

**Columbia River Gorge Commission
Assessment Committee Meeting Notes
August 10, 2007**

Columbia River Gorge Commission
White Salmon, Washington

Commissioners Present: Dan Harkenrider – Chair, Walt Loehrke, Carl McNew, Jim Middaugh (via conference call) and Joyce Reinig

Staff: Jill Arens, Angie Kenney, Pieter Klymeer, Brian Litt, Jessica Metta and Jeff Tryens, indicators consultant

Other Attendees: Pete Cornelison and Tom Nicolai

Committee Chair Dan Harkenrider called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

Angie Kenney began the meeting by discussing the changes made to the preliminary objectives based on the feedback from the July 27, 2007 meeting. She explained that for the most part, the modifications simply made the objective statements more consistent with existing language found within the Act and the Management Plan. For example, objective 1.1 was changed from “protect and improve” to “protect and enhance” and the phrase “and their habitat” was added to the end of objectives 2.1 and 2.2 for the protection of sensitive wildlife and plant species.

Based on feedback from the previous meeting the first objective for the economic goal had been modified to read *protect and support the economic vitality of the urban areas*. Commissioner Loehrke did not agree with replacing the original word ‘sustain’ with ‘support’ in the revised objective. He explained that to sustain something required more action and more involvement than to support something. It was agreed that sustain should be used instead of support. Commissioner Middaugh inquired as to how the rural centers were accounted for in this objective. After a thorough discussion, it was decided that the first objective for the economic resource goal should be rephrased to read: *Protect and sustain the economic vitality of the urban areas and rural centers*.

Changes were also made to the preliminary objectives for the cultural and recreation resource goals. At the previous meeting, it was decided that the preliminary objectives for the cultural resource goal were really just strategies for the goal. In response to this feedback, staff modified the objectives to protect and enhance each type of cultural resource that the Act names. These include archeological and prehistoric resources (new objective 4.1), historic resources (new objective 4.2) and traditional cultural properties (new objective 4.3). The only changes made to the recreation objectives were the removal of the phrase “in the Columbia River Gorge” from objective 5.1 and the reversal in order of

objective 5.1 and 5.2. This was done for consistency with the Act and to make it easier to read.

Jill Arens presented the proposed structure of the technical and community advisory teams. Rather than five individual technical teams as the handouts showed, a suggestion made by Commissioner Middaugh at a previous meeting was discussed. As per his suggestion, the advisory groups would consist of one technical team that would be able to break out into subgroups for the SNECRs and utilize other experts as consultants. The chair of this technical group would meet with the community advisory group and report to the Assessment Committee.

Commissioner Reinig said that the expectations from the groups would need to be identified early on and clearly presented. Jill explained that this information would be identified in the advisory group charters. Commissioner Reinig also questioned the role of the public. Jill explained that the technical advisory team would consist of experts, people with usable data and inventories, regulatory agencies, and other constituents capable of bringing technical data to the table. The community advisory group would include community stakeholder groups, public officials, local citizens and community leaders. The public at large would be able to attend any of the advisory group meetings as they will be open, as well as any of the Assessment Committee and Gorge Commission Meetings to submit comments throughout the process.

Brian Litt and Chair Harkenrider discussed the agencies and experts to be involved in the technical advisory groups. Brian stated that the core of the group and subgroups would be comprised of Forest Service Scenic Area office employees, Commission planners and county planners. Other experts to be called upon would not be expected to devote as much time as these core groups. Jeff Tryens suggested that staff try to involve university research students or experts. Local community colleges might have students interested in an internship while nearby universities are great sources of specialized information, data sets and people who are able to make a time commitment that could assist the technical advisory groups. Commissioner Loehrke suggested contacting University of Oregon. Chair Harkenrider stated that he believes the equivalent of one all-day meeting with the technical advisory groups may allow us to identify our initial set of indicators and data sets.

Several people were concerned that we might not be able to get the participation, time commitments or readily available data that we are hoping for. Commissioner Reinig suggested placing a time limitation or expectation in the charters. Jill explained that at this point we are expecting to need two or three technical advisory group meetings during September and October – before the Future Forum event. Chair Harkenrider stated that with the right sidebars, this may be all of the meetings we'll need from the technical groups.

Jeff Tryens stressed that we should keep the process simple, keep the timeline compressed and use only existing data resources. He explained that this is only our first iteration of the project, not the be-all and end-all of Gorge Commission Indicator projects. It won't be perfect the first time. He also suggested keeping a list of items we would like to

measure but do not have the resources for at this time. The list would serve as a set of place holders and would make it easier to add them when resources become available.

Jill then discussed the draft outline criteria discussed for the technical advisory group members. No substantial comments were received so the discussion turned to the community advisory group. The potential size of this group was discussed as well as the time commitment involved. Chair Harkenrider felt that twelve members would result in a good size group but might not be sufficient in the long term. Commissioner Loehrke mentioned that it might be easier to attract members if they knew upfront that the time commitment would be low. Others felt that by placing time constraints on the community advisory group, the process may be more manageable too. Chair Harkenrider stressed that all of these issues could be addressed in the advisory group charters. He stated that the purpose of the community advisory group was to serve as a sounding board for works produced by staff and the technical advisory group.

Jeff stated that he envisioned approximately three community advisory meetings, each about three hours long, where the members would get together, eat a meal and rehash the issues and provide feedback for the staff and Commission. Commissioner Middaugh suggested that the groups be non-voting to keep the numbers low and to eliminate any feelings of unfairness. Everyone agreed that the groups should be non-voting.

Jeff suggested the importance of having non-elected and non-official citizens involved in the process. Jill explained that we would be looking for a mix of members, and would like at least one public official from each county, both sides of the river, in and out of the Scenic Area, and tribal representatives. Commissioner McNew suggested that we draw from the local community councils to reach the public.

Chair Harkenrider stated that the key to the public involvement piece is keeping the process transparent. We should make sure that all meetings are open to the public, that adequate information is posted on our website and that all information requests are fulfilled. It was agreed by the Committee that both the technical and community advisory group meetings would open to the public.

Jeff discussed the necessary components of the advisory group charters. He explained that a good charter needs the following:

- define the purpose of the group
- a solid value statement – what the group believes in
- a complete list of tasks for which the groups will be responsible to achieve the purpose of the project
- very specifically stated expectations – what we want and don't want
- selection criteria for members
- how the group is structured (how the chair is chosen, powers of the chair, term lengths, time commitments/meetings, and levels of staff support)

Jill then discussed the indicators timeline. She explained that our goal is to have indicators identified by the next budget hearing (January/February 2009). She explained that the

technical advisory groups should have met twice before the Future Forum event (October 29, 2007) and that we would be presenting the community advisory group members at the event.

Jill then discussed the addition of a neutral scientific body to analyze our measurements to verify their effectiveness and validity. She suggested the Oregon State University Institute of Natural Resources, lead by Gail Achterman. It was decided that it might be best to contract with this group early on to obtain guidance while drafting the process this fall.

The group asked for clarification regarding the two kinds of indicators we will be measuring. Staff explained that the community indicators would be used to assess gorge health or the state of the community while the agency indicators would be assessing how well the Commission has implemented the Scenic Area Act. It was suggested that we start the agency performance measures by using our agency key performance measures and then gradually change them to coincide more with the project.

Commission staff will be taking the draft goals and preliminary objectives for the project to the August 14, 2007 Gorge Commission Meeting. Staff has requested approval of the draft goals, review of the preliminary objectives and approval of the creation of advisory committees for the next step in the project.

The next Assessment Committee meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2007 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. We will be discussing draft charters, a chair for the technical advisory group as well as the members and a proposed meeting schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Attachments

AK

Columbia River Gorge Commission Assessment Committee
Revisions to Preliminary Objectives for the *Vital Signs Indicators* Project
9:00 am – 11:00 am, August 10, 2007
White Salmon, Washington

9:00-9:05: (5 minutes)	Call to order
9:05-9:35: (30 minutes)	<p>Angie Kenney will explain changes made to the preliminary objectives following the last meeting based on comments from the committee members as well as from the public who attended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation: projection of revised draft goals and preliminary objectives- Handout: revised outline containing draft goals and preliminary objectives
9:35-10:50: (75 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jill Arens will discuss the proposed structuring for the advisory committees and open it up for discussion with committee members.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation: projection of draft advisory committee structure- Handout: hard copy of projected diagram• Jill Arens will present draft selection criteria for advisory group members and open it up for discussion with committee members.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Handout: draft selection criteria• Jeff Tryens will discuss the creation of a charter for the technical advisory committees and open it up for discussion with committee members.
10:50 – 11:00: (10 minutes)	Jill Arens will discuss changes to the work-plan (timeline) and the future involvement of Jeff Tryens and Pieter Kleymeer.
11:00:	Meeting adjourned.

1. Scenic Protect and enhance scenic resources.

Objective 1.1

(old) Protect and **improve** the scenic quality of the Columbia River Gorge visible from public vantage points (Key Viewing Areas).

(new) Protect and **enhance** the scenic quality of the Columbia River Gorge visible from public vantage points (Key Viewing Areas).

Objective 1.2

(old) **Maintain** the diversity and visual character of the existing landscape.

(new) **Protect** the diversity and visual character of the existing landscape.

2. Natural Protect and enhance natural resources.

Objective 2.1

(old) Protect and enhance sensitive wildlife species.

(new) Protect and enhance sensitive wildlife species **and their habitats**.

Objective 2.2

(old) Protect and enhance sensitive plant species.

(new) Protect and enhance sensitive plant species **and their habitats**.

Objective 2.3

Protect and enhance aquatic resources.

3. Economic Protect and support the economy of the Columbia River Gorge region.

Objective 3.1

(old) **Enhance and sustain** the economic vitality of the **Columbia River Gorge cities and towns**.

(new) **Protect and support** the economic vitality of the **urban areas**.

Objective 3.2

Protect and enhance agriculture and forestry.

Objective 3.3

(old) Increase overall economic diversity in the Columbia River Gorge region.

(new) **Assure that economic development outside the urban areas is consistent with the Scenic Act.**

4. Cultural Protect and enhance cultural resources.**Objective 4.1**

(old) Protect significant cultural resources.

(new) **Protect and enhance significant archaeological and prehistoric resources.**

Objective 4.2

(old) Increase capacity to protect significant cultural resources.

(new) **Protect and enhance significant historic resources.**

Objective 4.3

(old) Increase public awareness and understanding of cultural resources.

(new) **Protect and enhance traditional cultural properties.**

5. Recreational Protect and enhance recreational resources.**Objective 5.1**

(old) Protect and enhance the quality of recreation experiences in the Columbia River Gorge.

(new) **Protect and enhance the quality of recreation experiences.**

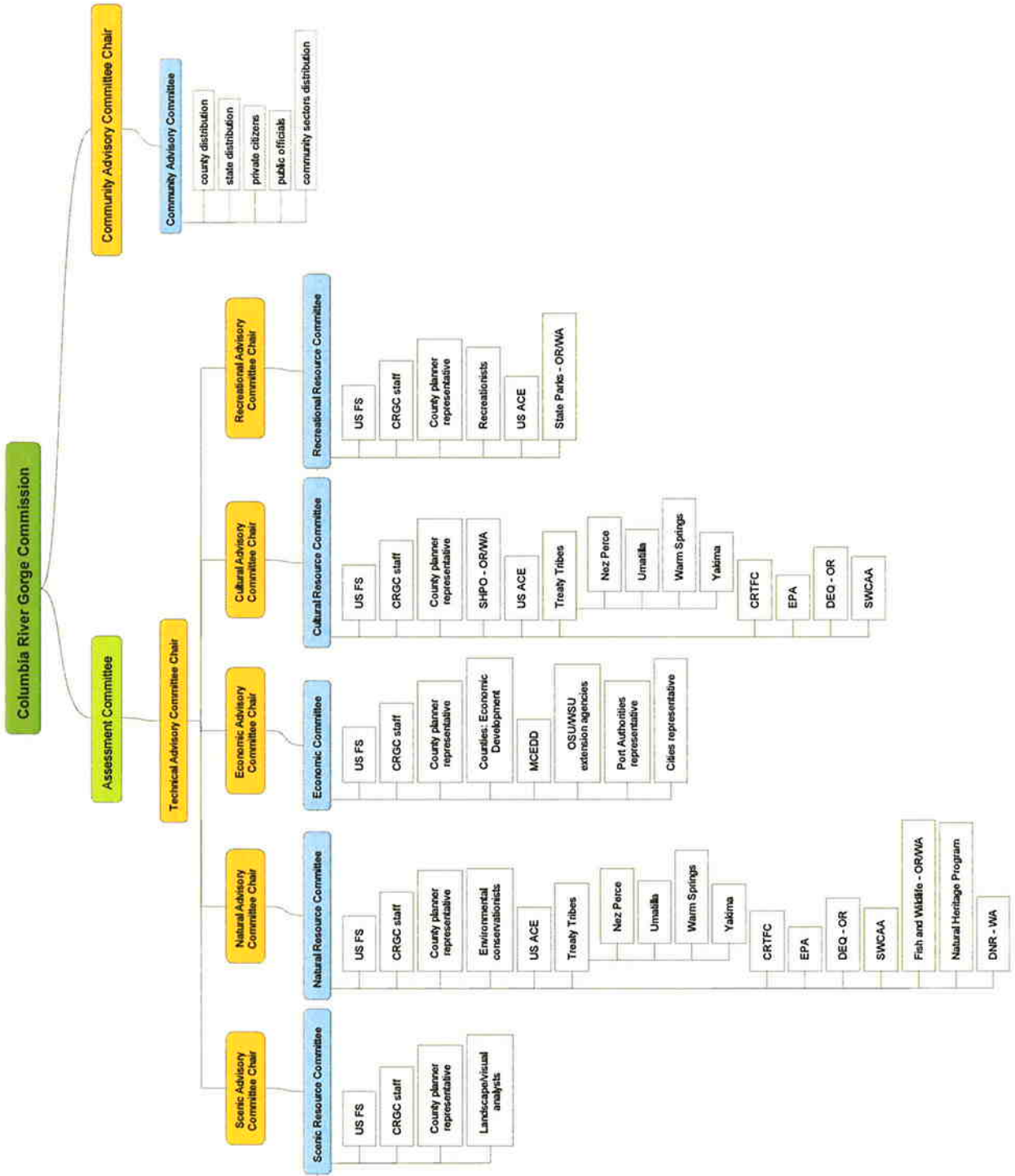
Objective 5.2

(old) Increase the number and diversity of recreation opportunities in the underserved areas of the Columbia River Gorge.

(new) **Protect and enhance the diversity of recreation opportunities.**

Proposed structure of the advisory committees

DRAFT 8 August 2007



Selection Criteria for the Indicators Technical Committee Members:

Technical Advisory Committee Chairs must have the following qualifications:

1. Leadership
2. Neutral approach
3. Respected within technical community
4. Collaborative
5. Experience
6. No single issue experts

Technical Advisory Committee members:

- Expertise in technical field
- Access to useful and related data
- Availability to meet time commitment requirements

Selection Criteria for the Community Advisory Committee Members:

A broad spectrum of Gorge constituents should be included in this advisory group including:

- Citizens from both states and the six counties;
- Private citizens;
- Public officials; and
- Citizens from diverse community sectors, i.e. public safety, the farm bureau, religious groups etc.

Community Advisory Committee members should be:

- Team players
- Willing to collaborate
- Able to make a time commitment (for research and meetings)
- Able to look at issues from a neutral point of view
- Able to look at more than one issue.

Indicators Project Process and Next Steps

	Create draft goals and preliminary objectives	Create technical advisory committee	Review draft community indicators	Create citizen advisory committee	Future Forum	Update draft community indicators with public input	Develop draft agency performance indicators	Finalize draft community and agency performance indicators	Community and agency performance indicators adopted	Community indicators data collected	Community indicators data analyzed	Agency progress report complete
Gorge Commission Staff												
Assessment Committee												
Technical Advisory Committee												
Citizen Advisory Committee												
Gorge Commission												
Gorge Community												
	Jul 2007	Aug/Sep	Sep/Oct	Oct 2007	Oct 29 2007	Nov 2007	Dec 2007	Jan 2008	Mar 2008	Jun 2008	Sep 2008	Dec 2008