

**Columbia River Gorge Commission**  
Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2016

Best Western Hood River Inn, Riverview Room  
1108 East Marina Way, Hood River, Oregon

***MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE***

Gorham Blaine  
Bowen Blair  
Don Bonker  
Lynn Burditt  
Keith Chamberlain  
Lorrie DeKay  
Dan Ericksen  
Robert Liberty  
Carl McNew  
Antone Minthorn  
Rodger Nichols  
Janet Wainwright  
Damon Webster

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

***STAFF PRESENT***

Nancy Andring, Administrative Analyst  
Jessica Gist, Natural Resources and Land Use Planner  
Jason Hildreth, GIS Analyst/Land Use Planner  
Riley Marcus, Klickitat County Planner working with the Gorge Commission  
Krystyna Wolniakowski, Executive Director  
Gordon Howard, Consultant Long-Range Planner

***AUDIENCE PRESENT***

Barney, Casey – Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program  
Brong, Chris – Skamania County Commissioner  
Brown, Keith – Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Burns, Arlene – City of Mosier  
Chase, Jim – Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Collins, Chris – Estuary Partnership  
Cornelison, Peter – Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Fagerness, Kari – Skamania EDC  
Irish, Sherri  
Keister, Larry  
Klaas, Jim  
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Lankford, Sam – CSU Fresno  
Lapp, Christopher – US Fish & Wildlife  
Leon, Peter – Wishram Community Council  
Little, Dan – First Gentlemen of Oregon

Marriott, Deb – Estuary Partnership  
Meyer, Maui - Hood River County Commissioner  
Ripp, David – Port of Camas  
Robbins, Theresa – Cape Horn Conservancy  
Skakel, Jackie  
Stallman, Kristen – Oregon Department of Transportation  
Tkach, Renee – Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Vervloet, Bart – Columbia Gorge Windsurfing Assn

Others were present during the day.

## **AGENDA**

### **Committee Meetings (10:00 AM)**

- **Outreach Committee**
- **Communications Committee**

### **Call to Order and Roll (11:03 AM)**

Chair Blair called the meeting to order and Nancy Andring called roll.

### **Welcome from local officials (11:04 AM)**

Maui Meyer, Hood River County Commissioner, welcomed the Commission. Housing, housing prices, and transportation are Hood River County priorities.

### **Approval of Minutes for November 8, 2016 Commission meetings (11:06 AM)**

Commissioner McNew moved to adopt the November 8, 2016 meeting minutes. Commissioner Ericksen seconded the motion. Chair Blair made some minor corrections. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

### **Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission (11:06 AM)**

As part of the Government to Government consultation process the Commission welcomes input from treaty tribe members on any issue on the agenda and any other matters. No tribal members were present.

### **Opportunity for Public Comment (11:08 AM)**

The following provided public comment to the Commission on items not listed on the agenda:

Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge provided a written summary of comments related to coal train settlement with BNSF Railroad. [\[see attachment A1 and A2\]](#) He reviewed previous comments regarding land use application reviews and legal standing for appeals.

### **Information Item: Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge Restoration Project (11:16 AM)**

Debrah Marriott, Executive Director, and Chris Collins, Principal Restoration Ecologist, Lower Columbia Estuary Program, presented their project to breach dikes and restore habitat at the wildlife refuge. [\[see attachment B\]](#) BPA is funding project design. The Estuary Partnership is in line for a Floodplains by Design grant from the Department of Ecology, pending legislative approval.

### **Lunch (12:30PM)**

**Gorge Commission Executive Director's Report (1:06PM)** Director Wolniakowski reported on:

- Management Plan Update
- Buildable Lands Inventory – Jason Hildreth brief intro presentation (see attachment C)
- County Development Review Process (see memo handed out) and Status (and Klickitat County update) (see attachment D)
- Public Listening Sessions/Local Government Meetings Schedule (see attachment E)

**Information Item: *Historic Columbia River Highway 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Update* (1:48 PM)**

Kristen Stallman, Oregon Department of Transportation, and Wayne Stewart, Chair of the Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee, presented an overview of the new \$29 million grant awarded by FLAP (Federal Lands Access Program) to complete the last connection of the HCRH.

**Information Item: *Community Attitudes Toward Tourism* (2:38 PM)**

Sam Lankford, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Recreation Administration, Fresno, CA discussed the study he conducted in the Columbia River Gorge in 1989 and is in the process of replicating that study to better understand attitudes toward tourism using the Tourism Impact Attitude Scale (TIAS). (see attachment F)

**Committee Reports (3:04 PM)**

Outreach and Communications Committees presented information about the outcomes from the morning discussions, as well as updates from other committees if needed. Commissioner Wainwright spoke about meeting with legislators, senators and governors to making a case for increasing funding, as well as meeting with editorial boards. Commissioner Nichols spoke on making another newsletter for the Gorge Gazette. Commissioner DeKay talking about One Gorge meeting, as well as coming up with a contact list and Commissioner Ericksen speaking on how to better incorporate economic development concerns.

**Election Process (3:15 PM)**

Commissioner Nichols discussed rules on how it all works and moved to suspend Robert's Rules. Commissioner Ericksen moved to second. Commissioner DeKay nominated Chair Blair to remain as chair. Commissioner Ericksen suggested we keep Chair Blair since no one else was nominated, and Commissioner McNew seconded. Going to call names- all yes except for Keith Chamberlain. Commissioner Wainwright nominated Commissioner Bonker for vice chair. No other nominations, so Commissioner Liberty moved to close nominations, and Commissioner Webster seconded. Moved to call names- all yes except for Keith Chamberlain.

**Other Business: (3:24PM)**

Commissioners Ericksen and McNew brought back up the ongoing discussion between City of White Salmon and Yakama tribe in terms of water rights for Buck Creek.

**National Scenic Area Manager's Report (3:29 PM)**

Commissioner Burditt gave a powerpoint presentation on some of the work happening out at Balfour, Moorehead-Fisher, Wahkeena Falls, Catherine Creek Eagles Nest, Sandy River Delta, as well as other work such as being involved in Incident Support, Field Rangers program, and other engaging programs with the local communities.

**Special Afternoon Session on the 30<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of the National Scenic Area: *Reflections on the last 30 Years and New Horizons with “Gorge 2020: Focus On Our Future” Initiative***  
(4:00 PM)

**Bowen Blair, Chairman, Columbia River Gorge Commission: *“The National Scenic Area, Then and Now”*** (4:15 PM)

**Dan Little, First Gentleman of Oregon: *“The Gorge as a Bridge--Connecting Oregonians with Our Outdoors”*** (4:25 PM) (see attachment G)

**Peter Marbach, Fine Art Photographer: *Photographic Journey “From Source to Sea—the Wild Columbia”*** (4:35 PM)

**Networking with Commissioners and Staff** (5:30 PM)

**Adjourn** (7:10 PM)

Approved 2.14.17