

FINAL Meeting Minutes
Portland Fish Pier Authority - Portland Fish Exchange Subcommittee
February 26, 2025
3:30 p.m.

Subcommittee Member Attendees: Committee Chair Tracy Pearce, Nick Alfiero, John Arnold, Mike Foster, Mary Hudson, Matthew Moretti, Robert Odlin

Staff Present: Kaela Gonzalez, Greg Watson, Robert Vanmeter

Chair Pearce opened the meeting at 3:38 pm and announced that today's meeting will be to discuss what the subcommittee would like to accomplish and how.

Note: Robert Vanmeter shared the requested documents, however, some of the material is sensitive so will not be shared publicly. These documents included the following for the past 10 years:

- 1) Fish Flow
- 2) Information on vessels that land annually
- 3) Number of pounds landed annually
- 4) Audits with annual revenue and expenses

The subcommittee members shared immediate and long term goals for the committee and the Portland Fish Exchange (PFEX) with the overarching goal of reversing downward trends and bringing the PFEX to the break even point. Goals are listed below in no particular order:

- a) Research and pursue sources of funding to help replace aid that CARES Act funding provided. Could be used to help with fuel and ice costs for example. Consider possible funding match from Portland Fish Pier Authority as carrot for outside funding.
 - i) Use data to quantify the ratio of aid to landing increases
- b) Work to diversify PFE offerings and bring in more boats (Committee members agree more fishermen are willing and open to diversified catches)
 - i) Reach out Maine Lobstermen's Association to discuss the possibility of a lobster landing agreement where lobsters are sent to out-of-state markets.
 - ii) Look at increasing/promoting aquaculture offerings
 - iii) Explore hours of operation change or on-call options for early/late boats
- c) Survey current boat owners to gauge areas where the PFEX can make the most impactful changes with the goal of expanding services with no to little impact on costs.
 - i) Depending on the success of written/emailed surveys or polls, consider a forum-type event
- d) Continue researching new software possibilities with the goal of sharing a few options for the Portland Fish Pier Authority Board to vote on.

- i) Two options based on previous conversations: 1) build something in-house with help from a consultant, and 2) buy something off the shelf
- ii) Determine the City of Portland (COP) rules and guidelines for procurement of software which will include coordination with COP Purchasing and IT Department. Greg Watson will confirm details with Purchasing.
- iii) Invite Cassie to next subcommittee meeting

Action Items:

- 1) Mary H. to investigate impact of fee changes
- 2) Greg W. to reach out to City Purchasing to determine the path required for software procurement.
- 3) Tracy P. to relay desired documents/exhibits to Robert V. for future meetings.

Subcommittee members agreed to meet again March 13, 2025 at 3:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:22 p.m.