



Anchorage Port Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: October 8, 2025

Scheduled Time: 12pm – 2pm

Location: Port Admin third-floor conference room/virtual via Microsoft Teams

Present	Port Commissioners:	Commissioner Dick Traini (seat 1), Commissioner Christopher Manculich (seat 3), Commissioner Peggy Jean Rotan (seat 5), Commissioner Nathaniel Betz (seat 6), Vice-Chair Aves Thompson (vice-chair) (seat 7), Chair Ron Ward (seat 8), Commissioner Stephanie Kesler (seat 9) (virtual)
	Staff:	Acting Director Mike Abbott; Deputy Director, Operations and Maintenance Ronnie Poole; Port Engineer Bill Carlson; Deputy Director, Finance and Administration Cheryl Beckham; Deputy Director, Programs and Security Jim Jager; Kathleen King
	Guests:	Cynthia Kirkham (ADEC); Brittney Kennington (ALMAR); Billy Godwin (TOTE); Robert Olson (Matson), Dylan Faber (Matson), Chris Vernon (North Star Terminal), Lev Yampolsky (Petro Star), Paul Wallis (Moffatt & Nichol)
Absent	Port Commissioners:	Commissioner Simon Lisiecki (seat 2), Commissioner Mike Robbins (seat 4) (excused)
Absent	Staff:	PAMP Engineer Manager John Daley (excused for conflicting meeting), Safety Coordinator Brandon Dringle (excused for conflicting meeting)

I. Meeting called to order at 12:01 PM –Chair Ron Ward opened the meeting. Commissioners, staff and guest attendance shown above. There was a quorum.

II. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Chair Ward

III. Safety Minute – Ronnie Poole discussed building safety, earthquake procedure and evacuation procedures

IV. Approval of Agenda – Moved by Commissioner Manculich, seconded by Commissioner Kesler, and unanimously approved.

V. Approval of Minutes of the June 18, 2025, meetings – Approval of minutes was moved by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Kesler, and unanimously approved without edit.



VI. Port Director's Comments – Mr. Abbott addressed the following topics:

- a. Introduced himself, described new port director's selection process and discussed Anchorage Port Commission participation in discussion process. Commissioners unanimously agreed that they would appreciate opportunity to participate in selection process. Mr. Abbott said he would brief Municipal Manager regarding Port Commission interest.

VII. Staff Reports –

Operations and Maintenance (Ronnie Poole):

- Artic Edge Overview
- Five cruise ships in 2025, expect seven next year, including four overnigheters
- Ship creek floats are pulled and restrooms are closed for the season
- Seasonal dredging ends Oct 31
- South Float will be pulled by the end of the first week of Nov
- Four cement ships in 2025, with last one scheduled to depart about Oct 21
- Preparing for winter operations
- Maintenance will be fully staffed by end of Oct

Engineering (Bill Carlson):

- PCT – aiming to be ready to open fuel operation by end of Oct.
- Sprung Structure/Port Maintenance Structure – aim to publish ITB for grading-civil and foundation construction by November
- Wharf Capital Improvements – working on five-year maintenance budget and plan – including term contract(s) for repair, inventory of spare common components, inspection scheudule, repair schedules and preparation for emergent repairs as needed
- Matson Intersection -- field adjustments installed, waiting for feedback from operators
- POAVY upgrade – investigating potential POAVY-related upgrades

PAMP (John Daley) (Jim Jager reported for Mr. Daley):

- North Extension Stabilization 1 (NES1) -- project near completion major equipment largely demobilized. Project close out and budget / change order reconciliation underway. Contractor is building a relieving platform to support ring crane to support T1 construction project
- Terminal 1 construction (T1) -- Shop drawings and submittals underway. Large diameter piling being fabricated, coated, and staged in Washington State. Port access, laydown yards, and construction zones are being planned with users. Large mobilization of equipment and materials expected in spring 2026.
- Terminal 1 Substation -- Preliminary design underway (due by end of the year). Coordinating plans with Matson and CEA.
- Fenders -- Repairs underway on four fender frames and additional fender repairs are anticipated in 2026.
- POL2 condition assessment – Contractor proposals received on Oct 7, 2025. Report andicipated near end of year.



- South Floating Dock anode was damaged during maintenance dredging. Discussions underway regarding liability and repair/replacement. MOA Risk Management (insurance) is involved.

Finance (Cheryl Beckham)

- See financial and tonnage reports in meeting packet
- PoA revenue and tonnage are on track with budget – currently at 107 percent of revenue year-to-date.

Programs, policy and security (Jim Jager)

- Federal grants:
 - FY25 PIDP (Port Infrastructure Development Program) -- FY25 application submitted in Sept. to support petroleum terminal planning (to replace POL2). Requested \$4.7M (60percent-40percent match). Small but strategic grant application intended to generate early MARAD involvement with project that should improve permitting and future construction support.
 - FY25 USDOT Protect (Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation) – FY25 NOFO is still frozen
 - FY24 EPA Clean Ports Program -- \$1.9M award (100 percent grant) – proceeding
 - FY25 Port Security Grant Program – – NOFO in August with two-week submission window. We passed due to resource constraints
 - FY25 Defense Community Infrastructure Program – NOFO submitted and denied
 - FY25 Congressionally Delegate Spending (CDS) – Submitted \$5million request to support T1 electric substation. Pending
 - U.S. Marine Highway Program – NOFO anticipated in early 2026. Positioning to write grant application to support new docksider purchase.
- Security and cybersecurity compliance -- Passed USCG annual inspection in October
- Access control, security system communication system upgrade grant project closed out in August and proceeding with final installation. Aim to have most equipment installed and functioning by end of year.
- Port microgrid and battery project -- PoA microgrid and BESS contractor selected and waiting for authorization to negotiate contract
- Port Power Plan consultant RFP -- consultant selected and anticipate Assembly approval at 21Oct. meeting

VIII. Old Business –

- **PIEP litigation update:** (Mr. Abbott)
Muni filed suit against MARAD to recover damages for failed Port Intermodal Expansion Project (PIEP). Court of Federal Claims awarded Anchorage \$367 million in 2024. Federal government appealed earlier this year, the Federal Circuit Court reversed. The Federal Circuit vacated damages that the lower court had awarded and remanded the case to the Court of Federal Claims. The case is fully briefed in front of the Court of Federal Claims, and the Court will hear oral arguments on November 14, 2025, in San Francisco (unless the federal shutdown interferes)



with that schedule). There is no firm date by which the Court is expected to issue a decision, but it might occur within the next 6 months after oral argument.

- IX. **Correspondence Received by Commission:** None received
- X. **New Business:** None to conduct
- XI. **Public Comments:** None were made
- XII. **Port Director's Closing Comments:**
 - Mr. Abbott reminded commissioners that some of their terms are expiring. Discussion regarding terms of service and how to extend followed.
- XIII. **Commissioners Closing Comments:** Several commissioners thanked port staff for their briefings and work and thanked Mr. Abbott for stepping in as acting port director.
- XIV. **Next Meeting Date:** Scheduled for December 3, 2025, in third-floor conference room.
- XV. **Meeting Adjourned at 1:18 PM**