Combined Meeting
ColPac EDD & NOEA
August 13, 2026
10:00a – 12:00p

Port of Tillamook Bay, Officers Mess Hall
6825 Officer's Row, Tillamook, Oregon 97141
Zoom Link
Meeting ID: 823 2268 7995
Passcode: 664765

10:00a	1. Welcome and Introductions		
10:05a	2. NOEA Business Meeting a. June 2026 Minutes b. Brownfield Updates	✓	Casey Garrett Sarah Lu Heath
10:10a	3. ColPac Regular Business a. June 2026 Minutes b. Operations Update	✓	Casey Garrett Sarah Lu Heath
10:30a	4. Tillamook Estuaries Partnership		Claudine Rehn Allyson Gardner
11:00a	5. Port of Tillamook Bay Updates		Michele Bradley
11:15a	6. Bay City Manufacturing & Wastewater		David McCall
11:30a	7. BPA Termination of SAFE Program		Mark Kujala
11:45a	8. Roundtable Updates		All

Next Combined Meeting: Virtual Budget meeting in September, date TBD.

<u>Minutes</u> of Combined Meeting
Columbia Pacific Economic Development District (ColPac)
& NW Oregon Economic Alliance (NOEA)
Thursday, June 11, 2026
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Clatsop Community College
1650Lexington Ave, Astoria OR 97103

10:00a	1. Welcome and Introductions		
10:05a	2. NOEA Business Meeting a. April 2026 Minutes b. Brownfield Updates	✓	Casey Garrett Sarah Lu Heath
10:15a	3. ColPac Regular Business a. April 2026 Minutes b. Financials c. Operations Update	✓	Casey Garrett Sarah Lu Heath
10:30a	4. Port of Astoria Update		Matt McGrath
11:00a	5. Clatsop County Projects		Mark Kujala
11:30a	6. Transportation Options		Sarah Lu Heath
11:45a	7. Roundtable Updates		All

Board of Directors (*in attendance): **Mary Faith Bell*** Don Bohn Michele Bradley **Peter Brandom*** Aaron Burris **Sean Clark*** **Andy Davis*** Heather DeSart Brian Fawcett Thaddeus Fickel **Casey Garrett*** Angeles Godinez-Valencia **Jarrod Hogue*** Will Isom Paul Jarrell **Betsy Johnson*** Scott Jorgensen **Mark Kujala***	 **Marsha Kirk*** **Kevin Leahy*** **Sean Lewis*** Chelsey Lynne **David McCall*** Paul Mitchell **Matt Mumford*** **John Nygaard*** Bruce St. Denis Leon Telesmanich **John Walsh*** Liane Welch **Jerry Willey*** Jeff Wong **Steve Wright*** Claudia Yakos
Guests in attendance: Rachel Armitage, Columbia Co Resident Sarah Lu Heath, Executive Director, ColPac Matt McGrath, Port of Astoria Dulce Perkins, Program Manager, ColPac Michael Miller Melyssa Graeper, ODEQ	 Mike Brocius, Clatsop Cmsr elect Jessica Newhall, Pacific Power Gail Henrickson, Clatsop County Monica Steele, Clatsop County Logan Garner, Northwest Oregon Works

AGENDA

1. NOEA Business Meeting

A. Review and approval of previous meeting minutes. Motion to approve previous meeting actions carried unanimously.

B. Brownfield Updates: staff is advancing the NOEA Brownfield RFP into contract negotiation. Sites selected for assistance to begin work are DSL at Tongue Point and NE 1st & Columbia in Scappoose.

3. COLPAC Regular Business

April 2026 Minutes were reviewed with no changes requested. Cmsr Willey as Treasurer shared an update that he has been working with Sarah Lu Heath on the financials and reports will be provided at the August meeting.

Operational Updates: Sarah Lu Heath shared that the FY24 audit documents have been submitted. The year-end 2025 990 is also underway. iFocus has been engaged for IT support to ColPac staff; hardware is being updated and cloud storage is transitioning from DropBox to OneDrive.

- Programmatic Updates: CDBG St Helens
    - Extension request underway
- CDBG-DR
    - RFP re-published; proposals due June 29
- Industrial Symbiosis
    - OSU delegation to Iceland; 100% Fish Working Group
    - Living Machine RAV placement this summer
    - OSU GIS intern starting this summer
- Brownfield Program
    - EPA approval to move forward with North Plains loan to remove abandoned structures from Glencoe Opportunity Site.
    - EPA approval to move forward with Copeland Commons (Astoria) subgrant for contaminated soil removal.
- Small Business RLF
    - Bull Run Cider (Washington Co) Notice of Default to proceed.
    - Hugga Bubba and Obelisk remain in good standing.

4. Port of Astoria Update

Matt McGrath, Deputy Director of the Port of Astoria shared updates on economic development projects including Pier 2 Rehabilitation for seafood processors, Pier 3 Rehabilitation focusing on tourism, the Astoria Airport operations, and Business Park development. Master plans can be found here: Master Plans - Port of Astoria.

5. Clatsop County Update

Monica Steele, Clatsop County Assistant County Manager, outlined current efforts including economic opportunity analysis implementation, development of undeveloped industrial lands, and the Westport bypass road construction project, which will redirect industrial traffic and improve access to the Westport Ferry. The county also discussed Opportunity Zones 2.0 applications.

Mary Faith noted that Tillamook County submitted applications for potential developments in Beaver and Pacific City.

The Clatsop County Industrial Symbiosis Network efforts were also mentioned, in particular the County's work on feasibility for an anerobic digestor. This project would address septage disposal needs in Clatsop County.

6. Transportation Options

Sarah Lu Heath provided information about the Transportation Options program launch and the engagement of Transit Happy to provide contracted services. The program areas to be address include: Program Strategy and Coordination, Get There Challenge Activation, Employer Outreach and TDM, Creative Development, Marketing Implementation, Program Reporting and ODOT Coordination, and Regional Collaboration.

Transit Happy's professional successes include leading the 2024 revision of the National Rural Transit Assistance Program Marketing Toolkit and managing messaging for 5-county alliance in San Bernadino. They will be responsible for Custom SEO strategy designed to intercept travelers during the trip-planning stage aimed at reaching potential first-time riders, a full suite of materials to meet riders at every step: a user-focused website, passenger guides, wayfinding signage, at-the-stop panels, and hotel displays and rack cards with QR codes and engagement including employers to connect workforce services like Vanpool, seasonal shuttles, and contests to promote Transportation Options.

8. Roundtable Updates

Kevin Leahy, Clatsop Economic Development Resources, shared information about the upcoming Working Lands & Waters Tours. Clatsop Works is launching their summer internships with over 50 students participating.

David McCall, Bay City, shared information about an initiative moving towards forming a regional Fire District in Tillamook County. It was also noted that the Tillamook Country Smoker was recently purchased.

Jarrod Hogue, Clatsop Community College, shared that the Army Corps has closed the pier the college used to access their training vessel. They are seeking alternatives with local partners. Funding raising is ongoing for the maritime simulator.

Mayor Steve Wright, City of Seaside, noted that the City is beginning an effort to update their Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Matt Mumford, Port of Tillamook Bay, shared updates on Hangar B and the Port's decision to pursue deconstruction. At this time, they are only addressing the storm damage and are seeking significant matching funds for grants.

Sean Lewis, City of Tillamook, shared that they have completed their wastewater masterplan.

Commissioner Willey, Washington County, shared that the County has completed their budget process. He also noted the end of his term and subsequent retirement from the ColPac board at the end of 2026.

Melyssa Graeper, ODEQ, noted that the Environmental Quality Commission would be convening in Astoria in July. ColPac will be presenting the Industrial Symbiosis project alongside OSU.

Sean Clark, Port of Columbia County, noted that runway rehabilitation is underway with flights grounded during construction.

Peter Brandom, City of Cornelius, shared that the gas station project is nearing completion with final assessments expected in July. Once completed the property will be offered for redevelopment. It was also noted that the city received a Business Oregon grant for public safety building retrofit.

The meeting was adjourned following board and partner updates.

Northwest Oregon Economic Alliance EPA Brownfield Coalition Grant

- QEP = Stantec Inc.

Upcoming Projects

- DSL at Tongue Point
- Scappoose, NE 1st Street & E Columbia
- Overbay Garages, Astoria

- Outreach across the region

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Audits & Tax Reporting

	Audit	990	CT-12
FY22	Complete.	Complete. Fine cancelled.	Complete.
FY23	Complete.	Complete. Fine cancelled.	Submitted.
FY24	Submitted to auditor.	Complete.	Underway.
FY25	Engagement letter signed with auditor.	Extension filed.	Extension filed.

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Budgeting & Financial Statements

- Finance Committee: Directors Jerry Willey and Steve Wright have been working with Sarah Lu Heath to revise the QBO budget and move to using a Class System.
- FY27 Budget prep is underway and has been reviewed by the Executive Committee.
- Financial Statements and the FY27 Budget will be reviewed at a virtual, ad hoc, ColPac board meeting in September.

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ColPac EDD Board Meeting Schedule

- Considering:
  - ColPac adjusted our meeting months in response to Oregon Transportation Commission schedules.
  - OTC is now meeting in conflict with our meeting
  - Fiscal year, calendar year, and annual meeting dates are better suited to a Jan, March, May, July, Sept, November meeting schedule

It is proposed:

To meeting September 28 or 29 to review/adopt ColPac Budget

Meet again in November and every other month thereafter

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Project & Program Updates

- CDBG St Helens
  - Extension granted by Biz O
- CDBG-DR
  - Gettis Paving chosen and contracted.
  - Paving to begin August 17

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Project & Program Updates

Industrial Symbiosis

- Living Machine RAV processing Brewery Water now
- OSU GIS intern Jeff Thomas on-boarded
- Center for Sustainable Infrastructure selected by Business Oregon for HB4086 work
- Study Tour to Demark this September

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Project & Program Updates

- Transportation Options
  - 2 Employer Webinars
  - 3 Car-Free Contests
  - 4 Agency Consultations
- Small Business RLF
  - Bull Run Cider (Washington Co)
  - Hugga Bubba and Obelisk remain in good standing.

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BPA Email Contacts

To: TRKavulla@bpa.gov

CC:

- sbcooper@bpa.gov
- bdzelinsky@bpa.gov
- csweet@bpa.gov
- communications@bpa.gov

August 31, 2026

Travis Kavulla, Administrator/CEO
Bonneville Power Administration/Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

RE: BPA Termination of Funding for SAFE Program

Dear Administrator Kavulla,

On behalf of **Columbia Pacific Eocnomic Development District,** we respectfully urge the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to reverse its decision to terminate funding for the Select Area Fisheries Enhancement (SAFE) Program effective September 30, 2026. We are deeply concerned that this decision is inconsistent with the long-standing role SAFE has played in BPA's fish and wildlife mitigation responsibilities under the Federal Columbia River Power System.

For more than three decades, SAFE has been an integral component of Columbia River fisheries management and regional mitigation efforts. SAFE is not simply a hatchery production program designed to increase harvest opportunities. Rather, it is a carefully designed fisheries management strategy that produces hatchery salmon for harvest in off-channel terminal fisheries, helping shift fishing effort away from mixed-stock areas of the mainstem Columbia River where ESA-listed salmon migrate.

BPA's June 18 letter acknowledges that SAFE has successfully expanded commercial and recreational fishing opportunities but concludes there is insufficient evidence that the program provides meaningful mitigation benefits for ESA-listed salmon. Respectfully, we

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believe this conclusion overlooks the fundamental role SAFE plays in modern Columbia River fisheries management.

The conservation value of SAFE is not that it directly increases wild salmon abundance. Its value lies in how it changes where and how harvest occurs. By concentrating harvest on hatchery-origin fish returning to terminal fisheries, SAFE reduces fishing pressure in mixed-stock fisheries where ESA-listed salmon are encountered. This management strategy has been a foundational element of Columbia River harvest management for decades and allows fishing opportunity to be provided while remaining within ESA impact limits established by NOAA Fisheries.

SAFE's importance is reflected in its role within the regional fishery. Since 2017, SAFE fisheries have accounted for approximately 99 percent of spring Chinook and 90 percent of coho harvested in the non-Treaty Lower Columbia commercial fishery. Eliminating SAFE does not eliminate demand for harvest; it removes one of the region's primary tools for directing harvest away from ESA-listed fish while maintaining sustainable fishing opportunities.

We are also concerned that BPA's decision departs from the recommendations of other regional experts and partners. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council has repeatedly recommended continued funding for SAFE, recognizing its role within BPA's mitigation portfolio. Likewise, NOAA Fisheries recently completed its Biological Opinion for the SAFE Program, reaffirming its continued role in regional fisheries management. These actions reflect decades of scientific review, adaptive management, and collaboration among federal, state, tribal, and local partners.

The practical consequences of this decision are immediate. More than seven million hatchery salmon are currently in production and depend upon continued operation of the SAFE Program. BPA's decision leaves Oregon, Washington, and local partners facing an immediate funding shortfall with little time to identify replacement funding or implement an orderly transition. Without restoration of funding, future fisheries will be substantially reduced, prior public investments in hatchery infrastructure and fish production will be jeopardized, and the economic impacts will be felt throughout communities that depend on Columbia River fisheries.

This project uniquely impacts our region with overlapping impacts within workforce development, recreational and commercial fishing, and ecosystem protection.

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The Columbia Pacific Economic Development District respectfully urges BPA to **restore SAFE funding now** and to work with Oregon, Washington, and Clatsop County to **develop a responsible, sustainable path forward** through a planned, transparent process that protects fish already in production and does not destabilize fisheries, businesses, or the communities that rely on them.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lu Heath
Executive Director

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