



# Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #772 July 27, 2021

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## Welcome new member Hyak Tongue Point

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[Hyak Maritime LLC](#) is owned by Gordon L.K. Smith and Robert C. Dorn, two long-time owners/operators of various tug and barge companies in the Pacific Ocean Basin. Hyak has recently built several ocean tugboats and ocean tank barges in the Columbia River and purchased the ex-U.S. Navy seaplane base at Tongue Point. Hyak's intention is to use Tongue Point as a vessel fabrication and repair yard and to develop additional maritime businesses operating out of the base.



Hyak currently enjoys a great mix of tenants at Tongue Point. They will continue using the yard for loading/unloading project freight, and will operate its tugs and barges regularly out of the facility in the near future.

Chief Executive Officer Bob Dorn will be Hyak's representative to PNWA and its members. Bob can be reached at 206-295-5107 or [bdorn@hyakmaritime.com](mailto:bdorn@hyakmaritime.com).

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## Van Epps assumes Northwestern Division command from Helmlinger

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*Incoming Northwestern Division commander  
Col. Geoff Van Epps*



*Retiring Northwestern Division commander  
Brig. Gen. Peter Helmlinger*

Brig. Gen. Peter Helmlinger transferred command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division to Col. Geoff Van Epps July 22 in a ceremony at Bonneville Dam.

Col. Van Epps comes to the Northwestern Division from the Office of the Chief of Engineers in Washington, D.C., where he served as director of the Pentagon office of the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon.

Col. Van Epps was commissioned as an engineer officer from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1995, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. A lifelong scholar, Van Epps also holds a Master of Science in Engineering Management from the University of Missouri at Rolla (now the Missouri University of Science and Technology), a master's degree in Economics, Finance and Management from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra and a master's degree in International Relations from the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals, earned while studying as an Olmsted Scholar in Barcelona, Spain.

Having relinquished command, Gen. Helmlinger is set to retire after a career spanning 33 years in USACE. PNWA thanks him for his leadership in maintaining and improving our region's navigation infrastructure, and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

PNWA welcomes Col. Van Epps to the "Lewis and Clark Division," and look forward to a long and successful partnership with him and his division team.

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## Port of Vancouver USA reminds I-5 Bridge users of survey

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The Port of Vancouver USA is a member of the steering committee for the [Interstate Bridge Replacement program](#).

They would like to remind I-5 Bridge and Columbia River users to complete the [IBR River Users Survey](#) at their earliest opportunity.

### ***Related***

[Opinion: Building a new Columbia River bridge on a](#)



## Interstate **BRIDGE** *Replacement Program*

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### Port of Chehalis seeks CEO

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The current CEO of the Port of Chehalis is leaving the position at the end of November 2021, and the port is now recruiting their next CEO.

The CEO oversees an organization currently comprised of 4 total FTE positions. The current team consists of a CEO, Director of Finance and Administration, Facilities Manager and Office Manager. The 2021 approved operating and capital budgets total \$1.3 million.



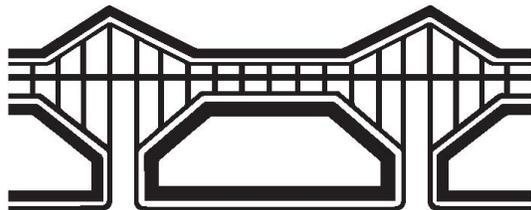
This position reports to and serves at the pleasure of the Port of Chehalis Board of Commissioners, who set policy for the organization. The CEO implements their policies, manages the day-to-day affairs of the organization, and communicates the agency's mission, vision, and values.

See the full [job description and application instructions](#) here.

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### Port of Cascade Locks seeks Operations Manager

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## **PORT OF CASCADE LOCKS**

The Port of Cascade Locks seeks an Operations Manager to oversee several administrative and operational functions of the Port, including the bridge, toll booth, marina and others. Supervisory experience is required and port experience is preferred.

To see the full job description and apply, visit <https://portofcascadelocks.org/operations-manager/>

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### ODOT to offer Connect Oregon grants this fall

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The Oregon Department of Transportation is preparing to launch a competitive application cycle for the [Connect Oregon](#) Grant Fund this fall. Approximately \$46 million will be available for investment in eligible aviation, marine and rail transportation projects. (Transit and pedestrian/bicycle projects had been previously eligible but have been shifted to other grant programs.)



ODOT expect to begin accepting applications in September or October, with selection to occur in spring 2022. Watch the [program's website](#) for ongoing updates, including supporting materials.

Because the [2017 Oregon Legislature made changes](#) to the multimodal Connect Oregon program, a committee [updated the rules](#) going forward. These rules will guide funding decisions in this updated version of the [successful Connect Oregon program](#).

Multimodal investments are a key part of ODOT's [Strategic Action Plan](#), which lays out priorities and goals for the next several years. These include reducing congestion in the Portland area and reducing transportation's carbon footprint - both of which are supported by the Connect Oregon program.

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## Last virtual DC trip in the books; in-person trips coming soon!



Thank you to the Northwest Seaport Alliance, TEMCO, Port of Toledo, and LeBlanc Government Relations for joining us on our final virtual "trip" to Washington, D.C. July 21-22 to represent the region's maritime infrastructure interests.

We are excited to resume our bimonthly in-person trips, currently anticipated for Sept. 27-29 and December dates to be determined. If you are interested in joining us, please contact [Government Relations Director Dena Horton](#).

