Presentation: The Port of Edmonds
Yesterday and Today
The Story of the Port of Edmonds

➢ Power of *citizen participation*

➢ Rewards of *public agency collaboration*

➢ The *benefits of vision*

➢ The potential of a few to create positive energy and impact

➢ Commitment of time and personal resources

➢ Fortitude and persistence

➢ Transformation and a legacy
The Story of the Port of Edmonds

- From the 1890’s until 1951 up to ten shingle mills operated along the waterfront
- 1890 The City of Edmonds incorporated
- 1891 The Great Northern Railroad came to town
- 1911 the Port District Act was authorized by Washington State Legislature
  - Created special purpose jurisdiction and junior taxing authority
  - Organized by districts to promote economic development through local control
  - To keep the waterfront in public ownership
  - To take back control from monopoly practices of the railroads
  - To promote trade and commerce, create jobs and investment and public access
- 1923 the City of Edmonds saw the first car ferry begin operation from Edmonds to Kingston (it carried 12 cars)
1945 the Edmonds Harbor and Breakwater Improvement Club was formed

- Harbor Committee held an event and sold tickets for $2.00 to raise money for promotion of a breakwater and harbor.
- With that money, an 8’ x 16’ plan for the harbor was sketched out on plywood.
- 1,100 signatures were obtained at the Seattle Boat Show from boaters interested in moorage at the proposed harbor.

1946 Congress authorized a re-survey of the Edmonds harbor by the Army Corps of Engineers
1947 the Edmonds Port Association was formed by representative business and industrial firms along the waterfront – their goals:

- Better street access to the waterfront
- Conduct a survey in support for the proposed breakwater
- Port district boundaries had to be established
- Commissioners had to be on the ballot for each of the three districts

1948 taxpayers approved formation of the Port district with a remarkable 94% majority vote

- Commissioner’s announced first priority was to acquire land for a boat harbor
- Over the next 13 years individual parcels were acquired from private owners
- Commissioners approved construction of the ferry dock and leased it to the State
By 1960 the Port owned 14 acres of uplands and approximately 18 acres of tidelands

1961 the Port of Edmonds began construction of what was first called the Edmonds Boat Harbor.

- With assistance from the Army Corp of Engineers and an investment of 1.15 million dollars
- the Port constructed a breakwater and what is now the south marina.

1969 the north marina and breakwater was completed at a cost of 1.18 million

1979 Port capacity had expanded to include dry storage

Port’s primary objective being fulfilled:
- Enhancement of local economic vitality
Port bought the property known as Harbor Square in 1978 for $350,000.

Three years later the Port entered into a long term lease agreement with a developer who built the eight building complex.

In 2006, the Port of Edmonds bought the assets from the developer for 13.5 million.

Today approximately 60 leases are part of the Harbor Square business complex and marina uplands bringing economic benefit into Edmonds.
On December 29, 1996, a hundred year storm hit the Puget Sound area.

Unprecedented wet, heavy snowfall caused the wooden roof supports to collapse. 300 boats sank and hundreds more were damaged.

A massive cooperative effort among local, state and federal agencies was launched at once and clean-up, planning and reconstruction of a new marina began. The 13 million dollar project rebuilt all but one covered dock.
The Port of Edmonds is:

- Separate jurisdiction from the City or State
- 5 elected commissioners set policy
- The Edmonds Port District includes:
  - a portion of the City of Edmonds (not contiguous with City boundaries)
  - All of the Town of Woodway
City’s involvement with the Port is limited to:

- Land use & zoning control
  - City’s Comprehensive Plan
  - Shoreline Master Plan
  - Critical Areas Ordinance

The Port is partners with the City on Economic Development even though each entity sometimes disagrees on policies and methods.
TODAY – the Port owns and manages just over 65 acres of water and upland property. The growth and development over the years has fulfilled one of the Port’s primary objectives - - the enhancement of local economic vitality.
Prime Location and Destination known for; Quality, Service, Value, and Convenience.

✓ 662 In-water slips (360 covered, 302 open)
✓ 232 dry storage spaces
✓ Public sling launch - about 4000 launches per year allowing trailerable boats to access Puget Sound easily
✓ Leadership level Certified Clean Marina and Boatyard
✓ Travelift serving about 500 boats per year with approximately 80 qualified vendors performing needed services on boats
✓ Guest moorage areas attracting about 3200 visiting boats each year
  ❖ Destination Port of Edmonds collaborative program with Edmonds merchants
  ❖ Port offers courtesy shuttle to downtown areas
✓ Fueling facilities
The Port Today ~ Public Amenities and Special Events

**Public Amenities:**
- Boardwalk connecting parks on north and south ends
- Marina bridge walkway
- Picnic tables along the boardwalk
- Award winning landscape areas
- Restroom facilities
- Public sling launch for trailerable boats

**Special Events:**
- Fishing Derby’s
- Group Regattas
- Waterfront Festival
- Classic Yacht Tours
- Sea Jazz
- Artists in Action