

DRAFT
Meeting Notes
Rules Committee
Commission Office
April 1, 2009
10:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Judy Davis, Joyce Reinig, Walt Loehrke, Sara Grigsby
Staff present: Jill Arens, Jennifer Kaden, Brian Litt
Public present: Michael Lang, Dan Durow, Cindy Walbridge, Colleen Tenhold-Sauter, Matt Bowen, Ken Farner, Chuck Covert, Dave Berger, Steven Anderson, Tom Nicolai,

Committee Chair Judy Davis called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The Committee approved the meeting notes from March 4, 2009.

Chair Davis mentioned two articles/presentations about rural smart growth she found on the internet:

Demographic Trends in Rural and Small Town America -
http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/Report_Demographics.pdf

This report talks about factors that are attracting new residents to rural and small town places. The Gorge has many of them--scenic beauty, recreation, proximity to a major urban area, and small towns big enough to have a wide range of services.

Building Sustainable Rural Communities with Smart Growth Approaches -
http://www.epa.gov/region07/news_events/events/proceedings/redeveloping_brownfields_august2007/15_nuts_and_bolts_dalbey.pdf

This powerpoint outlines the basics of "Rural Smart Growth" and gives some examples. It ties together many of the issues that have come up in the rules committee discussions.

Jennifer Kaden recapped the March 4, 2009 Rules Committee meeting and the status of the work of the committee with regard to prioritization and regional analysis. She mentioned copies of provisions in Oregon & Washington regarding the prioritization of lands for urbanization.

Minor revision

Jennifer Kaden recapped a panel discussion before the Gorge Commission in June 2008 about urban area boundaries and "minor revision". Chair Davis posed questions about the relationship between the provisions of the Act on urban area boundaries and the ability of cities to grow. The committee discussed growth, types of growth, character & identity of cities, and some history of the differences of urban areas in Oregon & Washington. Comments also were made by members of the public throughout the meeting.

Next, the committee discussed "minor" in relation to what else already is addressed in the 4(f) criteria and what has been discussed as part of prioritization and regional analysis. Cumulative or long-term effects of multiple boundary revisions also was discussed. The committee then discussed the existing definition of "minor revision" in the Urban Areas Boundary Revisions Handbook.

There was some discussion about whether “minor revision” could be defined separate from review criteria or whether it should be part of the overall package. The committee asked staff to work on options for defining minor revision separately, as part of a package of criteria [4(f) and possible additional criteria related to prioritization and regional analysis], and to provide options for addressing the cumulative impacts of boundary revisions.

A rough schedule was established to review “minor revision” with the rest of the package of proposed new rules on April 22 and to review the proposed changes incorporated into Commission Rule 350-40 on May 12. It was requested that any suggestions for defining “minor revision” be submitted to Jennifer Kaden by April 15 to compile the ideas for the April 22 meeting.

The committee decided to try to reschedule the May 13 meeting date to May 12 – either before or after the Commission meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.