

**PORT DISTRICT OF SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND**

Minutes of the Workshop

March 29, 2011

Freeland, Washington

**Commissioners Present:** Chris Jerome (Langley), Curt Gordon (Clinton) and Geoff Tapert (Freeland)

**Others Present:**

**Port Staff:** Ed Field (Port Manager), Dane Anderson (Port Finance Manager), and Molly MacLeod-Roberts (Port Clerk); **Others:** John Vicklund (President, Impact Washington), Helen Price Johnson (Island County Commissioner), Dom Amor and Walt Blackford (Puget Sound Energy).

**WORKSHOP CALL TO ORDER:** The Special Workshop of the Port District of South Whidbey Island's Board of Commissioners was convened on March 29, 2011, in the meeting room of Puget Sound Energy's office located at 1794 Main Street in Freeland, WA. As announced, the purpose of the Special Workshop was to get information from Impact Washington. Commissioner Chris Jerome (President) called the Special Workshop to order at 9:02 a.m.

Tapert explained he was interested in learning how the Port could work with Impact Washington to provide economic development to the District by attracting manufacturing/light industrial jobs to the south end of Whidbey Island.


John Vicklund, President of Impact Washington, was on hand to provide details about the organization. He explained that Impact Washington is a Section 501(c)3 organization that provides manufacturing consulting services to Washington state businesses. One-third of the organization's funding comes from the Federal government, one-third from the State of Washington and one-third from the private sector – sort of a “use fee” for whatever services are provided. Impact Washington focuses on the state's small manufacturers – those companies with less than 500 employees. Only 2% of the 7,500 manufacturers in the state have more than 500 employees. He noted that 93% of the state's manufacturers have fewer than 100 employees and 50% have fewer than 10 employees.


Impact Washington believes “rebuilding the U.S. economy depends on rebuilding our manufacturing base, restoring family-wage manufacturing jobs and getting America in the business of making things again.” The organization conducted a comprehensive survey “State of Manufacturing in Washington 2010 Inaugural Report” (**EXHIBIT A**). The goal of Impact Washington is “...to foster awareness of issues and challenges that hinder the success of manufacturing and to provide solutions to meet those challenges.” Vicklund said the report provides Washington business and government leaders with a comprehensive overview of the health of the manufacturing sector in Washington State, as well as opportunities for growth in the future.

The Commission thanked Vicklund for providing an overview of the services Impact Washington provides (which is typically to established manufacturers wishing to expand or relocate, not start-ups).

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Approved:

  
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Commissioner Chris Jerome, Langley

  
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Commissioner Curt Gordon, Clinton

  
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Commissioner Geoff Tapert, Freeland

Minutes prepared by:

  
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Edwin S. Field, Port Manager

Exhibit A: "State of Manufacturing in Washington, 2010 Inaugural Report" Impact Washington