

**Columbia River Gorge Commission**

Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2020

White Salmon Fire Hall  
220 NE Church Avenue, White Salmon, Washington

***MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE***

Bridget Bailey  
Bowen Blair  
Lynn Burditt  
Keith Chamberlain  
Sondra Clark  
Lorrie DeKay  
Dan Ericksen  
Robert Liberty  
Meninick Jerry  
Carina Miller  
Rodger Nichols  
Janet Wainwright

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

Robin Grimwade

***STAFF PRESENT***

Connie Acker, Administrative Assistant  
Aiden Forsi, Land Use Planner  
Bryce Guske, Land Use Planner  
Joanna Kaiserman, Senior Land Use Planner  
Jeff Litwak, Counsel  
Lisa Naas Cook, VSI Planner  
Krystyna Wolniakowski, Executive Director

***AUDIENCE PRESENT***

Albrich, Elaine – Davis Wright Tremaine  
Brewer, Angie – Wasco County Planning  
Coleman, Colleen – City of Mosier  
Cornelison, Peter – Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Delwiche, Greg – Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Hege, Scott – Wasco County Commissioner  
Klaas, Andrea – Port of The Dalles  
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Mays, Richard – City of The Dalles  
Rittenhouse, Ryan – Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Toepke, Jennifer – Port of The Dalles  
Others were present during the day.

**Call to Order and Roll** (9:00 a.m.) Chair Liberty called the meeting to order and Connie Acker called roll.

Introduction of new Gorge Commission Staff Member Vital Sign Indicators (VSI) Planner Lisa Naas Cook (9:03 a.m.)

**Reapproval of Minutes of November 12, 2019 Commission meeting and Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2019 Commission meeting** (9:10 a.m.) The Commission discussed changes to the November 12, 2019 meeting minutes after they were approved at the December 10, 2019 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Blair suggested edits to the December 10, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Wainwright moved to readopt the November 12, 2019 meeting minutes and approve the December 10, 2019 with the

suggested changes. Commissioner Ericksen seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted to approve the meeting minutes on a voice vote except Commissioner Chamberlain who voted against the approval.

**Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to Address Commission (9:15 a.m.)**

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. The Treaty Tribe Nations did not offer testimony.

**Opportunity for Public Comment (9:15 a.m.)**

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

- Greg Delwiche, Friends of the Columbia Gorge
- Brian Litt – Plan review re: GMA open space
- Ryan Rittenhouse, Friends of the Columbia Gorge
- Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge – Logging in GMA open space. Provided memo dated 1/21/20 regarding Gorge 2020 priorities regarding land use, scenic and natural resources (Attachment A)
- Mary Repar – In lieu of appearing in person, Ms. Repar provided an email dated 1/13/20 regarding NEPA (Attachment B)

**Work Session\*: Urban Area Boundaries: (9:30 a.m.)** The Commission discussed the implications for Gorge 2020 Update, subsequent work, staffing and budget taking into consideration the responses received from counties and 13 urban areas.

Krystyna U. Wolniakowski outlined the responses received to the potential UAB expansion request. (Attachment C)

Commissioner Ericksen provided written comments entitled Urban Area Boundary Revision Discussion. (Attachment D)

**Opportunity for Public Comment: Urban Area Boundaries (9:46 a.m.)**

- Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge
- Scott Hege, Wasco County Commissioner
- Rich Mays, The Dalles Mayor

**Work Session: (10:03 a.m.)** Staff presented an updated roadmap for completing the Gorge2020 Management Plan review and revision process. (Attachment E) The Commission discussed each focus topic and identified issues that have been adequately addressed, issues that Commissioners believe have not but should be addressed, and issues which the Commission have provided guidance to staff but final resolution is pending. The Commission also had the opportunity to decide which issues should be deferred for action after and outside of the Gorge2020 update. (Attachment F)

Break – (11:25 a.m.)

Discussion continued on Gorge2020 Management Plan review and revision process – (11:39 a.m.)

Casey Katz, U.S. Forest Service – Commented on water resource buffers at the request of Commissioner Burditt.

**LUNCH (12:00 p.m.)**

**Work Session: Urban Area Boundaries:** Discussion continued on Gorge2020 Management Plan review and revision process (12:45 p.m.)

**Work Session - FY 2021-2023 Biennial Budget:** (1:40 p.m.) Executive Director Krystyna U. Wolniakowski discussed the current 2019-2021 budget, and the development of the new budget for the next biennium. The Commission provided guidance and feedback, and a draft budget request will be prepared and presented at the March Commission meeting based on Commissioner input:

- Commissioner Blair is interested in possible funding for monitoring/enforcement (staff or contracted) and climate change
- Commissioner DeKay asked about continuing funding for Access database replacement
- Commissioner Wainwright is interested in funding for climate change
- Commissioner Bailey is interested in funding for enforcement – perhaps an attorney
- Commissioner Liberty is interested in consulting or staffing for UAB expansion

After discussion, the Commission provided their opinion regarding the possible budget requests:

Enforcement funding (staff position)

- Yes – Miller, Meninick, Wainwright, Liberty, Nichols, Bailey, Clark, DeKay, Ericksen, Blair
- No – Chamberlain

Climate change response funding

- Yes – Miller, Meninick, Wainwright, Liberty, Nichols, Bailey, DeKay, Ericksen, Blair
- No – Chamberlain, Clark

Climate change (staff position)

- Yes – Miller, Meninick, Wainwright, Liberty, Nichols, Bailey, Clark, DeKay, Ericksen, Blair
- No – Chamberlain

Contingent funding for processing UAB amendment applications

- Yes – Miller, Meninick, Wainwright, Liberty, Nichols, Bailey, Clark, DeKay, Ericksen
- No – Blair, Chamberlain

Break – (2:20 p.m.)

**Executive Director’s Report:** (2:30 p.m.) Krystyna U. Wolniakowski provided updates on agency staffing, Klickitat County, Zimmerly mine issue and other matters

- Commissioner Liberty requested information about current activity at the Zimmerly mine. Krystyna offered to follow up with the Commission at a later date with that information and how the Commission can obtain that information.
- Counsel Jeff Litwak reminded the Commission about the upcoming appeal in February and told commissioners to expect their appeal packets two weeks before the hearing.
- Commissioner Blair asked clarifying questions regarding compliance issues noted in the 2019 Compliance Report.

**U.S. Forest Service NSA Manager’s Report:** (2:45 p.m.) Commissioner Burditt provided an update on Forest Service activities in the National Scenic Area.

- Updates on funding for economic development in the NSA (limited opportunities)
- New funding for FS is incoming, not expecting CRGNSA to get additional/extra funding
- Visitor Map update coming soon

- Hoping to become Destination Management Organization with Google so that CRGNSA can make edits to search results
- Congestion management planning in Oregon and Washington
- Updates on recreation site repairs (Eagle Creek suspension bridge) and other maintenance or construction of new trails (Cascade Locks)
- Fee started today (1/21) at Sandy River Delta
- Completed partnership with Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust to acquire Rowena Bluff area

**State and Federal Legislative Agenda and Outreach (2:57 p.m.):\*** Commissioners were invited to propose ideas for state or federal legislative action, including funding, as the starting point for the creation of a legislative agenda, should the Commission choose to develop one. The Chair guided the conversation toward identification of initial topics of agreement that could be the basis for outreach to state and federal legislators.

- Commissioner Liberty reviewed his proposals for state and legislative outreach, as included in the handout given to Commissioners in their packets at the meeting. (Attachment G) Commissioners gave limited comments on the proposals and other aspects of the handout.
- Commissioner Liberty informed the Commission that U.S. Representative for Oregon's 3rd Congressional District Earl Blumenauer has requested to meet with the Commission sometime later this year.
- Commissioner Meninick gave information and some history on tribal involvement with the Columbia River Treaty process.

**Opportunity for Public Comment: State and Federal Legislative Agenda and Outreach (2:50 p.m.)**

- There were no public comments on this topic. Commissioners conversation after the opportunity for public comment is captured in the above section.

**Other Business (3:15 p.m.)**

- Determine more defined process for evaluation of Executive Directors, so that feedback is better understood. Established ad-hoc committee of Commissioners DeKay, Blair, and Chamberlain, with Commissioner Grimwade as chair of the Committee.
- Establish Executive Committee as Commissioners Burditt, Liberty, Miller, Grimwade, Wainwright, Nichols, and start noticing the Executive Committee meetings as full Commission Meetings, with the understanding that only the six Executive Committee members would be allowed to participate.
- Ask that Commissioners Meninick and Miller teach the Commission words or phrases in local native language/dialects; they agreed.
- Commissioner DeKay reminded everyone about the Feb 5th Gorge-ous Night Out in Olympia, WA. There is a shuttle leaving from Mt. Adams Chamber.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (3:30 p.m.) The Commission held an executive session pursuant to Commission Rule 350-11-006(1)(g) to consult with counsel concerning the Commission's legal rights and duties regarding current litigation or litigation likely to be filed. The Commission did not make any decisions in executive session.

**Adjourned (3:55 p.m.)**

Approved 2/11/2020