

**Columbia River Gorge Commission**

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2015

Water Resources Education Center  
4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver, Washington

***MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE***

Bowen Blair  
Don Bonker  
Gorham Blaine (09:29 AM)  
Keith Chamberlain  
Lorrie DeKay  
Dan Ericksen  
Antone Minthorn  
Jim Middaugh (09:10)  
Rodger Nichols (09:10)  
Janet Wainwright  
Damon Webster

Robin Shoal for Lynn Burditt (ex-officio) AM  
Lynn Burditt (ex-officio) PM

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

Carl McNew

***STAFF PRESENT***

Nancy Andring, Administrative Assistant  
Terry Cullen, Principal Planner  
Michele Dailey, GeoInformatics  
Darren Nichols, Executive Director

***AUDIENCE PRESENT***

Caudill, Anya – Washington Department of Ecology (DOE)  
Daniels, Alan – Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
Davenport, Jessica – Skamania County Planning Department  
Euler, Gordy – Clark County Community Planning  
Hartsfield, Sam – Port of Portland  
Irish, Sherri  
Keister, Larry  
Kiona, Gregg – Yakama Nation  
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
LeVee, Ilene  
Mairose, Paul – Southwest Washington Clean Air Agency (SWCAA)  
O'Conner, Nicholette  
Sauter, Dave – Klickitat County Commissioner  
Stallman, Kristen – Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)  
Till, Rick – Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Williams, David

Others were present during the day.

## **AGENDA**

### **Call to Order and Roll (9:00 AM)**

Chair Keith Chamberlain called the meeting to order and Michele Dailey called roll.

### **Welcome from local officials (9:05 AM)**

### **Approval of Minutes for December 9, 2014 Commission meetings (9:09 AM)**

Commissioner Blair proposed a small change to correct a grammatical error 'Arrived after vote'. Commissioner Ericksen moved to adopt the December 9, 2014 meeting minutes with change above. Commissioner Dekay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

1-Dan Ericksen

2-Lorrie Dekay

Passes 8-0, Commissioners Nichols, Middaugh, McNew and Blaine absent.

### **Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission (9:10 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.

Gregg Kiona, Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program came and replaced Casey Barney who is recuperating from surgery. No report. Greg is here to hear any comments.

### **Opportunity for Public Comment (9:13 AM)**

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

- Larry Keister, Washougal resident. Troutdale Energy Center DEQ permit. Objected to finding that the energy center will not adversely affect air quality. Urged CRGC to follow the permit process and protect the Gorge. (see attachment A)
- Rick Till, Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Update on the air quality strategy. Described the measurement of visibility, deciview and recommendation that CRGC direct agencies to use this methodology and modeling. (see attachment ?)
- Dave Sauter, Commissioner, Klickitat County. Restated Klickitat County's desire to find a solution to the permitting issues in the National Scenic Area. Businesses need regulatory certainty. Open and willing to discuss solutions. For example, willing to use one of their planners to do pre-application work. Commissioner Bonker asked Darren Nichols to provide a response, which he did. Chair Chamberlain asked if Mr. Sauter would be able to be part of the next agenda item with goals/priorities. He said he could for a short time. Commissioner Wainwright asked Mr. Sauter to explain how the Klickitat County planning staff could provide pre-application assistance. Mr. Sauter spoke to this. Commissioner Ericksen mentioned Klickitat's concerns regarding liability adopted NSA ordinances and mentioned CRGC's issues about liability too. Discussion about continuing the conversation. Commissioner Nichols asked Mr. Sauter if the County would support the

CRGC's budget in Washington Legislature. Mr. Sauter said there may be support if there are performance measures. Commissioner Blaine asked if it were possible if Klickitat could do the entire process and then have CRGC staff review it. Mr. Sauter said this might be possible. Commissioner Middaugh said CRGC has shifted resources away from permitting to other projects, and that's how they've been chosen to be used. Permitting should be given the highest priority. Commissioner Blair mentioned his impatience with this issue, and he believes what Mr. Sauter has proposed will be a good first step. HE suggested that the Commission stop talking about this and set a deadline to resolve this problem. Mr. Sauter agreed.

- Nicolette O'Connor, resident and homeowner in Vancouver WA. Concerned about the New Star crude oil transfer facility. New uploading station application submitted to City of Vancouver. May include tar sands. This will affect the CR Gorge NSA and the air quality. Request CRGC review this application and the expanded site plan. (see attachment B)
- Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Comments included several items. (see attachment C) Supports comments on the New Star oil transfer facility. SW Washington Air Quality issued a permit without an EIS. Would like CRGC to weigh in on this. Comments about the funding requests and governors' budgets. Stated they believed the agency is still relevant. Questioned permitting backlog and the belief that existing resources are adequate enough to address this. Asked for clarification about past reporting on current performance of development reviews. Commissioner Nichols commented. Mr. Lang responded back about prioritizing permitting as a high priority in lieu of increased funding.

### **2015-2016 Initial Discussion of Commission Goals/Priorities (10:00 AM)**

The Commission heard recommendations from staff and discussed priorities for the Commission's staffing and resources in 2015 and 2016. (see attachment D)

- Darren Nichols presented a report on Commission Goals and Priorities. (Report included in Commission package.)
- Terry Cullen gave a status report on the Development Review process for Klickitat County.
- Chair Chamberlain asked if this agenda item could be carried over into a working lunch. Commissioner Blaine asked if it could be continued beyond the lunch, if needed. Agreed. This item is continued to the lunch hour.

### **Break (10:28 AM)**

### **Air Quality/Visibility Update on Columbia River Gorge (10:35 AM)**

The Commission heard updates and a presentation about the Gorge Air Quality Strategy and air quality and visibility in the National Scenic Area from staff at Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Southwest Washington Clean Air Agency (SWCAA), and the Washington Department of Ecology (WA DOE). (see attachment E)

- Brian Finneran, Oregon DEQ; Paul Mairose, Southwest Washington Air Quality; Al Newman, Washington Department of Ecology. Topics raised included: 9/9/14 meeting recap (air quality well under the health standard); visibility 101-what is visibility and regional haze (how far you see and how well; perceptible change to visibility – deciview; regional haze (man-made and natural contributors); summary of visibility and air quality study 2004-

2011; Gorge visibility trends; (Pause for Commissioner questions – Commissioner Middaugh asked assumptions about technology and regulations used to project future reductions. Brian Finneran talked about reductions in auto emissions and marine vessels. Other related discussion. Commissioner Ericksen asked about increases in train traffic. Was that known in the modeling? That was addressed in cargo growth projections.) Presentation picked up at Visibility Trends; Overview of OR/WA Regional Haze Plans, EPA Rule 1999, 156 Class 1 areas (OR has 12, WA has 8), BART-Best Available Retrofit Technology (retrofit benchmark year is 1977), OR Haze Plan adopted 2010, OR DEQ BART Review, PGE Boardman BART Review; WA Regional Haze Plan, analyzed 8 Class I areas, submitted to EPA in 2011, progress report due in 2016, Centralia BART Review; Update on PGE Boardman & Centralia BART (emission reduction and visibility projections provided); 2015 Regional Haze Progress Report Requirements, preview of progress reports – no degradation in the cleanest days, some improvement in the 20% worst days – trend line affected by wildfires, 2018 Comprehensive review/revision (similar to progress report, but much more in-depth and then go forward for the next 10 years); Gorge Visibility Summary, Gorge will benefit from nearby Class 1 area improvements in areas such as Mt Hood and Mt Adams. Presentation concluded at 12:01. Questions – Commissioner Middaugh questioned how the Troutdale Energy Center would impact the improvements in air quality. Speakers spoke about requirements to use BART for new plants. Old plants will close, new ones will open. Never an expectation that there would not be new plants. Commissioner Blair asked a question about a comment from Friends of the Columbia Gorge about the Troutdale Energy Center. The .5 deciview is not an enforceable standard. Discussion do we have air quality standards in the Gorge? Then how are Gorge thresholds met? More discussion. Darren Nichols – discussion about showing and having improvements with growing wildfire frequency, separating the impact out of the overall. Raised area of new concern about public health issues and wildfires. Chair Chamberlain asked if a wildfire remedy is to put pressure on land owners to reduce future wildfires. Manage the risk as a means to improve air quality.

### **Lunch (12:14 PM)**

### **Public Comment on 2015-2016 Initial Discussion of Commission Goals/Priorities and 2015 Legislative Strategy (1:03 PM)**

- Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Focused comments on commission goals/priorities.
- Ilene LeVee, landowner in the Gorge.

### **2015 Legislative Strategy (1:13 PM) (see attachment F)**

The Commission discussed the development of an outreach strategy for the 2015 legislative sessions in Oregon and Washington. Commissioners were asked to make travel commitments for legislative outreach meetings in Salem, Oregon and Olympia, Washington. This agenda item had substantial discussion including:

- Commissioner Middaugh-Focus on positive outcomes we can achieve for the community will receive warmer reception with States.
- Commissioner Blaine-Can we develop collectively a vision we can all agree upon? Our success depends on this. Grand picture goals vs short term reality problems. Huge span of mission. Coal and oil is a big issue that should be led. Big plan vs core plan.
- Chair Chamberlain-discussed last work program done and Commission made decisions to go down this path, for example, to make Klickitat County permitting only 0.5 FTE.

- Commissioner Ericksen-described the independent and unrelated work program needs, for example, Klickitat County, recreation overuse – focus the vision on the most critical things we have control to address – coal and oil is not one of them and try to move forward to the degree that we can. Focus on building partnerships.
- Commissioner Blair-Short-list the work program. Governance issues. The budget on an ongoing basis, strategically, for example building partnerships/alliances. Monitoring. VSI. Urban areas/economic development policy. Management Plan review.
- Commissioner Blaine-Governance issues. Along with a vision consistence with any revised governance approach.
- Commissioner Nichols-List of priorities, yes. Don't forget aspirational goals.
- Commissioner Minthorn-Overview of Tribal approach to build consensus over time to work through tribal rights and governance and the State and Federal governments. CRGC needs a good strategic plan to work with the tribes.
- Commissioner Bonker-Comes down to money, Washington side. Recounted past efforts to encourage Washington State to increase funding. Political, fiscal, strategic, creative.
- Commissioner Wainwright-Reinvigorate the relationship with Klickitat County. Relationships are the most important consideration.
- Commissioner Nichols-Open up the compact and change the funding allocation requirements.
- Commissioner Dekay-Partnerships are key to moving ahead, for example, the Tribal relations and 1Gorge effort. VSI. Management Plan.
- Commissioner Webster-Public/private partnership potential.
- Commissioner Burditt-Have a bigger vision, always, but show what you are trying to do to move the vision forward each year. Be asset-based. Stop telling everyone what you can't do.
- Commissioner Middaugh-We have to earn what we get. Klickitat County back log has got to be a top priority. Be 'The Little Engine That Could', not 'Chicken Little'.
- Commissioner Ericksen-The Urban Area Boundary project could become one of our accomplishments we can carry forward to our funding authorities.
- Commissioner Blaine-We have to agree on what our message is to the legislators.
- Chair Chamberlain-We will have to finalize our work program and budget for 15/16 by April.
- Darren Nichols-If you had to choose 1 item to work on and only 1 what would it be. Also described current legislative efforts underway with Huffman and Pike.
- Commissioner Blair-Disagreed with Darren about picking only 1 items. CRGC can handle more than 1 priority.
- Chair Chamberlain-The priorities can be selected during the work programming process in the upcoming months.
- Darren Nichols-More details about resource constraints.
- Commissioner Blair-Re-working the legislative talking points worksheet created by Darren. Commissioner Bonker provided some suggestions for edits for positive wording. Commissioner Ericksen-need something impactful and easy to read. Commissioner Wainwright-get it one page if it is a handout. Start with a statement of big impact. Commissioner Blaine-Accentuate the core responsibilities that you are doing that you can't keep up with if you lose more funding. Commissioner Middaugh-Be very accurate about how resources were re-allocated. More discussion followed. Darren – these were designed as a laundry list of talking points. Choose the ones that resonate with the legislators being addressed.

**NSA Manager's Report (2:49 PM)** Commissioner Burditt provided updates about:

- Proposed budget cut expected in recreation and administrative facilities and in planning, especially in developing the forest plans.
- Several people will be retiring this year.

**Director's Report (2:56 PM)** Director Nichols reported on:

- Assortment of items including – question from last month about an ordinance revision and noticing requirements have been met; next Commission meeting; Commission special workshop 2/13; coal and oil transport issue; ODOT Rail Safety Advisory Committee; new legal ex-tern; urban area boundary project update (Michele Dailey, CRGC staff gave a short report); interviews underway with urban area policy project and letter received from Oregon Representative Huffman (see attachment G).

**Other Business (3:06 PM)**

- Commission Ratification of 2015 Committee Membership (see attachment H)
  - Chair Chamberlain went over proposals, modifications. Action taken. Motion made by Commissioner Nichols and seconded by Commissioner Middaugh. Motion passed 11-0 with Commissioner McNew absent.
- APA National Conference – Overview and update. Darren Nichols and Terry Cullen provided information about the conference.

Commissioner Blaine had questions about filling the Senior Planner position.

**Adjourn (3:24 PM)**

Approved 2.10.15