

The Current

Sharing the Port's growth, sustainability, and innovation in Morrow County.



Celebrating 11 Years of Port of Morrow Warehousing

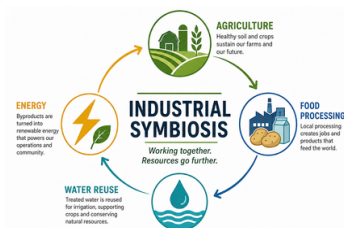
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Secondary Treatment Update
- Surface Water Treatment Facilities
- Industrial Symbiosis Progress
- Commissioner Jerry Rietmann
- Spanish, pg 5



High School Internship Program Hits New Heights!

The Port of Morrow's High School Internship Program reached new milestones during the 2025-2026 school year, providing a record number of students with meaningful, paid work experience.



Port of Morrow Highlights Industrial Symbiosis Progress

The Port of Morrow is advancing industrial symbiosis by fostering partnerships that reduce waste, improve resource efficiency, and strengthen the regional economy together.



STEAM Education Hits the Road

The SAGE Center is expanding its impact this fall with the launch of SAGE On the Go, bringing hands-on educational experiences directly into communities, while also preparing for the return of its annual Harvest Festival. Together, these initiatives continue the Center's mission of inspiring learning, celebrating agriculture, and bringing people together.

Continued, page 4

Celebrating 11 Years of POM Warehousing

The Port of Morrow opened its first freezer warehouse in 2015. What began as an investment to support the region's food processing industry has grown into a comprehensive warehousing operation offering frozen, refrigerated, and dry storage.

The original freezer warehouse reached capacity within its first year, leading to an expansion in 2016 that doubled freezer storage capacity. In 2017, the Port acquired and remodeled a former planer mill to create ambient-temperature dry storage, followed by the addition of refrigerated warehouse space in 2018.

The warehousing team has earned a strong reputation for operational excellence. The facility consistently receives outstanding scores on annual AIB International food safety audits and was recognized by Tillamook as its "Best Overall Distribution Partner" in 2023.

For over a decade, Port of Morrow Warehousing has supported regional industry with excellent customer service, reliable storage, distribution, and logistics services while helping move Columbia Basin products to markets across the country and around the world.



Celebrating 11 years with POM Warehousing, L-R: Sergio, Wesley, Jessica, Marcine, Temo, Jordan, Ricardo and Bobby. Not pictured are Juan and Jose.



"Best Overall Distribution Partner in 2023"

High School Internship Program Hits New Heights!

Launched in 2019, our High School Internship Program celebrated a record-breaking 2025–2026 school year! This proud collaboration between the InterMountain Education Service District (IMESD), Morrow County and Lone School Districts, and the Port of Morrow hosted a record 75 interns who collectively logged over 7,819 work hours and earned more than \$217,000!

Throughout its five-year history, the program has connected local students with 319 unique internship experiences across more than 60 different job openings, offering valuable real world exposure right here in our community.

By Kaylee Christy, Workforce Intern



The real workforce exposure and skills gained are evident, with over 85% of our interns strongly agreeing that the program is valuable for their academic and professional growth. Additionally, 80% stated that the experience directly influenced their future career and educational plans.

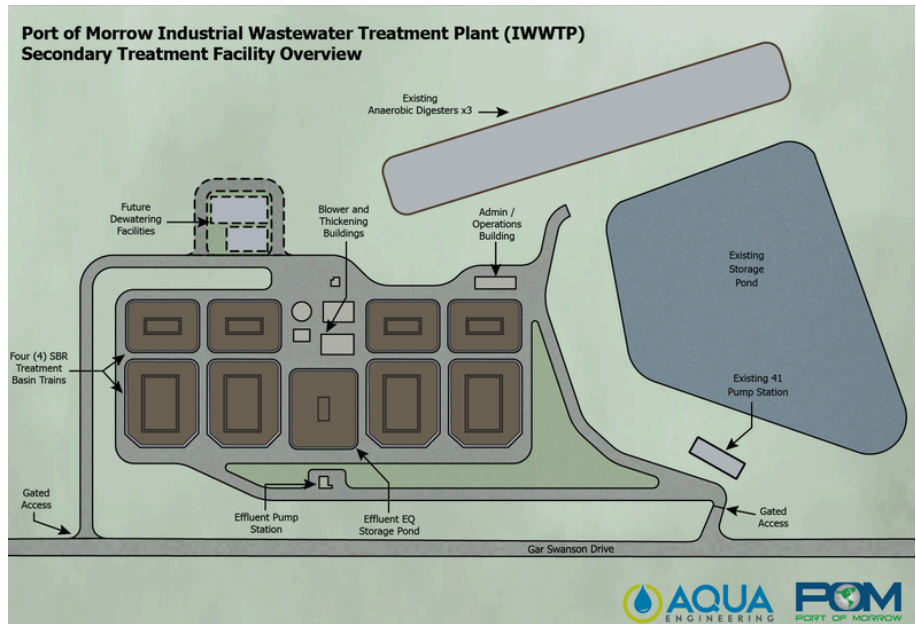
By creating opportunities for students early on, this partnership continues to shape tomorrow's leaders. We appreciate our dedicated school districts and local business partners for their collaboration and investment in our students' futures.



Secondary Treatment Nearing Final Design

Planning is moving forward on the Port's Secondary Treatment Project, an important investment that will strengthen the Port's wastewater treatment system and support the long-term sustainability of its water reuse program.

Following completion of the project's concept design in 2025, engineering efforts have progressed through preliminary design and equipment evaluation. The design team has been working closely with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) throughout the process to ensure the project meets regulatory requirements while supporting the Port's long-term operational goals.



Current work is focused on completing the final design and permitting process. Once design and permitting are complete, the project is anticipated to move into the bidding phase in late 2026. Construction is expected to occur in phases between 2027 and 2029, allowing the Port to maintain ongoing operations while bringing new treatment infrastructure online.

The Secondary Treatment Project is one component of the Port's broader water management strategy, complementing recent investments in anaerobic digestion, expanded winter storage capacity, and infrastructure. Together, these projects are designed to enhance treatment capabilities, support responsible resource management, and ensure the Port's industrial and agricultural partners continue to benefit from a resilient, sustainable water system.

Building Infrastructure for Tomorrow

Surface Water Treatment Facilities & Kunze Feedline

Water is one of the Columbia Basin's most valuable resources. As the region continues to grow, the Port of Morrow is taking important steps to diversify and strengthen long-term water sustainability.

The Port is constructing two new facilities that will treat Columbia River water to potable standards for distribution throughout the Port's industrial system. By expanding the use of treated surface water, the Port will reduce reliance on deep basalt groundwater wells and support long-term water reliability. Together with two new 2-million-gallon storage tanks and the recently completed Kunze Feedline Project, the facilities work together to create a more resilient water system.



Advanced filtration systems will treat Columbia River water for use in the Port's industrial parks.

The projects are made possible through a partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS), which is providing \$90.6 million in funding toward construction. This investment is helping accelerate the development of critical water infrastructure.

By expanding and diversifying its water infrastructure today, the Port of Morrow is helping ensure a reliable, sustainable water supply that will support industry, agriculture, and communities while creating opportunities for business expansion, new employers, and additional family-wage jobs in Morrow County for generations to come.



SAGE on the Go!

At the SAGE Center, we are excited to continue creating opportunities for our community to learn, connect, and celebrate!

This summer, we launched SAGE On the Go to bring hands-on educational experiences directly to schools, libraries, community events, and festivals throughout Morrow and West Umatilla counties. Through interactive activities, participants will explore agriculture, energy, and industry while discovering the innovation and sustainability that help power our region. The program makes educational experiences more accessible while inspiring curiosity and encouraging lifelong learning.

We are grateful to the Port of Morrow, Amazon, The Ford Family Foundation, Lamb Weston, AgWest Farm Credit, Oregon Women for Agriculture, Pierre Ford, and the many partners whose support made this program possible.



Draft van design.

We're excited to welcome the community back for our annual Harvest Festival on the first Saturday of October. This family-friendly event celebrates the harvest season with local vendors, delicious food, wagon rides, a Kids Corner, live entertainment, and activities for all ages.



We look forward to connecting with you and celebrating the people, industries, and communities that make our region special.



If you're planning an event, we'd love to work with you! Scan the QR code or visit our website to submit your inquiry form and get the process started.

Port of Morrow Highlights Industrial Symbiosis Progress

The Port of Morrow continues to advance industrial symbiosis efforts by bringing together businesses, agriculture, education, and community partners to identify new opportunities for resource sharing, waste reduction, and economic development.

In recent months, Port representatives have shared the region's work with audiences across the Pacific Northwest. A presentation at the Food Northwest Conference highlighted how Port industries already collaborate through shared infrastructure and the beneficial reuse of water, energy, and agricultural by-products. These established partnerships provide a strong foundation for expanding circular-economy practices throughout the Columbia Basin.

At the end of June, the Port also participated in the inaugural Industrial Symbiosis Conference in Vancouver, Washington. The event brought together industry leaders, public agencies, researchers, and economic-development professionals to exchange ideas and explore successful models for turning waste streams into valuable resources.

The Port is using these conversations to strengthen its local Industrial Symbiosis Consortium, develop new partnerships, pursue technical assistance and funding, and explore innovative uses for industrial by-products. This work supports a more resilient regional economy while helping businesses reduce costs, conserve resources, and create shared value.

Commissioner Jerry Rietmann

The Port of Morrow welcomes Jerry Rietmann to the Port Commission. Jerry began his term in February 2026 and brings a lifelong connection to Morrow County and its agricultural roots. He chose to serve because he recognizes the Port's important role in creating jobs, strengthening the local economy, and supporting opportunities throughout the county.



Commissioner Rietmann

A fourth-generation farmer, Jerry lives north of Lone on a farm his grandfather purchased in the 1920's. He and his wife, Lisa, have been married for over 41 years and have two daughters. Outside of farming and public service, Jerry enjoys traveling and snow skiing with his family.