

# Morrow Re:Port

## Pacific Northwest Waterways Association Goes to Washington

Every spring members of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association gather in Washington D.C. The annual event provides an opportunity to shine a spotlight on PNWA projects and advocate for regional priorities with Congressional delegates, key staff, and federal agencies.

Port of Morrow staff highlighted grant projects and policy priorities that would have a significant economic impact, not just for Morrow County, but for the Pacific Northwest. Oregon Congressional delegates were given an overview of the pending Marine Highway Project Designation application submitted by the Port of Morrow. Once designated, the Port would be eligible to pursue additional federal funding to help support ongoing infrastructure improvements and expand barge and multi-modal services. Expanding barge service to the region will alleviate rail and highway congestion along the Columbia Gorge and facilitate movement of products for export.

“PNWA’s Mission to Washington is critical to our continued effort to educate Congress and federal agencies of the benefits of the Columbia and Snake Rivers as a navigation system as well as an incredibly important renewable hydro energy,” explains Port of Morrow Executive Director Ryan Neal. “The river system is the livelihood of our local economy from farmers to processors who are trying to get goods to markets across the world.”



*Jerry Healy, Joe Taylor, Ryan Neal, and Lisa Mittelsdorf meet with Senator Ron Wyden in Washington D.C.*

In addition, Oregon delegation members were thanked for their support and assistance in securing the BUILD Grant, which will help construct the Barge Terminal Rail Access Project. The Port of Morrow has been a PNWA member since 1961. Attending this year’s conference from the Port of Morrow were Ryan Neal, Lisa Mittelsdorf, Jerry Healy, and Joe Taylor. Debbie Pedro from the Columbia Development Authority also participated.

## Educator Externship Program Enters Second Year

Secondary teachers in Eastern Oregon are invited to participate in the Educator Externship Program June 17-20 and 24-27. This two-week program connects educators with industry professionals and provides an opportunity to discuss pathways and real-world workplace practices. Through participation in various activities and job site tours, teachers learn how their classroom learning strategies and content can help students select and be prepared for their future career.



Listen as teachers share their experiences from 2018:  
<https://youtu.be/s8bN5UODkic>

To find out more information and register, visit the Willamette Promise website: <https://www.wesd.org/domain/149>

Eastern Oregon secondary educators may apply via the Portal Workforce Logo on the Willamette Promise website.

*Pictured: Teachers from Morrow and Umatilla Counties talk with construction crew members during the 2018 Educator Externship.*

## Morrow Education Foundation Distributes Funds

In February, the Morrow Education Foundation received \$571,207.95 from CREZ II. Combined with existing funds, the Foundation awarded the following amounts:

Morrow County School District	\$334,562.95
Morrow County School District Intern Program	\$148,000
Ione School District	\$41,145
POM Workforce Training	\$82,500

“We are thrilled to support our students in Morrow County,” states Rick Stokoe, Morrow Education Foundation Board Chair. “The funds received from CREZ II help pay for programs, services, and projects that may not otherwise be funded because of tight State education budgets.”



Rick Stokoe presents a check to Morrow County School District Superintendent Dirk Dirksen.

Funds will be used for technology, field trips and learning experiences, workforce development, and early education.

“We would like to thank the Education Foundation for the generous donation,” says Dirksen. “We feel these opportunities and services are paramount as we continue to educate students from birth until they enter the workforce.”



Foundation Board Member Joe Taylor presents a check to Ione Community School.

Funds will be used to purchase 10 new Promethean boards for classrooms and Chrome books. “All of our students will benefit from these engaging learning tools,” reports principal Rollie Marshall.

## Benefits Flow from the Columbia River Enterprise Zone II

Enterprise zones are a unique resource for Oregon communities and provide benefits both for businesses locating within an enterprise zone and the region surrounding it. The Columbia River Enterprise Zone II (CREZ II) was established in 2009 after the success of the Columbia River Enterprise Zone I.

The FCS Group conducted an economic and community benefits analysis of the CREZ II. The study shows that the permanent annual economic benefits for 2018 include:

- Total employment of 2,505 jobs (1,565 direct, 752 indirect, 187 induced)
- Total output of \$937 million (\$733M direct, \$175M indirect, \$27M induced)
- Total GDP of \$231 million (\$136.7M direct, \$78.5M indirect, \$15.7M induced)
- Over \$164 million in labor income (\$96.9M direct, \$61.2M indirect, \$6.2M induced)
- Annual local/state tax revenue/payments of \$14.9 million (includes in lieu payments)
- Annual federal tax revenue/payments of nearly \$34.2 million

In addition, in-lieu payments and Bond payments within CREZ II are used to enhance local services with a primary focus on education, public safety, and local enhancement. On January 28, 2019 the Columbia River Enterprise Zone II Board of Directors awarded a total of \$3,242,545.71 as follows:

Organization	Amount
Morrow Education Foundation (Includes Workforce Training & High School Internship Program)	\$545,000.00
Boardman Police Department (School Resource Officer)	\$75,000.00
Morrow County Health District (new ambulance monitors)	\$100,407.00
Boardman Rural Fire Protection District (computer upgrades and truck upgrade)	\$57,828.28
Boardman Community Development Association	\$961,081.07
City of Irrigon	\$837,865.54
Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group	\$665,363.82

On February 14, 2019, the CREZ II Board of Directors awarded a further \$176,207.95 as follows:

Organization	Amount
Boardman Police Department	\$50,000.00
Boardman Rural Fire Protection District	\$50,000.00
Morrow County Health District	\$50,000.00
Morrow Education Foundation	\$26,207.95

These two actions have disbursed the monies that were collected in 2018 in accordance with agreements made with various businesses and the CREZ II Board. Entities receiving these awards will provide a written report at the end of 2019 to the CREZ II Board as to how the funds were used.

CREZ II is sponsored by the City of Boardman, the Port of Morrow, and Morrow County.

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## Around the Port

We'd like to highlight a few of the changes taking place at the Port of Morrow this season.

The Port has purchased 48 acres from Greenwood Resources on Poleline Road south of Boardman. Two buildings on the property offer a combined 65,000 square feet of potential warehousing opportunities. A chipping company will continue to operate at the location.

Plans are underway at the Freezer Warehouse to construct a 45,000 square foot chill room. The facility would operate on its own cooling system. The new room would be dedicated to storing and aging cheese.

Morrow County has transferred control of several streets within the Boardman Industrial Park to the Port of Morrow. The impacted roads are Industrial Way, Lindsay Way and Rippee Road.

The Riverfront Center is receiving a facelift. Crews have been busy since February updating the interior of the building, and with the arrival of spring, the landscape will get a refresh and update as well.



The Port of Morrow extends a warm welcome to the following new tenants.

DB Schenker, a global logistics company supporting industry and trade through all modes of transportation.

Dynalectric delivers a complete line of electrical solutions for industry clients in the Pacific Northwest.

Kerns Irrigation is an authorized seller of Reinke center pivot irrigation and Cornell pumps. They also provide repair services for electric motors and all brands of pumps.

Burnt Field Brewing & Legit Pizza has renovated the original 1916 Boardman train depot into a family-friendly destination boasting fresh ingredients and made-from-scratch food.

## Lindsay and Neal Receive Awards

Larry Lindsay and Gary Neal were recognized during the 2019 Special Districts Association of Oregon Awards Banquet on February 9, 2019 in Sunriver, Oregon. The Outstanding Special District Service Award recognizes individuals who have made substantial contributions to the improvement and successful operation of their district. Lindsay, who has served on the Port of Morrow Commission for 50 years, received the Board Member Award. Neal, the Port of Morrow General Manager from 1989-2018, received the Manager Award.

Neal also received a special commendation from Congressman Greg Walden during the recent open house at the SAGE Center on February 18, 2019. The Congressional Record praises Neal for "...his many years of hard work and dedicated service to the Port of Morrow, Morrow County, and Eastern Oregon."

Videos from the awards banquet and the full text of the Congressional Record can be viewed on our website: [www.portofmorrow.com](http://www.portofmorrow.com).

## Oregon WORKS Community Internship Workshop

The Port of Morrow was one of four locations in Oregon selected to host an Oregon WORKS Community Internship Workshop.

During this workshop, employers will learn how to attract and retain interns by working together to develop a county wide marketing and outreach plan. The plan will be developed over the next year and ready for implementation during Summer 2020.

All employers in Morrow County are invited to participate in this free workshop on Thursday, June 6, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, 2 Marine Drive in Boardman. Lunch will be provided. RSVP online at <https://bit.ly/2IOBL2x> by May 30, 2019. For more information contact Kalie Davis, Workforce Training Program Manager 541-571-1624.

Workshop presented by the McMinnville Economic Development Partnership with grants from The Ford Family Foundation and the Oregon Community Foundation.

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## Superior Ratings from AIB Audit

AIB International conducted a GMP Inspection audit at the Port of Morrow Freezer and Dry Warehouses on February 26-27, 2019. The audit ensures that facilities meet standards for Food Distribution Centers. The rigorous audit inspects all components of food storage and distribution including, but not limited to, sanitation, food defense, pest control, food safety, equipment, GMPs, recall programs (warehouse to customer), and maintenance. Operating procedures and practices are also evaluated.



POM Warehousing Cold Storage received a Superior rating with a score of 990 out of 1,000 possible points. (10 points higher than 2018)

POM Warehousing Dry Storage received a Superior rating with a score of 965 out of 1,000 possible points. (15 points higher than 2018)

"I am very proud of our achievement of Superior ratings at both Warehousing facilities. We demonstrated improvement and received higher audit scores at both facilities," says Warehouse Services Manager Marcine Brangham.

POM Warehousing has received a Superior rating with AIB International since 2016.

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## 2019 Agriculture & Energy Job Fair

Inclement weather did not stop the 2019 Job Fair, held at the SAGE Center on March 6. The annual event connects regional employers with potential employees and students seeking information about potential careers. In addition, special presentations for students included information on resume writing and the “real world” skills needed to get a job. They also heard from employers who have summer jobs available.

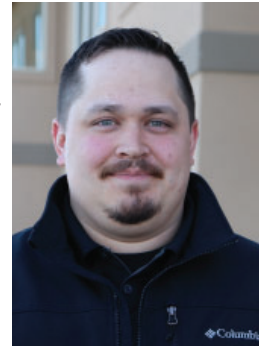
A College Fair was held next door at the BMCC Workforce Training Center. Students interested in pursuing college were able to talk with representatives from Oregon State University, Blue Mountain Community College, University of Idaho, Treasure Valley Community College, and Walla Walla Community College.

“Both the job and college fair are focused on making connections,” says Workforce Training Program Manager Kalie Davis. “We have great career opportunities available within Eastern Oregon and the Port of Morrow. In addition, many college programs are designed to get people trained for working family wage positions in a timely manner. Partnering with the SAGE Center on this event is a great way to serve both current job seekers and our future workforce.”



## New Staff at the Port

Walter Ross is the new Senior Structural Designer in the Engineering Department. His curiosity about engineering and architecture began in middle school after speaking with professionals at a career fair. “I was interested in building houses and the function of buildings. I really saw it as artwork. Any building can be a piece of art,” he shared. Ross pursued architecture and engineering throughout high school and college. He graduated from Oregon Institute of Technology and worked with several structural engineering firms in southern Oregon before applying at the Port of Morrow. Of his new position, Ross says “I love it so far. It’s definitely a good change and opportunity.”



Kurtis Paine joined the Port of Morrow Information Technology Department in January. With bachelor and associate degrees in technology and a diverse background, the new helpdesk technician loves the personal, friendly environment. “It has a small company feel even though it does huge things,” said Paine. A long-time resident of Hermiston, he also takes note of the growth. “It used to be you’d blink and you’d miss it driving down the freeway. I was really surprised by how much it’s changed.”



# What makes our region's agriculture sustainable?



## SAGE Center: Discover What's Inside!



At the Sustainable Agriculture and Energy Center, our mission is hands-on learning and education through fun and interactive multi-media exhibits. Soar over Morrow County on a simulated hot air balloon ride. Watch a potato turn into curly fries. Try your hand at milking a cow or driving a tractor. Browse our gift shop and finish your visit with a scoop of delicious Tillamook ice cream!



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## SAGE Center Highlights

Make your summer travel plans and check out all the info in our Travel Oregon Welcome Center.



### Find the Perfect Gift

Explore new goodies in the Gift Shop! We have Painted Hills Natural Beef Jerky and new varieties of Miles Away Farmhouse soaps. Check out our latest huggable stuffed farm animals, the perfect gift for any child. Finish your visit with delicious Tillamook ice cream!



### You're Invited...

**SAGE Saturday - May 11.** Free activities for kids and free admission for everyone all day!  
**SAGE \$3 Movie Weekend - May 17 & 18**  
Join us for Pixar's Toy Story!

**Hours of Operation**  
Labor Day thru Memorial Day  
Monday - Saturday 10-5  
Memorial Day thru Labor Day  
Sunday - Thurs 10-5 and Friday -Saturday 10-6.