



Photo courtesy WenatcheeOutdoors.org

PORT SIDE



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March 2007

Port Commissioners



Mike Mackey
President / District #3



Craig Larsen
District #1



JC Baldwin
District #2

Port of Chelan County commission meetings are open to the public. Meetings are regularly scheduled for the first, second and third Wednesdays of the month.

The Ports of Chelan and Douglas Counties jointly own and operate Pangborn Memorial Airport.

Horizon to fly larger planes to Pangborn next year

Horizon Air plans to begin serving Wenatchee with 74-seat Bombardier Q400 aircraft by the end of 2008, according to the company's vice president of marketing and planning. The Q400 Dash 8 is a high-speed turboprop airliner that serves markets beyond conventional turboprop aircraft distances. Horizon currently flies 37-seat Q200 turboprops to Wenatchee.

Studies show that 68.9 percent of Wenatchee travelers connect at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport to other destinations in the West. The Q400 and other regional aircraft would continue to fly to Sea-Tac, or could bypass Seattle and deliver passengers directly to such hubs as Portland, Salt Lake City, San Francisco or Los Angeles.

Regional air service, either by the Q400 or the small jets which are commanding an increasing share of the market, is crucial for



Horizon Air recently announced plans to deploy Q400 regional aircraft to Wenatchee. These planes have twice the capacity of the Q200s currently flying into Pangborn.

future growth of the Greater Wenatchee population and economy. Craig Larsen, executive director of the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce and a commissioner for the Port of Chelan County, noted that a recent national study found the Wenatchee job market to be the fastest growing in the state. "For that to continue, we need an airport that is efficient and will accommodate regional aircraft," he said.

Public interested in future of Pangborn Memorial Airport

Pangborn Airport is currently the focus of significant public interest. The topic is achieving the FAA's mandate to assure Pangborn's continued viability while accommodating the urban growth that we are experiencing. Updated Airport Overlay Zones, the length of the airport's primary runway, and the proximity of the runway to Grant Road are among the initiatives at the forefront.

The recommendations of a volunteer Citizen's Advisory Committee that has carefully studied the Airport Overlay initiative, along with other input, were scheduled to be considered by the City of East Wenatchee / Douglas County Joint Planning Commission at a public hearing February 21. Full text of the Committee's recommendations is available online at www.pangbornairport.com.

The Ports of Chelan and Douglas Counties continue to plan for the eventual extension of Pangborn's main runway. The extension will enable the airport to optimally accommodate larger commercial aircraft as well as regional jets. While accomplishing this goal may take up to a decade, Horizon's recent announce-

ment to begin serving Pangborn with larger aircraft in 2008 has magnified the urgency.

Local governing agencies and the two Ports are acutely aware that the airport's needs will have some impact on the airport's neighbors. They will continue to thoroughly examine every viable option to minimize the impact.

Executive Staff, Port of Chelan County

- Mark Urdahl**, executive director
- Dayle Rushing**, properties/risk manager
- Pat Moore**, Pangborn Memorial Airport manager
- Laura Jaecks**, Confluence Technology Center manager
- Ron Johnston-Rodriguez**, economic development director
- Judy Bradford**, business manager

Pangborn benefits from Naverus test program

Naverus, a firm based in Kent, WA, is a world leader for performance-based navigation in aviation. In working with Boeing to test a new onboard flight management system, Naverus is using approaches at Pangborn Memorial Airport in East Wenatchee.

The new Naverus “required navigation performance” (RNP) procedures tell the pilot how high the plane needs to fly and how to line up for the runway landing in a more narrowly defined flight path that allows more planes to share the airspace. RNP technology increases safety, reduces operating costs, gives better access to airports and reduces flight cancellations caused by low visibility.

Horizon is one of only two U.S. air carriers to be certified to fly RNP approaches. The new Q400 regional aircraft will have onboard navigation equipment that uses RNP.

Because it is part of the Boeing test-track program, Pangborn will be one of the first airports in the country with RNP. Normal FAA approval for RNP approaches can take up to five years.

ILS improving winter air service at Pangborn

Incoming flights at Pangborn Memorial Airport are arriving on a more reliable basis, now that pilots can use the new instrument landing system (ILS) installed last summer and approved by the FAA in November. Cloudy conditions are frequent at the airport during winter and in the past have caused about 30 percent of incoming winter Horizon flights to be canceled, according to airport manager Pat Moore.

The new system allows pilots to land their planes with a minimum cloud ceiling of 300 feet. Without ILS, Horizon pilots needed clouds to be at least 560 feet above the ground in order to make a safe landing at Pangborn.

Moore said 79 incoming flights were canceled during December 2005 and January 2006. With the ILS, only 48 flights were canceled this past December and January and 114 delayed. Ninety-eight of the delays were because of conditions at Sea-Tac.

Port supports marina expansion at Lake Chelan

The Port of Chelan County has its headquarters in Wenatchee, but its investments are spread throughout the county. Among these are a commitment of \$260,000 over three years toward expansion of the Lake Chelan marina, which may require shoreline stabilization. The Port has participated in shoreline development planning for the City of Chelan’s Don Morse Park.

“We are very pleased with the Port’s participation and partnership in our effort to improve our shoreline, especially the marina,” Chelan mayor Jay Witherbee said. “The Port has been a keystone in Chelan’s economic development efforts, enabling us to move forward with a project we wouldn’t have been able to complete on our own.”

When finished, the marina expansion project will add year-round, deep-water moorage and triple the current capacity of the marina. Trail improvements are also planned at the park.

“The Port’s commitment provides stability as we seek additional grant funding to complete these park improvements,” Witherbee said.



Expansion of the Chelan Airport is being considered in the revision to its comprehensive plan.

Chelan Airport plan is moving forward

The Port and the City of Chelan jointly own and operate the Chelan Airport, three miles northeast of the city. Working with the FAA, state Department of Transportation and a citizen advisory committee, the partners are updating the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) – a comprehensive, long-range plan to guide development at the airport over the next 20 years.

“We are assessing current uses at the airport, looking at trends in the aviation industry in general, and projecting future needs based on the development of the Chelan Valley community,” Chelan city administrator Dave Fonfera said. Currently, the Chelan Airport primarily serves single-engine private and agency planes. Fonfera said the Port and City are working to determine whether to expand the airport to serve multi-engine planes and business jets. They have identified four alternatives for expansion, with one being “do nothing.”

“It’s important that the airport be operated in the most cost-effective, efficient way as possible while preserving safety,” Fonfera said. “We’re striving to

choose the best alternative for developing the airport as an economic resource for Chelan County.” He said a preferred alternative will likely be identified within the next four to six months.

“From the City’s perspective, the Port is a very valuable partner,” Fonfera said. “We cooperate well together on a wide range of programs and projects throughout the community, including infrastructure improvements that stabilize and improve the economy in Chelan County.”

Update on Port investments benefiting Chelan County

Peshastin: Port is working with the community to evaluate development options for riverfront mill property

Cashmere: Port is evaluating the feasibility of acquiring and redeveloping Cedarbrook mill property

Malaga: Sale of Port property to Housing Authority of Chelan County and Wenatchee is pending

Confluence Technology Center: Yahoo! on track to begin operations on third floor; more than half of its servers are installed

Former regional library headquarters (Olds Station): Beginning major renovation to house Port office and create additional incubator space