50 guys," says Wiggins. "Long term, we're thinking about tomorrow, not just today." (www.craftsmenunitedinc.com)



Craftsmen United, Inc. employees (left to right) Ray Hammar, Jeremy Coburn and Kelley McDaniel take a break from work on a yacht's helicopter landing pad with President Dan Wiggins and Vice President Jim Warner.

Stewardship Update: BMPs covered in new DVD

Best Management Practices (BMPs) to "stop pollution at the source" are the subject of a new DVD that the Port has made available to all tenants and posted at www.portofpt.com.

The 18-minute video, produced by Port Townsend's own Wiant Productions, features local folks practicing "good portsmanship" by properly disposing of bilge water, sewage and hazardous materials, as well as minimizing their environmental impact when hauling out, washing down, fueling and doing in-water work.

You can pick up your free copy of the DVD

at the yard or marina offices, or call (360) 385-0656 to request it be mailed to you.

In other stewardship news:

- 18 acres of Scotch broom, a highly invasive weed, have been eradicated at the airport.
- The state Department of Ecology has awarded the Port a \$350,000 grant to do stormwater upgrades in the shipyard next summer.
- The old Boat Haven trestle will be pulled this fall/winter as part of a Puget Sound Partnership program to remove derelict creosote-treated piles.

BY THE NUMBERS: 995 haul-outs at the Port of Port Townsend Shipyard in the first 70 attendees at the strategic planning kick-off meeting on May 21 ... 4,300 linear feet Commissioner John Collins on his bicycle to Port meetings this year ... 4,918 guest

Port People

On the Fourth of July weekend, **Mark Peil** and **Chris Hanson** celebrated the opening of their new dive shop, Hudson Point Dive (www.divept.com).

Also newly open for business at Point Hudson is Port Townsend Canvas Co., operated by **Leah Kefgen**. Talk about one-stop shopping—one building now houses a boat shop, sail loft, rigging loft and canvas loft!

The Northwest Maritime Center/Wooden Boat Foundation welcomes the following new staff members: Chandlery Manager **Jerry Fry**, Capital Campaign Manager **Len Maranan Goldstein**, and Puget Sound Explorers Program Manager **Andy Gale**.

Joining the team of fabricators at Craftsmen United, Inc. is apprentice **John Greer**. Following the departure in May of long-time Operations and Marine Facilities Manager **Ken Radon**, the Port has hired Northwest Management to assist with a staff reorganization of its 27 employees.

On June 27, Sunrise Coffee Co. owner **Sue Ohlson** married **Bill Curtsinger**. Congratulations, Sue and Bill!

Send your Port People submissions (hirings, promotions, marriages, births, awards, publications) for the fall quarter (July-Sept.) to editor@portofpt.com.

Port Shorts

JEFFERSON COUNTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: Construction began in June on the first of 65 new airplane hangars that will be completed and available for sale over the next three years. First to break ground was NW Hangars of Auburn, one of four hangar developers to hold land leases from the Port for this expansion project. The company plans to build three of the planned seven new hangar buildings.



Port Townsend Aircraft Services is rebuilding at the airport after a fire.

- Port Townsend Aircraft Services is rebuilding after an accidental fire on May 1 that damaged much of the exterior of its 5,000-s.f. building. "Weather cooperating, maybe by the end of August, we'll be back to normal," says co-owner Jodi Hallinan. Although the business—which includes flight lessons and airplane rentals as well as aircraft maintenance and repair—has stayed open, the pilot lounge, a popular gathering place, has been greatly missed.
- The popular Airport Days fly-in has been canceled for 2008, due to insurance concerns. The event may return in future years.

POINT HUDSON MARINA & RESORT: Two years after it was renamed "Hudson Point," this action was reversed by resolution on May 13. The official name is once again "Point Hudson."

- The undergrounding of electrical lines is complete and about 20 old wooden power poles have been removed at Point Hudson, opening up the view corridors. The Port plans to widen the streets and do more paving next year.

BOAT LAUNCHES: Port-maintained boat launch ramps at Port Hadlock, Mats Mats Bay, Gardiner, Quilcene and the Port Townsend Boat Haven are open and ready to facilitate your summer boating needs!

Restoration Spotlight: The 1907 Schooner Martha



This winter, the 68' schooner Martha underwent a major rebuild at the PT Shipwrights Co-op, located at the Port of Port Townsend Shipyard. Her wooden hull received all new planking and many new frames and timbers. She was re-launched on May 7, attended by scores of well-wishers. Overseeing a largely volunteer labor force were shipwright Antonio Salguero and Martha's captain and caretaker Robert d'Arcy (pictured at center, to the right of his daughter Mary and wife Holly). The 101-year-old vessel is owned and operated by the nonprofit Schooner Martha Foundation (www.schoonermartha.org). Photos by Michael Berman

six months of 2008 ... **Three** vessel rendezvous scheduled for summer ... More than 100 boats blocked up in the yards in June ... An estimated **150** miles ridden by 1000 nights in Port accommodations (both boats & RVs) in the first six months of 2008



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Join *The Conversation!*



Send your feedback, Port People submissions and story ideas to Editor Shelly Randall at editor@portoft.com or (360) 385-0811.

To add a name or make a change to the mailing list, contact Sue Nelson at snelson@portoft.com or (360) 385-0656.

Strategic planning Q&A with Commissioner John Collins

Special insert in this issue explains calendar, process, how to comment

John Collins was elected to the Port Commission (serving District 1) in the fall of 2007, promising to help develop a long-term, strategic vision for the Port.

Collins spent more than 35 years as a professor of public service at various schools around the country, including almost a decade at Seattle University, where he headed the Institute of Public Service. He has taught courses on strategic planning for both local government and nonprofits.

The Conversation (TC) asked Collins (JC) to elaborate on the strategic planning process the Port is now undertaking. (Note: See the special insert in this issue for more details.)

TC: How do you define strategic planning?

JC: The goal of strategic planning is aligning an organization with its ever-changing environment—as opposed to long-term planning, which is continuing into the future what you’ve been doing in the past. So the Port is doing a “SWOT analysis” (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) right now, looking out to see 5-year trends and emerging conditions that we can align ourselves with.

TC: Why undertake strategic planning now?

JC: It’s an idea whose time has come. The new commission has a renewed interest in finding out what the community wants and



expects and needs from their port.

TC: So strategic planning is not just concerned with capital projects?

JC: No, it will identify what capital projects should be pursued and will develop a priority list, but it has to do with policies as well. For example, there’s a cry for the Port to be more transparent, and that won’t require big bucks. We’ll also be revisiting the mission—in our case, that’s economic development—and developing some broad strategies for accomplishing it.

TC: What should we expect as an outcome of the strategic planning process?

JC: Oftentimes, planning efforts result in a lengthy document that goes on a shelf and is referred to rarely or only in passing. Strategic planning tends to emphasize the process as being as important as the written end product. There will be a final report, and it will be subject to change, but hopefully there will also be a continuation of the practice of listening and engaging key stakeholders.

TC: How will stakeholders know they’ve been heard in the process?

JC: The proof of the pudding will be to talk to that group in 4-5 years and point to tangible actions that have been taken based on their comments.



Port Calendar

Note: No Airport Days this year
Aug. 9-10—*Latitudes & Attitudes* Northwest Cruisers’ Party, Point Hudson
Sept. 5-7—32nd Annual Wooden Boat Festival, Point Hudson
(www.woodenboat.org)

Regularly scheduled Port Commission meetings are the **second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m.** and the **fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.** A 9:30 a.m. public workshop precedes the regular meeting on the second Wednesday.

Location: the Commission Chambers, Port Administration Building, 375 Hudson Street, Point Hudson, Port Townsend.



The Conversation is the quarterly newsletter of the Port of Port Townsend, a county-wide municipal corporation, whose mission is “to responsibly develop property and facilities that encourage job creation, private investment, local economic stability and diversity, and to better the quality of life for the citizens throughout Jefferson County.”

Edited by Shelly Randall, Story Services

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