

Columbia River Gorge Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2017

Skamania Lodge

1131 SW Skamania Lodge Way, Stevenson, Washington

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bridget Bailey
Bowen Blair
Lynn Burditt
Keith Chamberlain
Sondra Clark
Lorrie DeKay
Dan Ericksen
Robert Liberty
Antone Minthorn
Rodger Nichols
Janet Wainwright
Damon Webster

MEMBERS ABSENT

Don Bonker

STAFF PRESENT

Nancy Andring, Administrative Analyst
Jessica Gist, Natural Resources and Land Use Planner
Bryce Guske, Land Use Planner
Jason Hildreth, GIS Analyst/Land Use Planner
Jeff Litwak, Counsel
Krystyna Wolniakowski, Executive Director

AUDIENCE PRESENT

Brewer, Angie – Wasco County Planning
Cerbone, Michael – Multnomah County Planning
Cornelison, Peter – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Davis, Judy – Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee
Ehrman, Matt – US Forest Service
Fagerness, Kari - Skamania EDC
Harris, Steven – City of The Dalles
Heath, Delvis – Chief, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Hoey, Amanda - MCEDD
Johnson, Leana – Administrator, City of Stevenson
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Leon, Peter
LeVee, Ilene
Lingley, Terra – Oregon Department of Transportation
McGrew, Molly
McNew, Carl

Oberlander, Jacob – Department of Natural Resources
Pawlitz, Rachel – US Forest Service
Peters, Alan – Skamania County
Repar, Mary
Roberts, John – Hood River County Planning
Runyan, Rod – Chair, Wasco County Commission
Stone, Tyler – Wasco County
Versari, Bernard

Others were present during the day.

AGENDA

Call to Order and Roll (8:33 AM)

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

Welcome from Leana Johnson, City of Stevenson City Manager (8:34 AM)

Approval of Minutes for July 11, 2017 Commission meetings (8:40 AM)

Commissioner Liberty moved to adopt the July 11, 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner DeKay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Opportunity for Public Comment (8:55 AM)

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

- Mary Repar, Stevenson resident spoke about the Eagle Creek Fire and air quality. She urged involvement and requests for presentations from groups studying air quality and NEON.
- Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge thanked the FS and emergency responders for response to the Eagle Creek Fire. He mentioned Friends' fundraising efforts for county emergency response, the Red Cross Oregon fires fund, and Cascade Locks businesses. He also described some of the public response and messages for those who want to visit or support the recovery efforts.

ACTION ITEM: 2017-2019 Biennium Budget (9:15 AM)

Director Wolniakowski presented the 2-year budget approved by Oregon and Washington legislatures and the spending plan for approval. Commissioners asked clarifying questions about donations and private funds. (see attachment A) She explained that a fund-raising strategy will be forthcoming. Commissioner Erickson moved to approve; Commissioner Webster seconded.

INFORMATION ITEM: Status of the "Gorge 2020" Management Plan Review and Update Process—Overview from October 2016 through August 2017: (9:35 AM) Director Wolniakowski reviewed the Gorge 2020 activities since October 2016 to the present. (see attachment B)

ACTION ITEM*: Update and Re-Adoption of the Roadmap/Timeline for the "Gorge 2020" Management Plan Review and Update Process: (9:15 AM) Director Wolniakowski presented a proposed modification to the roadmap/timeline adopted by the Commission in fall 2016. (see attachment C) Mary Repar commented on the staff work plan and the emphasis on economics and need for additional emphasis on the environment. She noted a need for baselines to provide cumulative impacts assessments. Comments need to be acknowledged. Michael Lang commented

that public meetings to work through priorities were planned but postponed. Commissioner Chamberlain moved to adopt the revised timeline. Commissioner DeKay seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission (9:37 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.

Delvis Heath, Chief of Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and Casey Barney, Yakama Nation Cultural Resources, addressed the Commission.

Break (9:46AM)

Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission (9:58AM)

Commissioner Minthorn provided comments related to treaty rights and water management. He encouraged engagement with the tribes and CRITFC going forward, especially on tribal housing and treaty rights issues. He encouraged the Commission's Tribal Affairs Committee to support these efforts.

INFORMATION ITEM: *Buildable Lands Inventory in the National Scenic Area:* (10:05 AM) Jason Hildreth, Sr GIS/Land Use Planner, provided an overview of the buildable lands inventory as part of "Gorge 2020" resources review process. (see attachment D) Discussion followed and Commissioners requested clarifications and some corrections to be made in the report. Commissioner Liberty requested specifically to get a good estimate of the number of potential new homes that exists in the NSA to inform development of a transfer of development rights. Commissioner Chamberlain requested including a visual representation of potential build-out from KVAs. Staff committed to investigating the feasibility of getting this information and will report back next month. Commissioner Liberty requested a time series of maps showing development over time in the NSA.

National Scenic Area Manager's Report: (11:12 AM) (see attachment E1- E3) Commissioner Burditt reported on:

- Hamilton Creek Restoration with Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- Klickitat River Mile 1
- Eclipse
- Sandy River Delta fee proposal
- PCT Days (Cascade Locks)
- Eagle Creek Incident – details on Inciweb and Eagle Creek and Indian Creek Fires FB Page
 - USFS Incident Command and Unified Command system of working across agencies
 - Fire effects, suppression rehab, BAER, rehabilitation
 - Administrative Closure and coordinated work on early alert system and warning signs

Lunch (12:10 PM)

Special guest, Carl McNew, former Klickitat County appointee to the Gorge Commission, joined for lunch

ACTION ITEM*: *Proposed "Gorge 2020" Workplan:* (12:45 PM) Jessica Gist, Sr Natural Resources and Land Use Planner, and Matt Ehrman, U.S. Forest Service, co-presented a proposed

“workplan” that provided an overarching framework and focus topics for Commission discussion based on the “Gorge 2020” Public Listening Sessions and consultations with counties, treaty tribes and agencies. (see attachment F1 and F2) Public comments from Judy Davis concerned Recreation Intensity Classes and Recreation Planning. Mary Repar commented on the plan. Michael Lang commented on the process and concerns about approving the work plan and suggested information needs. He also inquired about public meetings. Commissioner Bailey requested a document for her constituency and additional opportunity for comment. Commissioner Ericksen voiced support for the work plan as feasible and inclusive of priorities. Commissioner DeKay voiced support.

Commissioner Chamberlain moved to adopt the workplan as presented by the staff. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Chair Blair requested that the workplan include climate change and fossil fuel transport in the National Scenic Area and requested a presentation on likely climate change impacts and implications in the National Scenic Area. The Commission stopped its discussion on this item to allow other presentations on the agenda to start.

INVITED PRESENTATION*: *The Management Plan and Acknowledgement of a Local Vision – the NSA Counties’ Perspectives* (2:18 PM) Planning Directors from Gorge counties provided comments on their local governments’ view of the Management Plan and why it is important to continue to include local visions in the planning process. (see attachment G1 and G2) Mary Repar and Michael Lang provided comments. Commissioners discussed the proposal, its pros and cons. Commissioner Bailey suggested Commissioners proactively reach out to their County planning departments between meetings. The Commission decided to defer to staff to decide how to proceed with the counties.

Economic Vitality in the Gorge (3:09 PM)

Amanda Hoey, Executive Director, MCEDD and Kari Fagerness, Executive Director, Skamania EDC presented the new Mid-Columbia Economic Development District Economic Development Strategy for 2017-2022. They noted that some emerging needs became clear in their process, including housing, entrepreneurial capital, retention and expansion of local businesses, transportation infrastructure, diversification, and employment opportunities. They summarized impacts and actions/solutions related to economic impacts of the Eagle Creek Fire. They requested further engagement in their efforts as well as Gorge 2020, in addition to advocacy for allocation of the OIB/WIB funds, support for additional BLI work in the region.

CONTINUED: ACTION ITEM*: *Proposed “Gorge 2020” Workplan*: (3:45)

The Commission resumed conversation about the proposed Gorge 2020 Workplan. Staff updated the workplan graphic to show that additional information has been requested related to the buildable lands inventory and climate change. Chair Blair asked if Commissioner Chamberlain would amend his motion to incorporate the staff updates. Commissioner Chamberlain did not.

Chair Blair moved to amend Commissioner Chamberlain’s motion to incorporate the staff updates; Commissioner Wainwright seconded. The Commission unanimously approved the amendment by voice vote.

The Commission then approved Commissioner Chamberlain’s motion as amended unanimously by voice vote.

Break (4:03 PM)

Gorge Commission Executive Director's Report (4:08 PM) Director Wolniakowski reported on:

- Pacific Northwest Region Economic Summit held in Portland, Oregon
- National Forest Foundation Restoration Fund, Governor's Recovery Council (see attachment H)
- Recruitment for new land use planner position
- Klickitat County – Gorge Commission Agreement Update

Other Business (4:15 PM)

- Commissioner Nichols and Commissioner Liberty each shared information items.
- Commissioner Chamberlain proposed that the Klickitat County planner position should be permanent and included in the budget as such. Krystyna noted that will be discussed as the next budget is developed.
- Commissioner Minthorn noted that the treaty tribes have made great progress in the realm of self-determination in recent years and recommended this be a topic of government to government summit and consultation to encourage input from the treaty tribes. He noted this would go a long way to improve relationships.
- Commissioner DeKay reported on the Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance. The group has made progress on organizing Eagle Creek Fire recovery efforts, funding recreation and trails maintenance. She also reported from One Gorge that planning has started for the Gorgeous Night Out. She also shared info on Insitu and a Confluence story session.

Executive Session (4:32 PM)

The Commission did not hold the executive session that was announced on the meeting agenda.

Adjourn (4:33 PM)

Approved 11.14.17