

Columbia River Gorge Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2019

Camas Library
625 NE 4th Avenue, Camas, Washington

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bridget Bailey (arrived 1:08 PM)
Bowen Blair
Don Bonker
Lynn Burditt (arrived 10:20 AM)
Keith Chamberlain
Lorrie DeKay
Dan Ericksen
Robert Liberty
Carina Miller (arrived 10:20 AM)
Rodger Nichols
Janet Wainwright
Damon Webster

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sondra Clark

STAFF PRESENT

Connie Acker, Administrative Assistant
Nancy Andring, Administrative Analyst
Bryce Guske, Land Use Planner - Klickitat County
Joanna Kaiserman, Land Use Planner
Jeff Litwak, Counsel
Jessica Olson, Natural Resources and Land Use Planner
Krystyna Wolniakowski, Executive Director

AUDIENCE PRESENT

Auger, Simone
Bovey, Jeffrey
Greenwood, Kevin – Hood River Bridge Replacement Project Director, Port of Hood River
Halverson, Lloyd
Heath, Delvis – Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Irish, Sherri
Keister, Larry
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Leipper, Bob
Lingley, Terra – Oregon Department of Transportation
McCoy, Steve – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Odum, Iloba – Washington Department of Ecology
Rittenhouse, Ryan – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Shank, James – Washington Department of Natural Resources

Others were present during the day.

Call to Order and Roll (10:00 AM)

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

Welcome (10:03 AM) City of Camas welcomed the Commission - Keister, Larry

Approval of Minutes for April 9, 2019 Commission meetings (10:05 AM)

Commissioner Blair moved to adopt the April 9, 2019 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Wainwright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission (10:25 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. No treaty tribe members spoke to the Commission. No treaty tribe members spoke to the Commission.

Opportunity for Public Comment (10:10 AM)

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

- **Leipper, Bob – Troutdale, Oregon** – Concern regarding retaining walls, partners with CRGC, compliance with NSA (see Attachment A)

Information Item*: Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail Briefing (10:15 AM)

Terra Lingley, ODOT Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Coordinator, presented an update on the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail connections. (see Attachment B)

- Commissioner Chamberlain concerned about parking.
- Commissioner Liberty concerned about impact on communities when trail opens. Requested that issue be discussed by Commission prior to trail opening.

Welcome to new Oregon Governor Appointed Gorge Commissioner Carina Miller (10:40 AM) (see Attachment C)

Information Item*: Hood River Bridge Replacement Briefing (10:45 AM)

Kevin Greenwood, Port of Hood River Bridge Replacement Director, presented a briefing on the Port's Hood River Bridge Replacement Project. Kevin gave a brief history of the replacement project and upcoming milestones. (see Attachment D1 and D2)

Executive Director's Report (11:35 AM) Director Wolniakowski reported on:

- New Staff: Connie Acker, Administrative Assistant
- Upcoming Commission Meeting Topics
- 2019-2021 Budget (not final)
 - Oregon Ways and Means granted current service level budget for CRGC.
 - Commissioner Liberty asked for timing of potential additional revenues.
 - Commissioner Blair mentioned "champion" in Oregon Legislature for CRGC in the future.

National Scenic Area Manager's Report (11:43 AM) Commissioner Burditt reported on:

- Congestion Mitigation Study – Challenge of authority in National Scenic Area enforcing traffic issues. One issue is continuing congestion at Multnomah Falls parking on Old Scenic Highway. Possible traffic flagger.
- Benson Bridge – Trail continues to have rock fall and is currently closed at Benson Bridge. Unsure when the trail will reopen.
- Eagle Creek Trail – Landslides are ongoing, but crews are making slow, steady progress. Trail will most likely not open Summer of 2019.
- Challenges with "Go Early, Go East". Congestion at Catherine Creek and Coyote Wall. Visitors parking along highways. Working with state police with parking enforcement. Having issues with illegal hiking.
- New bridge at Catherine Creek will be installed in Summer of 2019.
- Dog Mountain trail – Shuttle is working well. Increased permits this year.

- Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Workshop on 05/15/19
- Cape Horn and Nancy Russell Overlook graffiti – Investigation is ongoing. Working with conservator on removal of graffiti.
- Carson Junction/Hwy 14 round-about construction set to begin in June of 2019

Lunch (12:03PM)

Action Item*: Draft Revised Natural Resources Chapter of Management Plan (1:00 PM)

Jessica Olson presented the revised Working Draft to the Natural Resources Chapter of the Management Plan. (see Attachment E)

Staff requested the Commission’s support for the recommended technical revisions. The Commission will only adopt the final revisions to the Natural Resources Chapter at the time it adopts the complete revisions to the Management Plan at a future Commission meeting.

Opportunity for Public Comment

- Steve McCoy, Friends of the Columbia Gorge – Commented on delay receiving information. Requested that further updates be submitted earlier. Requested that Commission not give tentative approval at this time prior to review by Friends and receipt of public comment.
- Commissioner Liberty asked whether Friends had any technical issues in draft.
- Commissioner Blair reiterated Friends request concerning getting information to stakeholders earlier.
- Executive Director requested support from Commission on draft revisions and indicated that there will be more opportunity for public comment and review prior to request for approval of final revision from Commission.

Other Business (1:45 PM)

- Commissioner Liberty concerned about meeting schedule and demands on staff considering compliance, monitoring and enforcement issues. Questioned whether priorities needed to be outlined.
- Commissioner Blair also concerned about compliance, monitoring and enforcement issues. Commissioner Blair mentioned possible need for 1-2 hour discussion on urban area boundary.
- Commissioner Chamberlain mentioned that we should not be making policy changes to compliance, monitoring, and enforcement without discussion.
- Commissioner Bailey asked to prioritize UAB discussion and enforcement issue.
- Commissioner Bailey asked for 3 priorities from each commissioner.
- Commissioner Liberty requested agenda timeline and working time to discuss UAB and the enforcement issues.

Executive Session (2:15 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.

Adjourn (2:50 PM)

Approved 6.11.19