

Columbia River Gorge Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
December 27, 2011
3:00 pm
Columbia River Gorge Commission Office
57 Wauna Street, White Salmon WA

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Harold Abbe-phone
Daina Bambe-phone
Don Bonker -phone
Keith Chamberlain
Sondra Clark
Sara Grigsby-phone
Jim Middaugh-phone
Antone Minthorn-phone
Carl McNew
Rodger Nichols-phone
Joyce Reinig

MEMBERS ABSENT

Damon Webster

STAFF PRESENT

Jill Arens, Executive Director-phone
Kathy Obayashi-Bartsch, Administrative Analyst

AUDIENCE PRESENT

Lynn Burditt, USFS National Scenic Area Regional Manager-effective January 2012-
phone
Darren Nichols, Salem OR-phone

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Reinig called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm and roll was called. At the December 21st special meeting, the Commission directed Commissioners Chamberlain and Abbe to offer employment terms with Darren Nichols to serve as Executive Director. The purpose of today's meeting is to hire the new Executive Director of the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

Commissioner Abbe provided a review of the hiring terms. The Commission discussed the start date and a combination of full and part-time employment. Nichols intends to meet with current staff, Commissioners and others via phone and e-mail for an interim period of January through the end of February, 2012. Should he return to the Northwest for any meetings during this interim period such as legislative visits, he will travel at his own expense. Nichols will begin work full time effective February 27, 2012. Should there

be any issue with the employment start date and employee status, Jill Arens, Executive Director will address this.

Commissioner Middaugh made a motion to offer employment to Darren Nichols as Executive Director beginning January 3, 2012 at .25 FTE and full time effective February 27, 2012. The Commission will pay the full cost of moving expenses up to \$6,000 with a salary \$115,000 per year less the state mandated 3% temporary salary reduction. Commissioner Chamberlain seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Harold Abbe- yes

Don Bonker-yes

Keith Chamberlain-yes

Sondra Clark-yes

Sara Grigsby-yes

Carl McNew-yes

Jim Middaugh-yes

Antone Minthorn-yes

Rodger Nichols-yes

Joyce Reinig-yes

Adjourn 3:30 pm

Approved 1.10.12