COMMISSIONERS AT THE HELM, PROVIDE STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The spirit of the 1911 Port District Act was to preserve prime real estate for the economic benefit of communities across our state. To ensure this control, it established ports as independent governments run by a board of locally-elected commissioners. Citizens could now elect an official with their economic future in mind - someone to represent them with the power to set port policy, establish annual budgets and designate leadership.

Primary functions of the Port Commission include establishing policies that guide the overall direction of the Port. Plans, such as the Strategic Plan and Master Plan, all drive the Port toward economic success for the community.

Implementation of policies is done by the Commission through the development of the annual budget. By allocating financial resources to key infrastructure projects, cargo handling investments and other projects, the Commission is moving policy toward goals they identified in their planning documents. These plans, combined with the annual budget, ensure the Port is headed toward achieving long-term goals aimed at generating economic benefits and jobs for our community, while connecting cargo with international markets.

Aside from policy-making, Commissioners are also responsible for the only employee they manage: the Chief Executive Officer. The CEO, in turn, administers Commission policies as part of day-to-day operations through the Port’s management team and support staff.

While many Commissioners across the country are appointed for the only employee they manage: the Chief Executive Officer. The CEO, in turn, administers Commission policies as part of day-to-day operations through the Port’s management team and support staff.

Q: What is your best memory from your time as Commissioner?
A: “Traveling to our nation’s capital in 1988 with the Port Commission to receive the “Excellence in Export” award from President Ronald Reagan at the White House Rose Garden. It was thrilling and also helped cement the Port’s international standing.”

Q: Why do you feel the Port continues to be so successful?
A: “Teamwork. The Port is at its best when stakeholders work together for the benefit of our customers. No matter the challenge, we always make it happen together. That spirit of collaboration is the secret behind the Port of Longview’s tremendous achievements.”

Q: Do you have any advice for aspiring Commissioners?
A: “The best candidates will be those who regularly attend Commission meetings and engage with our staff. Do your homework; immerse yourself in all areas of the Port and you will quickly develop a foundation for success.”

Q&A LARRY LARSON

BACKGROUND: Larry Larson is the longest-tenured Commissioner in Port of Longview history. Appointed in 1978 at the age of 39, Larry became the first working longshoreman to serve on the Commission and would do so for a record-setting 29 consecutive years. Larry retired in 2007 after spending 50 years on the waterfront.

Q: Do you have any advice for aspiring Commissioners?
A: “The best candidates will be those who regularly attend Commission meetings and engage with our staff. Do your homework; immerse yourself in all areas of the Port and you will quickly develop a foundation for success.”

PORT TALK
PORT OF LONGVIEW NEWSLETTER

MEET YOUR PORT OF LONGVIEW COMMISSIONERS

JEFF WILSON
SECRETARY, DIST. #1
Long-time local business owner and resident, Jeff Wilson was elected in 2016 to serve as a Commissioner through 2021.

DOUG AVERETT
PRESIDENT, DIST. #2
Former Port Director of Terminal Operations, Doug Averett was elected to the Board in 2017 and serves through 2024.

ALLAN ERICKSON
VICE PRESIDENT, DIST. #3
Allan Erickson was selected by the Commission in 2018 to fulfill the remainder of the District 3 term, through 2019.

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR LINK IS TO THE PORT OF LONGVIEW?

Did you know that your voice is working to guide the Port of Longview? In this sense, your voice comes through elected officials who represent your interests on the Port’s Board of Commissioners.

The Port of Longview’s port district is divided into three geographic sub-districts and occupies the northern two-thirds of Cowlitz County, from just north of Kalama to the Lewis County line. A Commissioner is elected from each of these sub-districts to set policy that guides the Port.

Learn more about your Port of Longview commissioners and how you can engage with them directly by visiting our community education website, www.MyPortofLongview.com

COMMISSION MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at 10:00 am and are open to the public. Meeting times are subject to change.

For more information, visit portoflongview.com

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