

## **Columbia River Gorge Commission**

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2016

Port of Skamania, Tichenor Building  
40 SW Cascade Avenue, Stevenson, Washington

### ***MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE***

Bowen Blair  
Gorham Blaine (9:27)  
Don Bonker  
Lynn Burditt (9:05)  
Keith Chamberlain  
Lorrie DeKay  
Dan Ericksen  
Robert Liberty  
Carl McNew (9:10)  
Antone Minthorn (9:05)  
Rodger Nichols  
Damon Webster  
Janet Wainwright (11:21)

### ***MEMBERS ABSENT***

### ***STAFF PRESENT***

Nancy Andring, Administrative Assistant  
Terry Cullen, Principal Planner  
Ray Joseph, Planner  
Jeff Litwak, Counsel  
Riley Marcus, Klickitat County Planner working with the Gorge Commission  
Krystyna U. Wolniakowski, Executive Director

### ***AUDIENCE PRESENT***

Barney, Casey – Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program  
Chase, Jim  
Cornelison, Peter – Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Gorman, Kevin - Friends of the Columbia Gorge (FOCG)  
Groves, Jess – Port of Cascade Locks  
Heany, Fred  
Hendricks, Dana – Pacific Crest Trail Association  
Hoey, Amanda - MCEDD  
Hogan, Nick – City of Stevenson  
Irish, Sherri  
Keister, Larry  
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Leon, Peter – Wishram Community Council  
Lewis, Dale – Hon. Jaime Herrera Beutler's Office  
Nissen, Bruce – LDB Beverage  
McSherry, John – Port of Skamania

Peters, Alan – Skamania County  
Ransom, Matt – SW RTC  
Repar, Mary  
Robbins, Theresa – Cape Horn Conservancy  
Stallman, Kristen – Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)  
Watness, Philip - Skamania County Pioneer  
Williams, Michael – Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)  
Zimmerman, Gordon

Others were present during the day.

## **AGENDA**

### **Call to Order and Roll (9:03 AM)**

Chairman Blair called the meeting to order and Nancy Andring called roll. Quorum present.

### **Welcome from local officials (9:04 AM)**

John McSherry from the Port of Skamania welcomed the Gorge Commission and provided remarks.

### **Approval of Minutes for December 8, 2015 Commission meetings (9:07 AM)**

Commissioner Liberty moved to adopt the December 8, 2014 meeting minutes. Commissioner Nichols seconded the motion. Chairman Blair raised some corrections on page 3 and page 4. The motion passed 9-0, with Commissioners Blaine, McNew and Wainwright absent.

### **Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission (9:09 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 Tribal Nation representatives were present.

### **Opportunity for Public Comment (9:10 AM)**

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

Bruce Nissen, LDB Beverage, Owner. Questions/comments by Commissioners Liberty, Blair

### **Coordination of Transportation Planning in the National Scenic Area (9:19 AM)**

Jess Groves, President, Cascade Port Commission and Paul Koch, Executive Director, Port of Cascade Locks, made a presentation on opportunities to coordinate the future of transportation planning in the National Scenic Area. (see attachment A1 and A2) Questions/comments by Commissioners Bonker, McNew, Liberty, Ericksen, Nichols, Blaine, Chamberlain, Blair.

Matt Ransom, Transportation Director, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) provided information about the RTC and comments on the Coordination of Transportation Planning in the National Scenic Area. (see attachment B) Questions/comments by Commissioners Liberty, Webster, Nichols.

Nick Hogan, City Administrator, City of Stevenson provided comments on the Coordination of Transportation Planning in the National Scenic Area.

Amanda Hoey, Executive Director, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District provided comments on the Coordination of Transportation Planning in the National Scenic Area. Questions/comments by Commissioners Ericksen, Blair.

Michael Williams, Washington State Department of Transportation provided comments on the Coordination of Transportation Planning in the National Scenic Area. Questions/comments by Commissioners McNew, Blair, Bonker, Chamberlain.

Dana Hendricks, Pacific Crest Trail Association provided comments on the Coordination of Transportation Planning in the National Scenic Area. Questions/comments by Commissioner Blair.

Kristen Stallman, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Coordinator, Oregon Department of Transportation provided comments on the Coordination of Transportation Planning in the National Scenic Area. (see attachment C) Questions/comments by Commissioner Nichols.

Peter Leon, Wishram, provided comments on the Coordination of Transportation Planning in the National Scenic Area.

Fred Heany provided comments on permitting process issues in the National Scenic Area.

The Commission held discussion on the issue of Coordination of Transportation Planning in the National Scenic Area. Questions/comments were provided by Commissioners Bonker, Blaine, McNew.

Commissioner Chamberlain made the motion to work to bring stakeholders together to develop an agreed upon set of transportation priorities consistent with the two state compact and the NSA priorities. Commissioner McNew seconded the motion. Discussion by Commissioners Nichols, Ericksen, Bonker.

Discussion tabled for a break.

**Break (10:37 AM)**

Discussion by Commissioners continued on the Coordination of Transportation Planning in the National Scenic Area (10:49 AM). Questions/comments by Commissioners Liberty, Chamberlain, Nichols, Blaine, CRGC Executive Director Wolniakowski, Commissioner Burditt, Blair.

Commissioner Chamberlain tabled his motion until the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting. Commissioner Bonker seconded it. Motion passed 10-1 with Commissioner Ericksen in opposition and Commissioner Wainwright absent.

Further comments by Paul Koch and Commissioner Bonker.

**Update on Measure 91 (OR) and Initiative 502 (WA) (11:18 AM)**

Krystyna Wolniakowski and Jeff Litwak discussed the memo requested by the Commission and county planners on the legal analyses related to marijuana production in the National Scenic Area. (see attachment D)

Fred Heany, citizen, provided comments. Questions/comments by Commissioner Bonker.

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, Friends of the Columbia Gorge provided comments. Questions/comments by Commissioners Nichols, Liberty, CRGC Legal Counsel Litwak, Blaine, Fred Heany (citizen).

### **Structure of Gorge Commission Committees (11:45 AM)**

Chairman Blair discussed the proposed new committee structure to engage Commission members in achieving work plan goals. (see attachment E) Questions/comments by Commissioners Nichols, Blair, Bonker, Wainwright, Chamberlain, Ericksen, CRGC Legal Counsel Litwak, Commissioners Dekay, Burditt, Chamberlain, Nichols.

Commissioner Nichols made a motion to adopt the Committee schedule as proposed with the following changes:

Revise the name of the Communication, Legislation & Development to be Communications; and add Commissioner Burditt back to the Executive Committee and allow Chairman Blair to determine in the upcoming week which Commissioner will be replaced.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Wainwright. Motion approved 12-0.

### **Lunch (12:08 PM)**

**National Scenic Area Manager's Report (1:00 PM)** Commissioner Burditt reported on:

- Conditions in the Gorge, weather, trails, recreation usage.
- Eagle Creek recreation area 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- HCRH expansion Starvation Creek to Lindsay Creek.
- Oregon Solutions project; short term solutions, HCRH congestion.
- Missing woman, Multnomah Falls, search & rescue.
- GIS/USFS & CRGC
- Tesoro Savage oil terminal.
- Priority Express stamp.
- Staff updates.
- Land acquisition, NSA, issue, Pacific Crest Trail, Skamania County.

**Gorge Commission Executive Director's Report (1:24 PM)** Director Wolniakowski reported on:

- Update on proposed language to address remand for natural and cultural resources.
- Update on staff transition and recruitment for vacancies.
- Olympia and Salem "Gorge-ous Night Out" events. (Feb 3 and Feb 9)
- Update on 2015-2017 Work Plan.
- Update on the CRGC/Tribal meeting with the Governor's Offices re: fossil fuel transportation through the NSA.
- Washington State Employment Issues. Discussion by Chairman Blair, Commissioner Nichols, CRGC Executive Director Wolniakowski.

### **Other Business (1:50 PM)**

- Commissioner Blaine discussed Tesoro Savage DEIS and joint letter with the USFS. Discussion by Commissioners Liberty, Nichols, Chamberlain.

Commissioner Liberty made a motion to authorize Gorham Blaine to reiterate the resolution previously adopted by the Commission regarding fossil fuel transportation through the Gorge.

Commissioner Wainwright seconded it. Discussion by Commissioners Wainwright, Chamberlain. Motion passed 12-0. Further discussion by CRGC Executive Director Wolniakowski.

- Commissioner Liberty brought up 2 items:
  - NSA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
  - Upcoming meeting with Congressman. Discussion by Commissioners Blair, Wainwright.

Motion made by Commissioner McNew to invite the US President to come hiking in the Gorge. Motion seconded by Commissioner Nichols. Motion passed 12-0.

- Chairman Blair presented past Chairman Chamberlain with a gift and thanks for service.
- Chairman Chamberlain presented status of past and upcoming meetings with State representatives.

**Adjourn** (2:03 PM)

Approved 2.9.16