

Columbia River Gorge Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2019

Port of Cascade Locks, Marine Park Pavilion
395 SW Portage Road, Cascade Locks, Oregon

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bridget Bailey (10:51 AM)
Bowen Blair
Don Bonker
Lynn Burditt
Keith Chamberlain
Sondra Clark
Lorrie DeKay
Dan Ericksen
Rodger Nichols
Janet Wainwright
Damon Webster

MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Liberty
Antone Minthorn

STAFF PRESENT

Nancy Andring, Administrative Analyst
Aiden Forsi, Land Use Planner
Joanna Kaiserman, Land Use Planner
Jeff Litwak, Counsel
Jessica Olson, Natural Resources and Land Use Planner
Mike Schrankel, GIS Specialist
Krystyna Wolniakowski, Executive Director

AUDIENCE PRESENT

Bailey, Ken - MCEDD
Beck, Mike - Skamania County Planning
Brewer, Angie - Wasco County Planning
Carr, Geoff - Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Carvalho, Chris
Cornelison, Peter - Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Fagerness, Kari - Skamania EDC
Gatz, Casey - US Forest Service
Howsley, Jamie
Hinatsu, Stan - US Forest Service
Hoey, Amanda - MCEDD
Irish, Sherri
Kahn, Gary - Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Keister, Larry - Port of Camas-Washougal
Koch, Paul - Port of Cascade Locks

Lang, Michael - Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Leipper, Bob
LeVee, Ilene
Lingley, Terra – OR Department of Transportation
McConville, Brigitte - Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Miller, Carina - Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
McCoy, Steve – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
O'Doniell, Jennifer
Osriun, Richard
Pawellek, Gail
Pitt, Jolene Estius - Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Pitt Jr., Louie - Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Repar, Mary
Rittenhouse, Ryan - Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Savery, Bill & Meredith
Schlagel, Peggy – Sierra Club
Smith, Valerie – WA Department of Commerce
Stice, Nate – OR Governor's Office
Watness, Philip - Skamania County Pioneer
Wood, John – Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Others were present during the day.

Call to Order and Roll (9:00 AM)

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

Welcome (9:01 AM) Paul Koch, General Manager, Port of Cascade Locks welcomed the Commission.

Approval of Minutes for December 11, 2018 and January 22, 2019 Commission meetings

(9:05 AM) Commissioner Chamberlain moved to adopt the December 11, 2018 and January 22, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Burditt suggested an edit to the January 22, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Blair suggested an edit to the December 11, 2018 meeting minutes. Commissioner Erickson moved to accept the meeting minutes with the suggested edits. Commissioner Webster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission (9:08 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.

- Louie Pitt Jr., Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs addressed the Commission. He suggested the Commission develop a primer on Treaty rights to increase public awareness and understanding.
- Brigitte McConville, Warm Springs tribal council thanked the Commission for holding the Commission meeting at Cascade Locks, a culturally-significant place for the Warm Springs people.

Opportunity for Public Comment (9:20 AM)

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

- Geoff Carr, board chair of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, suggested having a public dialogue between the Commission and Friends of the Columbia Gorge about enforcement and compliance.
- Mary Repar, resident of Home Valley, urged the Commission to protect the resources of the Gorge and implement the VSI project.
- Chris Carvalho, resident of Portland, commented on public involvement in fire management planning and asked the Gorge Commission to direct the Forest Service to provide requested information about the allocation of resources to fight the Eagle Creek fire and to conduct open public review of its fire management on federal lands within the NSA. (see attachment A)
- Peggy Schlagel, Oregon Sierra Club, commented on importance of resource protections.
- Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, thanked the Commission for addressing the issue of compliance and gave an update on oil train legislation.

Information Item*: “Gorge 2020” Update--Economic Vitality Work Group Update and Draft Chapter 2 Economic Development Revisions to the Management Plan (9:38 AM)

Joanna Kaiserman, Land Use Planner, and Krystyna U. Wolniakowski, Executive Director, presented a progress report on the Economic Vitality Work Group (EVWG) along with their suggested edits to the Management Plan chapter on Economic Development as provided by the EVWG. (see attachment B) Staff created the work group to discuss and provide input on potential edits to the existing chapter text, the role of the Gorge Commission in fulfilling the two purposes of the National Scenic Area Act, economic development throughout the Gorge generally, and what gaps the Management Plan can address. The Commission will organize public workshops to be scheduled in spring 2019.

Public Comment:

- Mary Repar - How much economic development does the Gorge need?
What is the Commission’s job in terms of economic development in the Gorge how much more can the economy grow?
- Michael Lang - Commented on his participation in the EVWG and Friends’ stance on the draft edits suggested by the EVWG.
- Ken Bailey - Chair of EVWG. Clarified that the workgroup generally agreed on most suggestions and that the process of discussing suggested edits to the chapter is more important than the result. Commented that the Commission needs to better recognize the importance of economic development in the Gorge.

BREAK (10:47 AM)

Information Item: “Gorge 2020” Recreation Focus Topic (10:52 AM) Stan Hinatsu, Recreation Staff Officer and Casey Gatz, Land Management Planner, U.S. Forest Service staff, and Aiden Forsi, Land Use Planner, Gorge Commission, provided an introduction and overview of the recreation chapter in the current Management Plan. (see attachment C)

Executive Director’s Report (11:32 AM) Director Wolniakowski reported on:

- FY 2019-2021 Budget Update and Legislative Outreach (see attachment D)
- Gorgeous Night Out Events in Olympia and Salem
- “Gorge 2020” Natural Resources Technical Team Next Steps

National Scenic Area Manager's Report (11:47 AM) Commissioner Burditt reported on:

- Forest Service has issued two recent consistency determinations: Eagle Creek fire emergency response actions, and Steigerwald habitat restoration and flood control project, Another project of interest is the WSDOT roundabout project on SR14 near Carson.
- Senate Bill 47 set to pass today: new natural resources management act that includes establishment of a new National Scenic Area in Inyo County, CA and permanently authorize funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- Over half of the nationwide Forest Service budget of \$6.1 billion is related to fire preparedness and fire fighting.
- Forest Service Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment - timeline adjusted due to lapse in funding. The Forest Service will provide presentation on that in September 2019.
- Forest Service working on the congestion mitigation process focused on the Historic Columbia River Highway. The next meeting of the project leadership team will be on April 15th.
- Due to lapse in funding and weather-related delays, Forest Service is regionally re-prioritizing efforts.

Lunch (12:01 PM)

Information Item: Report on the Gorge Commission's Compliance Processes (1:05 PM)

Krystyna U. Wolniakowski, Executive Director, and Jeff Litwak, Legal Counsel, presented a report on how the staff handles compliance in the National Scenic Area. Public comment and questions were addressed. Commissioners also provided comment and asked questions. (see attachment E)

Other Business (2:55 PM)

- Motion to approve the 2019 Executive Committee. Commissioner Erickson moved to approve. Commissioner Blair seconded the motion. The motion passed with a voice vote with Commissioner Chamberlain voting no.

BREAK (3:00 PM)

Executive Session (3:09 PM)

The Commission held an executive session pursuant to Commission Rule 350-11-006(1)(g) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of the Commission with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

After the Executive Session, staff opened the doors to the meeting room and the Chair announced that no decisions were made in the Executive Session.

Adjourn (3:31 PM)

Approved 4.9.19