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Columbia River Gorge Commission  
*Meeting Minutes*  
April 25, 2001

Location: US Forest Service  
Time: Meeting commenced at 8:45 a.m.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Anne Squier, Chair	Joe Palena
Kenn Adcock	Joyce Reinig
Dan Harkenrider	Dave Robertson
Jim Luce	Katharine Sheehan
Walt Loehrke	Wayne Wooster

**COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED**

Don Dunn  
Louie Pitt, Jr.

This special meeting of the Columbia River Gorge Commission, is to continue its work toward selecting a new Executive Director, was called to order at approximately 8:45 a.m. on April 25, 2001. Commissioners Pitt and Dunn were excused (Commissioner Dunn expected in the afternoon). Commissioners Adcock, Crow, Harkenrider, Loehrke, Luce, Palena, Reinig, Robertson, Sheehan, Wooster and Squier were present.

Chair Squier announced that Director Puchy and Administrative Assistant Bob McIntyre have been attending legislative budget meetings in Salem throughout this week, and a great deal of their time was consumed in the recent audit visit. Because of that the May Commission meeting packet mailing will be delayed by a couple of days, and a draft minutes from the regular April Commission meeting will not be available until the June mailing.

Fred Heany inquired whether he might make a public comment to read into the record a letter he had prepared, relevant to Executive Director selection. Because the public notice for this special meeting did not provide for public comment, Chair Squier declined to take a spoken presentation but did accept and distribute to all Commissioners a copy of Mr. Heany's letter (attached).

At 8:50 a.m. Chair Squier announced that the Commission would enter executive session to consider the employment of an Executive Director, pursuant to Commission rule 350-11-006(1)(a). No news media representatives were present.

In executive session the commission interviewed five candidates for the position, asking each candidate the same series of questions. A lunch break was taken from approximately 12:15 to 1:15. Commissioners shared observations about the strengths and weaknesses of those candidates. No decisions were made.

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At 4:50 p.m. the Commission returned to open session. Commissioner Dunn arrived. Commissioner Reinig moved that the Commission offer the position of Executive Director to Martha Bennett. Commissioner Robertson seconded.

Commissioner Adcock asked that the Commission vote on all five candidates it had interviewed, ranking them 1 to 5. Chair Squier ruled that that would not be an appropriate procedure, since the only decision before the Commission is to select a director; and indicated concern also that such a course could unnecessarily expose the candidates not selected to public scrutiny and judgment.

Commissioner Dunn asked how the commission felt about his taking part in the decision, since he was not able to attend the interviews. The Commission's sense was that he should feel free to do so based on his review of the written materials, if he wished.

Commissioner Sheehan commented that all of the candidates interviewed were very qualified.

Chair Squier called for a vote. All eleven voting members presented voted Aye. There were no dissents.

Commissioner Luce raised a point of new business, moving that the commission adopt a resolution (offered verbally) that would reflect concern about the potential impacts of increasing power rates on employment in the NSA, particularly related to the aluminum industry. Commissioner Dunn seconded. Several members expressed concern both about the complexity of the issues, the absence of any staff briefing, and the appropriateness of such a resolution. After discussion Commissioner Luce withdrew his motion with the understanding that Commissioner Crow would take the lead to report on the issue as part of the Economic Development committee report at the next commission meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Date Approved by Commission

Anne W. Squier

July 10, 2001