

# PORT OF PASCO

CONNECTING HERE WITH THERE – SPRING 2025

## Welcome New Commissioner Hans-Joachim Engelke

In January, Port Commissioners appointed Hans-Joachim Engelke of Mesa to fill the seat vacated after the retirement of long-serving Commissioner Jim Klindworth.

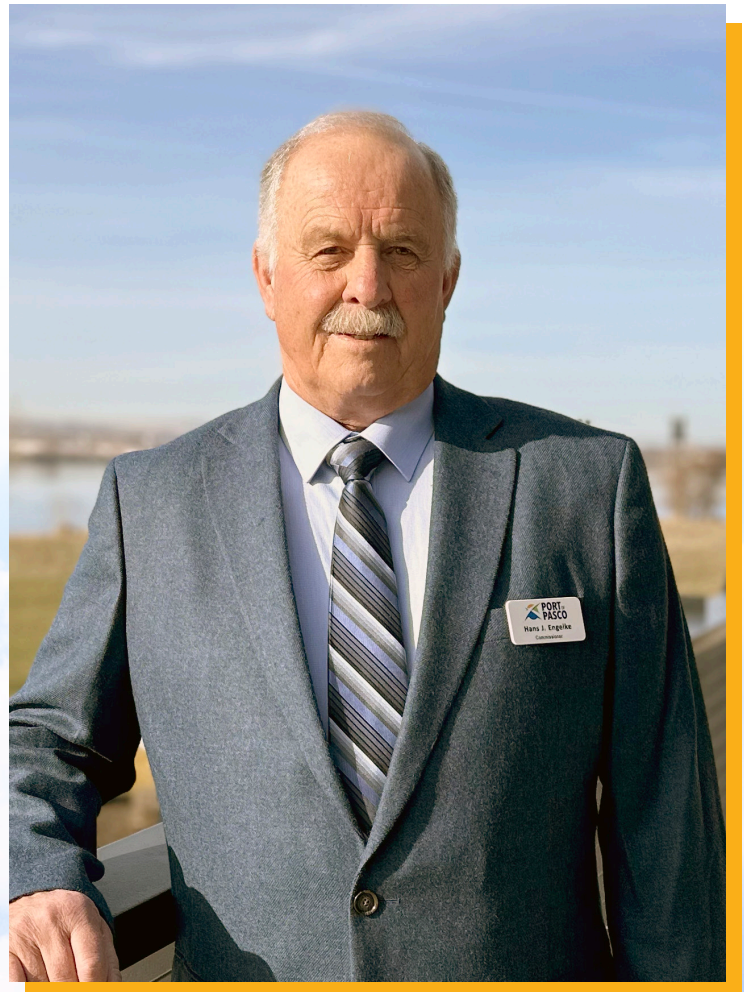
In selecting Engelke, Commissioners noted his strong background in agriculture, his legislative experience, and his strong historical involvement in District 3 and North Franklin County.

He was one of seven community members interviewed for the position for District 3, which covers the northern bulk of the Port.

Commissioner Engelke has over 50 years of experience with agriculture and its supporting industries. He established JTE Farms in Basin City in 1984, where he is owner/operator of a small, diversified crop, orchard and custom farming operation. He has also served on the Franklin County Farm Service Agency Committee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

He has deep roots in the northern portion of the Port, where he and his wife raised their three children, all graduates of the North Franklin School District.

“I am continually amazed by the diversity and productivity of our county industries,” said Commissioner Engelke. “Our sustainability has a solid foundation, thanks to our favorable climate, reliable energy and irrigation, and our capacity to transport, process, and market products. I look forward to engaging with community and business interests to explore and identify broad benefits,



options, and opportunities.”

Commissioner Engelke will stand for re-election in November to complete the remainder of former Commissioner Klindworth’s term and then is required to run in 2027 to be elected to a full six-year term.





# Introducing New Port Executive Director Adam Lincoln

The Port of Pasco has a new executive director at its helm. In January, Adam Lincoln was named to replace Randy Hayden, who retired in March.



Adam has held leadership positions in three municipal governments across the state of Washington. He previously served as City Administrator for Pullman, Deputy City Manager for Pasco, and, most recently, as City Manager for the City of Pasco. In these roles, he led major initiatives focused on infrastructure investment, economic growth, and fostering strong public-private partnerships. His leadership style emphasizes collaboration, innovation, and long-term sustainability, ensuring that government agencies remain responsive and effective.

Adam's roots in the region run deep—his father was raised in Pasco, and his grandfather worked at Hanford and the Franklin County Public Utility District. Now, as a parent of two children attending the Pasco School District, Adam is committed to ensuring that the region continues to thrive for future generations. His wife, Kim, who works in the medical profession, shares his dedication to community well-being.

“We're thrilled to have a proven public leader of Adam's experience step into the role of executive director at the Port,” said Port of Pasco Commission President Jean Ryckman. “He was chosen from a field of highly qualified candidates after an extensive search process. We believe he brings the right fit of executive experience, entrepreneurial spirit, and community collaboration that will serve the Port district well.”

According to Adam, his passion for strategic planning and organizational leadership has shaped his work in municipal government.

“I look forward to expanding economic opportunities, strengthening infrastructure, and fostering regional growth. I am eager to work alongside stakeholders to ensure that the Port of Pasco remains a key driver of economic vitality for the community and beyond,” he said.

A graduate of the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Policy & Governance, where he earned his Master of Public Administration (MPA), Adam also holds a bachelor's degree from Western Washington University.

## Wheelhouse Events Opening Soon

A building that overlooks the Columbia River in the Big Pasco Industrial Center is being restored to new life and energy with the opening of Wheelhouse Events LLC this spring.

It's the vision of Corina Manzano and Joey Jordan to turn the once-vacant building into an event center to host meetings, parties, and other special events.

“We wanted to create an affordable space to showcase the river and bring something special to Pasco,” said Corina. “In the future, we would love to host special events ourselves to draw people to this beautiful part of the river.”

In the beginning, the facility was built to serve as a houseboat marina; the idea never took off properly. It was then turned into a restaurant/convenience store and named The Wheelhouse. It has also served as office space. It has a number of now-unusable docks, but the plan is to restore at least one to allow boaters to access the revitalized center.

The two business partners have done all the work to restore the 1,700 square foot building. It is approved to have an occupancy maximum of 69 people.

Wheelhouse Events is located at 1350 SE Road 20, Pasco. For information send an email to [wheelhouseevents@gmail.com](mailto:wheelhouseevents@gmail.com) or call Corina at (509) 845-5123 / (509) 366-8200. They are currently booking reservations for the facility.

# Thank you, Randy!

After 25 years of service to the Port of Pasco, including 10 years as executive director, Randy Hayden retired on March 31.

Randy's long history with the Port of Pasco dates back to 2000 when he joined the Port, and his primary responsibilities included strategic planning for long range development and master plan implementation at the Port's commercial and industrial sites.

When it came to hiring a new executive director 10 years ago, he was the clear choice.

"Having Randy move into the executive director position right now is significant for the Port," then-Commissioner Jim Klindworth said at the time. "He's an engineer, and he's a perfect fit for us."

And, he indeed hit the ground running. The Port was in the middle of the Tri-Cities Airport expansion, the largest project in the Port's history and deemed a "once-in-a-generation" project. The 2-1/2-year expansion was completed in 2017 under Randy's leadership.

(That, 'once-in-a-generation expansion" of the airport? Recently, because of significant growth in air services and enplanements during Randy's time as executive director, initial work on another major terminal expansion has begun, well ahead of the estimated timeline.)

Also during his watch, the final piece of property within Pasco Processing Center was sold as was all available property within the Port's Foster Wells Business Park. Major new development sites were created including the Tri-Cities Airport Business Center, the Pasco Industrial Center 395 (now also at capacity), the ongoing work to develop Osprey Pointe, and the major 300-acre Reimann Industrial Center, home to the estimated \$600-million Darigold plant with room for additional industrial development at the site.

Randy oversaw the upgrade of Big Pasco Industrial Center to keep it a viable asset for the region, and the Port supported the North Franklin Visitor's Center and North Franklin Heritage Museum.

He managed the Port's nearly \$82-million operating and capital budget and a staff of approximately 40.

He has also been instrumental in helping the Port, and the region, look ahead by creating new goals and projects including the potential Aerospace Innovation and Manufacturing Center and a proposed Agricultural Innovation Center.

He most recently served as chair of the Tri-Cities Chamber's My TRI2030 Ag Committee as well as a board member of the Pasco Chamber of Commerce, Benton-Franklin Good Roads Association, and United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties.

According to Karl Dye, President and CEO of TRIDEC, "Randy has provided regional leadership for the Agriculture Innovation Center and Agricultural Symbiosis initiatives in partnership with the Center for Sustainable Infrastructure and Green Labs. Randy has been a dedicated partner of TRIDEC and a proud native Tri-Citian. He exemplifies the very best of our community—visionary leadership, humility, innovation, and a commitment to doing BIG things exceptionally well."

Port Commission President Jean Ryckman said Hayden has done an incredible job for the Port and for the community.

"He is leaving the Port of Pasco in an even better position than when he took it over, healthy and thriving. We will miss not only his abilities as an executive director, but his interactions with all of us on a personal level. We congratulate him on his well-earned retirement," she said.

Randy holds a degree in civil engineering from the University of Washington and earned his professional engineer's license in 1993. He is a Tri-City native, born and raised in Richland. He is married to Anette, and they have three children. As a family, the Hayden's enjoy camping (especially at Mount Rainier), sports, kayaking, biking, reading and traveling to Norway every few years to visit Anette's family.

And, many will miss seeing Randy regularly either kayaking or riding his bike to work.

Thank you, Randy, for your commitment and success in serving the Port and its constituents. Now enjoy your retirement.

*I would like to congratulate Randy on his retirement! His family is in for some well-deserved fun and attention from him! I will miss his faithful service to the people in the Port of Pasco. We could always count on Randy to be prepared and keep us on track in all matters to do with the Port. He kept all of the people of the Port district uppermost in his decisions and taught us how important that is! The relationships with all the jurisdictions that work together with the Port were important to him and are treasured by us. The best we could do for him is to keep those relationships at the top of our dealings for the Port! Thank you, Randy! God bless you!*

**Commissioner Vicki Gordon**





The **PORT OF PASCO** is 85 years old, and it is worth **CELEBRATING!**



**WATCH FOR UPCOMING EVENTS!**

In 1990, the Port purchased 250 acres to establish the Pasco Processing Center. Creating the processing center was a significant collaborative effort. The purchase of the property paved the way for J.R. Simplot Company to break ground on the first parcel, and in 2018 the final piece of property within the processing center was sold. From start to finish, this project has been about growing opportunities for our community.



## Welcome Jaime



Pasco native Jaime Vera is the new project manager for the Port of Pasco.

Prior to joining the Port, he worked in aviation management and leadership.

As project manager, he is responsible for procuring consultants and professional service providers through the RFQ/RFP process,

contract management on small works projects, including design and engineering services, and the call for bids from local contractors. He will also be assisting both the Port and the airport on major construction projects.

“I’m excited to assist in the growth and development for the Port of Pasco,” he said. “With my deep connection to my roots, I look forward to embracing this new opportunity and giving back to the community I call home.”

## The Numbers Keep Climbing

It was (another) record year at the Tri-Cities Airport. In 2024, 949,110 passengers traveling through its gates, making it the busiest year for the airport ever and up 9 percent over 2023.

December was the busiest month of 2024 with 49,343 people boarding an aircraft at the airport, which was also a new record.



## A Quick Reminder

After May 7, 2025, your standard Washington driver’s license or ID won’t be sufficient for airport security, including domestic flights. Be prepared by obtaining a REAL ID-compliant identification. Schedule your appointment with the Department of Licensing now to avoid last-minute issues.

For more information, visit the Washington State Department of Licensing website at [dol.wa.gov/id-cards/real-id](http://dol.wa.gov/id-cards/real-id).



### Port of Pasco

1110 Osprey Pointe Blvd. Ste 201 | 509-547-3378

### Tri-Cities Airport

3601 North 20th Avenue | 509-547-6352

### Mailing Address

1110 Osprey Pointe Blvd. Ste 201, Pasco, WA 99301

### On the Web

[www.portofpasco.org](http://www.portofpasco.org) | [www.flytricitie.com](http://www.flytricitie.com)

*Equal Opportunity Employer*

### Port Commission

Jean Ryckman President  
Hans J. Engelke Commissioner  
Vicki Gordon Secretary

You are invited to attend meetings of the Port of Pasco Commissioners. Regular public meetings are held at 10:30 a.m., the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The agenda of each meeting will be available on the Port’s website two days prior to the meeting

### Port Staff

Adam Lincoln	Executive Director
Buck Taft	Airport Director
Don Faley	Airport Deputy Director
Barry Gilk	Airport Chief of Police
Donna Watts	Finance Director
Stephen McFadden	Director, Economic Development & Marketing
Mayra Reyna	Director of Properties
Jaime Vera	Project Manager
Lori French	Public Records/HR Director