

Columbia River Gorge Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2016

Camas Public Library
625 NE 4th Avenue, Camas, Washington

Members in Attendance

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

Staff Present

Ray Joseph, Senior Planner
Jeff Litwak, Counsel
Riley Marcus, Klickitat County Planner working with the Gorge Commission
Krystyna U. Wolniakowski, Executive Director

Audience Present

Averill, Deborah
Bayer, John
Bellamy, Patricia
Brown, Keith – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Davis, Judy - Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee
Fairhurst, Rev. Richenda – Camas United Methodist Church
Hamlet, Dick
Hayes, Dan
Higgins, Scott - Mayor of Camas
Hittler, William & Betty
Irish, Sherri
Jernstedt, Jill Arens
Keister, Larry
Koch, Paul – Port of Cascade Locks
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
LeVee, Ilene
Leon, Peter
Linker, Ray & Alice
Maguire, Scott
Marquard, James
Marshall, Rick
McElwee, Michael – Executive Director of the Port of Hood River
McWilliams, Corinne

Oliva, Jan
Peters, Alan – Skamania County Planning
Place, Eric De - Policy Director, Sightline Institute
Price, Kevin - Oregon Parks and Recreation
Ransom, Matt – SW Washington Regional Transportation Council
Rittenhouse, Ryan – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Robbins, Theresa – Cape Horn Conservancy
Simone, Dorethea
Sleeman, Trevor - ODOT Federal Affairs Advisor and Tribal Liaison
Spindel, Paul
Stallman, Kristen - ODOT Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Coordinator
Steinke, Alona
Steinke, Don
Stewart, Wayne – Chair, Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee
Thornsbury, Marc – Port of Klickitat
Walsh, Charles
Winn, Diane
Young, Timothy - Chairman, Skamania County Fire District

Others were present throughout the day.

Committee Meetings

- Outreach Committee (8:30 AM)
- Communications Committee (8:30 AM)

Call to Order and Roll (10:01 AM)

Approval of Minutes for January 12, 2016 Commission Meeting (10:02 AM)

Commissioner Chamberlain commented on the minutes, stating he did not volunteer to give up his seat on the Executive Committee. Commissioner Chamberlain stated that he did not need the January 2016 minutes changed, but that the minutes for the February 2016 meeting should reflect his statement. Jeff Litwak also noted that the spelling of Jess Groves' name will be corrected. The Commission adopted the January 12, 2016 minutes by voice vote without a motion. Commissioners Blaine and McNew were absent.

Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to Address Commission (10:03 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. There were no comments

Public Comment (10:04 AM)

Tim Young, Chairman of the Skamania County Fire District No. 4 Board of Commissioners gave a presentation on the BNSF tracks and the potential issues with Bakken Oil transportation through the Gorge. Mr. Young submitted a document for the record. (see attachment A) Questions/comments from Commissioner Blair.

Michael Lang from the Friends of the Columbia Gorge stated that the applicant withdrew the Troutdale Energy Center project from the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council. Mr. Lang passed out a document for the record. (see attachment B) Commissioner Nichols commented.

Regional Transportation Planning in the National Scenic Area (10:14 AM)

Krystyna Wolniakowski, Executive Director, presented an update on developing a process to identify a list of transportation priorities for consideration by the Gorge Commission in coordination with Oregon and Washington partners. (see attachment C) This is a follow-up to the presentation by Paul Koch, Port of Cascade Locks, at the January 2016 Commission meeting. Questions/comments from Commissioner Liberty.

Michael McElwee – Executive Director of the Port of Hood River, commented on the role of the Gorge Commission and passed out a document for the record. (see attachment D). Marc Thornsbury, Executive Director of the Port of Klickitat, and the Klickitat County Board of County Commissioners submitted letters for the record. (see attachment E and F)

(10:39 AM) Motion by Commissioner Ericksen, second by Commissioner Chamberlain to approve the staff recommendation:

- 1) Amend the current work plan to include .03 FTE as part of “Special Issues” to allow staff participation in these important discussion with regional partners and track the process as it relates to our management plan goals. This will require reducing time to be involved in other general categories such as general “Gorge-wide partner meetings” that serve as outreach. Staff further recommends that the Commission designates one or two Commissioners who are interested in the NSA transportation issue to also be involved in the partner meetings.
- 2) Staff also recommends that the Commission request the transportation partners to work closely with Commission staff and designated Commissioners to develop the list of priority projects within the NSA and return to the Commission in summer 2016 with their recommendations.

Discussion from Commissioner Ericksen, Chamberlain, Webster, Blair, and Executive Director Wolniakowski. Chair Blair called for a voice vote and the commission approved the motion unanimously with Commissioners Blaine and McNew absent.

*Commissioner Chamberlain rescinded his motion from the previous meeting.

Break (10:50 AM)

Remember, Restore, Reconnect – The Historic Columbia River Highway and State Trail Update (11:04 AM) Wayne Stewart, Chair Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee, and Kristen Stallman, ODOT Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Coordinator, presented a 12 minute video and made a presentation on the 100th anniversary of the Historic Columbia River Highway. Comments/questions from Commissioners Nichols, Chamberlain, Blair, Ericksen, Liberty, DeKay. (*note, a recording error occurred and the audio recording did not capture this agenda item)

Welcome: Scott Higgins, Mayor of Camas, Washington welcomed the Commission. (11:50 AM)

FAST Act Special Presentation (11:50 AM)

Trevor Sleeman, ODOT Federal Affairs Advisor and Tribal Liaison, presented the FAST ACT and the NSA—background on the new transportation bill. Comments/questions from

Commissioners Webster, Blair. (* note, a recording error occurred and the audio recording did not capture a portion of this agenda item)

Kevin Price- Oregon Parks and Recreation introduced himself to the Gorge Commission.

LUNCH

Information Item “Fossil Fuel Transportation: National and Regional Perspectives”

(12:36 PM) Eric de Place, Policy Director, Sightline Institute, researcher on energy policy and fossil fuel transport, presented information on fossil fuel transportation issues.

Comments/questions from Commissioners Burditt, Nichols, Liberty, Wainwright, Bonker, Chamberlain, Blair, Webster and Executive Director Wolniakowski.

Update on Proposed Language to Address the Remand for Natural and Cultural Resources in the Management Plan

(1:25 PM) Jeff Litwak, Legal Counsel, presented final draft language to address the Oregon Court of Appeals remand for cultural and natural resources. (see attachment E) Comments and questions from Commissioners Nichols, Ericksen, Liberty.

Michael Lang from Friends of the Columbia Gorge said Friends supports the final draft language. Question from Commissioner Ericksen.

Commissioner Nichols moved to adopt the final draft language, Commissioner Liberty seconded the motion. The Commission voted by roll call. The motion passed 9-1, with Commissioner Chamberlain voting no and Commissioners Blaine and McNew absent.

Committee Reports (1:45 PM)

Outreach and Communications Committees presented a brief summary about themes from their morning discussions. Comments/suggestions on both committees from Commissioner Wainwright, Nichols, Liberty, Ericksen, Blain, DeKay.

Executive Director’s Report (2:12 PM)

- Transition Plan/Vacancies: Principal Planner and GIS/Planner
- Klickitat County Update
- Listening Session with Tribes on Fossil Fuel Transport in the NSA
- Financial Audit Results 2011-2015
- Summary of WA Legislative Hearing on January 22, 2016
- Gorge-ous Night Out (February 3 in Salem and February 9 in Olympia)

U.S. Forest Service Area Manager’s Report (2:21 PM)

Commissioner Burditt reported on projects from the Forest Service.

Other business

There was no other business.

Adjourn (2:36)

Approved 3.8.16