

Columbia River Gorge Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2015

Gorge Commission office
57 NE Wauna Avenue, White Salmon, Washington

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Gorham Blaine
Bowen Blair
Don Bonker
Lynn Burditt, Ex-Officio (by phone)
Keith Chamberlain
Lorrie DeKay
Rodger Nichols
Janet Wainwright (by phone)
Jim Middaugh (by phone)
Antone Minthorn (by phone)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carl McNew
Dan Ericksen
Damon Webster

STAFF PRESENT

Nancy Andring, Administrative Assistant
Terry Cullen, Principal Planner
Michele Dailey, GeoInformatics
Jeff Litwak, Counsel
Merissa Moeller, Extern
Darren Nichols, Executive Director

AUDIENCE PRESENT

Peter Cornelison – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Maria Foley – Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce
Sherri Irish
Larry Keister
Peter Leon

AGENDA

Call to Order and Roll (9:00 a.m.)

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

Commission Response to Bi-State Legislation (9:02 a.m.) (see attachment A-C)

Commission staff presented a proposal to incorporate Commission suggestions for a formal response to the Oregon and Washington legislatures regarding legislation relating to the Gorge Commission. The Commission deliberated its response to Oregon HB 2039 and Washington HB 1954, and its response to Washington HB 1453.

Motion to support Washington HB 1453 contingent upon the following amendments:

- Language per 2/24/15 discussion draft to Representatives Huffman and Pike be incorporated into HB 1453; and
- Support the Amendment that corrects the Substitute House Bill, which mistakenly removed the two planners and replaced them with a .5 FTE Governor appointee; and
- That the language requiring the new .5 FTE planner appointed by the Governor be consistent with the Bi-State Compact.

1-Commissioner Blair made the motion.

2-Commissioner Nichols seconded the motion.

The motion passed 9-0 with Commissioners McNew, Ericksen and Webster absent.

Motion to approve the discussion draft letter dated 2/24/15 to Representatives Huffman and Pike referencing Oregon HB 2039 and to instruct staff to work with the respective legislative committee so that they are aware of our concerns and suggestions.

1-Commissioner Bonker made the motion.

2-Commissioner Nichols seconded the motion.

The motion passed 8-1 with Commissioner Middaugh voting no and Commissioners McNew, Ericksen and Webster absent.

Gorge Commission Executive Director – Transition Discussion (9:30 a.m.)

The Commission's chair and vice chair presented an initial recommendation for addressing the transition of the Commission's executive director. The Commission considered the recommendation and made a decision about the Commission's direction for the transition.

Motion to approve the transition plan as proposed by Chair Keith Chamberlain, which generally includes the following items:

- Hire an interim director on contract for approximately 90-120 days.
- Assign the interim director with three primary tasks – budget/legislative duties; develop/conduct a succession search; and work with the Commission (mobilizing stakeholders and keeping the Commission agenda moving forward).
- Come back to the full Commission at its 3/10/15 regular meeting with a recommended candidate and contract cost.
- Commissioners should bring interested parties to the attention of the Chair and Vice Chair between now and 3/10/15.

1-Commissioner Nichols made the motion.

2-Commissioner DeKay seconded the motion.

The motion passed 9-0 with Commissioners McNew, Ericksen and Webster absent.

Adjournment (10:00 a.m.)

Approved 3.10.15