

Columbia River Gorge Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2004

A complete record of this meeting is available on audiotape

Location: Columbia River Gorge Commission Office
 #1 Town and Country Square, White Salmon, WA

Time: 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Harold Abbe*

Kenn Adcock*

Doug Crow*

Judy Davis*

Jane Jacobsen*

Walt Loehrke

Joe Palena*

Dave Robertson*

Kathy Sheehan*

Anne Squier

*participation via conference phone

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chris Knopp for Dan Harkenrider (excused)

Joyce Reinig (excused)

STAFF PRESENT

Tom Ascher, Planner

Brian Litt, Senior Planner & Acting Executive Director

Kathy Obayashi-Bartsch, Administrative Assistant

AUDIENCE PRESENT

Curtis, Lee. Oregon Investment Board (OIB)

Chair Squier called the special meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and said most of the Commissioners will be participating via conference phone. The only agenda item for today's meeting is economic development certification and public comment will be taken for these items.

Tom Ascher, Planner provided a review of grant request, File No. E04-0114 (see attachment A). He said the City of Mosier is requesting a \$20,000 grant to help fund hydrologic monitoring and modeling of groundwater aquifers serving the City of Mosier and rural communities of Mosier Valley. There were no questions from the Commission and Chair Squier said there were no members of the public present. Ascher summarized the staff report, including a recommendation that

the Commission certify the grant request as consistent with the Scenic Area Act, Management Plan and land use ordinances.

Commissioner Crow moved to certify the request and Commissioner Adcock seconded the request. A voice vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Chair Squier noted that Lee Curtis of the Oregon Investment Board (OIB) was now in attendance and asked if she had any comments. Curtis thanked the Commission for certification of the request.

Ascher provided a review of economic development loan file no. E04-0115 (see attachment B) and said a corrected version of the staff report was distributed as the original report erroneously used the term "grant" in a few places. He said Jorge and Lupe Barragan are requesting a \$250,000 loan for construction of a new restaurant facility for the Casa el Mirador Mexican Restaurant in The Dalles. Ascher summarized the staff report, including a recommendation that the Commission certify the grant request as consistent with the Scenic Area Act, Management Plan and land use ordinances.

Commissioner Crow asked whether owner and developer equity were the same. He said owner participation is very important and would be concerned with accepting overly leveraged projects. Ascher said the owner and developer were the same party.

Commissioner Palena said he was concerned about loaning money to any speculative business but said the role of the Commission is to determine whether a project is consistent with the Scenic Area Act.

Lee Curtis said the OIB discussed the viability of this project and unanimously approved the request.

Commissioner Jacobsen asked for more information as to the profitability of this business. Commissioner Loehrke said he had worked for the Barragan family on other real estate business and said waiting for a table at dinner time was not uncommon.

The Commissioners discussed their role in the certification process. Chair Squier said the investment board has the responsibility to determine fiscal soundness and the Commission's role is to determine whether a project is consistent with the Scenic Area Act, Management Plan and land use ordinances.

Commissioner Crow made a motion to certify the request and Commissioner Jacobsen seconded the request. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Harold Abbe-aye
Kenn Adcock-aye
Doug Crow-aye

Judy Davis-aye
Jane Jacobsen-aye
Walt Loehrke-aye
Joe Palena-aye
Dave Robertson-aye
Kathy Sheehan-aye
Anne Squier-aye

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 12/14/04 at the Hood River Inn in Hood River, Oregon at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes taken by Kathy Obayashi-Bartsch

Minutes approved on December 14, 2004