

Columbia River Gorge Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2019

Bridgeside Restaurant, Sam Hill's Den Room (downstairs)
745 NW Wa Na Pa Street, Cascade Locks, Oregon

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bridget Bailey
Bowen Blair
Lynn Burditt
Keith Chamberlain
Sondra Clark
Lorrie DeKay
Robin Grimwade
Robert Liberty
Carina Miller
Rodger Nichols
Janet Wainwright

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dan Ericksen

STAFF PRESENT

Connie Acker, Administrative Assistant
Nancy Andring, Administrative Analyst
Aiden Forsi, Land Use Planner
Bryce Guske, Land Use Planner
Joanna Kaiserman, Senior Land Use Planner
Jeff Litwak, Counsel
Katy O'Keefe
Jessica Olson, Land Use Planner
Mike Schrankel, GIS Specialist
Krystyna Wolniakowski, Executive Director

AUDIENCE PRESENT

Beck, Mike
Brewer, Angie – Wasco County Planning
Cornelison, Peter – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Freiberg, Pat
Gatz, Casey – U.S. Forest Service
Grice, Rachel
Grigsby, Sara
Irish, Sherri
Keister, Larry
Lingley, Terra – Oregon Department of Transportation
Lumpkin, Thomas
McCoy, Steve – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
McDevitt, Katharine
Meier, Sherry
Meisenhelter, Diane
Noll, Kim
O'Connor, Jenny
Peters, Alan – Skamania County Planning

Pitt, Louie - Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Plunkett, Jim
Repar, Mary
Rittenhouse, Ryan – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Roberts, Marianna
Rust, Bernice
Rust, Rick
Shoal, Robin – U.S. Forest Service
Skakel, Katie – Multnomah County Planning
Steinke, Alona
Steinke, Don
Stone, Tyler – Wasco County Chief Administrative Officer
Streeter, Amira – Office of Governor Brown
Streeter, Sean
Strid, Eric
Wozniak, Owen

Others were present during the day.

Call to Order and Roll (8:30 a.m.) Chair DeKay called the meeting to order and Connie Acker called roll.

Welcome (8:32 a.m.) Olga Kaganova, General Manager, Port of Cascade Locks, welcomed the Commission.

Approval of Minutes for September 10, 2019 Commission meeting (8:37 a.m.)

Commissioner Carina Miller moved to adopt the September 10, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Janet Wainwright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission (8:39 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. Louie Pitt, Jr., Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, expressed concerns about housing crisis, upcoming census, and railroad safety.

Opportunity for Public Comment (8:45 a.m.)

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

- Mary Repar – Cumulative impacts, de minimis, and vital indicators project.
- Alona Steinke – Washougal pit enforcement.
- Don Steinke – Enforce laws on the books.
- Eric Strid – Urged the Commission to: (1) Declare a climate emergency in NSA, (2) adopt most energy efficient building codes in the scenic area, (3) plan a transition to more local power generation and fewer distribution models, (4) perform stream restoration to reduce water temperatures and maximize salmon habitat, and (5) only allow climate smart forestry practices in the NSA.
- Rachel Grice with her children Audrey, Samuel, David and Joshua – Washougal pit enforcement.
- Sean Streeter – Washougal pit enforcement – Thomas, Jake (2019, October 8). Unpermitted activity alleged at mine. *The Columbian*, p. 1. (Attachment A) and Washougal Pit-Rock Crushing Activity Meeting Notes dated June 19, 2019 (Attachment B)

Action Item: (9:15 a.m.) Executive Director Krystyna U. Wolniakowski updated the Commission regarding the Washougal pit matter.

After the Commission discussed the next steps with regard to the Washougal pit, Commissioner Bowen Blair moved: “The Executive Director contact Zimmerly and Nutters and ask them to voluntarily cease all mining activities on the property until they have received a permit from Clark County and if Zimmerly and Nutters refuse to comply, that the Gorge Commission staff take whatever steps are necessary to bring about the

immediate cessation of mining on the property and to consider levying appropriate fines.” Commissioner Robin Grimwade seconded the motion. After Commission discussion of this motion, Commissioner Grimwade withdrew the second.

Commissioner Blair then moved: “The Executive Director contact Clark County and direct Clark County to take whatever steps are necessary to immediately cease all mining activities, including rock crushing, on the property until Zimmerly and Nutter have received a valid, final permit from the county, and if Clark County is unable to cease the mining, that Gorge Commission staff take whatever steps are necessary to bring about the immediate cessation of mining on the property and consider levying appropriate fines.” The motion was seconded by Janet Wainwright. After discussion, the Commission voted as follows:

Bridget Bailey - Y
Bowen Blair - Y
Keith Chamberlain - Y
Sondra Clark - Y
Lorrie DeKay - Y
Robin Grimwade - Y
Robert Liberty - Y
Carina Miller - Y
Rodger Nichols - N
Janet Wainwright – Y

The motion passed with 9 yes votes and 1 no vote.

Commissioner Rodger Nichols questioned whether an item listed as “Information” on the September 10, 2019, Agenda allowed a vote. He questioned public meetings operation and asked whether the Commission would like to rescind the vote. The Commission discussed this matter.

Break – 10:04 am

Krystyna U. Wolniakowski introduced the Work Session Item: Climate Change and Adaptation Planning for the National Scenic Area (10:20 a.m.) (Attachment C)

Work Session Item*: Gorge2020 Climate Change: Jessica Olson, Natural Resources Planner, provided an introduction to the topic. (Attachment D) Owen Wozniak, Land Trust Alliance, presented his report which is an overview of climate change and adaptation planning for the National Scenic Area. (Attachment E) Casey Gatz, Land Management Planner, Forest Service, presented the climate vulnerability assessment. Staff seeks Commission discussion and guidance for next steps to incorporate climate change adaptation into the Gorge 2020 Management Plan review. (Attachment F)

Public Comment – Gorge2020 Climate Change:

- Amira Streeter, Natural Resources Director for Governor Brown’s office
- Sara Grigsby – Corbett Water District Board Member – Tourism impact on climate change in the Gorge, water supply in Corbett.
- Thomas Lumpkin – Vineyard owner in the Gorge.
- Diane Meisenhelter – Climate change, safety of trains.
- Bonnie McKinlay – Read a written statement entitled *Declare a Climate Emergency!* on behalf of Lillie Tomlinson, Senior, HRVHS Earth Action Club Leader (Attachment G)
- Peter Cornelison – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
- Ryan Rittenhouse – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
- Don Steinke
- Alona Steinke
- Mary Repar
- Jim Plunkett

- Steve McCoy – Friends of the Columbia Gorge

The Executive Director deferred her time for her report to the Commission for its climate change discussion. The Commission discussed climate change.

U.S. Forest Service NSA Manager’s Report: Lynn Burditt provided an update on Forest Service activities in the National Scenic Area. (12:23 p.m.)

Lunch (12:27 p.m.)

Executive Director’s Report (1:10 p.m.): Krystyna U. Wolniakowski provided updates on:

- Access Database Replacement Project
- Klickitat County Agreement
- Supplemental Budget Requests to WA

Senior Planner Joanna Kaiserman updated the Commission on land use and development review workshop progress.

The Executive Director updated the Commission on the Gorge2020 Roadmap-Updated October 8, 2019. The Executive Director asked the Commissioners to review the roadmap and provide her with comments so that the Commission may discuss the roadmap at the next Commission meeting. [\(Attachment H\)](#)

Commissioner Robert Liberty asked the Executive Director if the letter to counties, etc., had gone out regarding urban area boundary expansion. The Executive Director informed the Commission that the letter is on her calendar for October 9, 2019.

Commissioner Blair asked for more specifics from the Executive Director on the Klickitat County Agreement and funding.

Work Session Item*: Working with the NSA Counties with Permit Compliance and Enforcement: Krystyna U. Wolniakowski, Executive Director, provided an update of recent discussions with NSA County Planning Directors on the post-permit compliance and enforcement process that is a follow-up to the March 2019 Compliance and Enforcement Staff Report and the June 2019 County Planning Directors’ panel. (1:26 p.m.) [\(Attachment I\)](#)

Public Comment - Working with the NSA Counties with Permit Compliance and Enforcement:

- Larry Keister – Encouraged MOUs.
- Mary Repar – Encouraged timelines for enforcement responses regarding compliance.
- Steve McCoy - Friends of the Columbia Gorge

The Commission discussed compliance and enforcement.

Other Business (2:13 p.m.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Executive Session pursuant to Commission Rule 350-11-006(1)(h). The Commission discussed the Executive Director 2017-2019 Performance Review.

Adjourned (3:25 p.m.)

Approved 11/12/2019