

Columbia River Gorge Commission

Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2017

White Salmon Fire Hall
119 NE Church Street, White Salmon, Washington

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

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

Barney, Casey – Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program
Heath, Delvis – Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Irish, Sherri
Cornelison, Peter – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Keister, Sheri
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Leon, Peter – Wishram Community Council
Lingley, Terra – Historic Columbia River Highway

Others were present during the day.

AGENDA

Committee Meetings (9:10 AM)

- Outreach & Communications joint meeting

Call to Order and Roll (10:04 AM)

Chair Blair called the meeting to order and Jeff Litwak called roll.

Approval of Minutes for October 10, 2017 Commission meetings (10:05 AM)

Commissioner Ericksen moved to adopt the October 10, 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Wainwright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission (10:06 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. Mr. Heath noted interest in regulation along the Columbia River.

Casey Barney, Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program addressed the Commission. He voiced concern about sensitive cultural sites inside the Urban Areas. There are areas likely to have artifacts and examples of discovery of human remains in Urban Area projects. Commissioners discussed other state and federal policies that require inadvertent discovery actions.

Opportunity for Public Comment (10:13 AM)

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

- Peter Cornelison, Hood River resident, City Council, Friends of the Gorge, shared that the Port of Hood River announced bridge toll increases to pay for \$50 million of safety improvements and maintenance. Friends will host three “fire forums” in the area, hosting Jerry Franklin, Jurgen Hess, and others in November.
- Michael Lang, Friends of the Gorge, reminded the Commission of the Emergency/Disaster Response policy in the Management Plan, 30-days post action application period, including public notice period.

Information Item: Interactive Mapping Applications for the NSA: (10:20 AM) Jason Hildreth, SR GIS/land use planner made a presentation regarding development and implementation of new web mapping applications.

Committee Reports (10:56 AM)

Outreach and Communications Committees presented information about the outcomes from the morning discussions, as well as updates from other committees if needed.

Committee Structure: (11:01 AM) The Commission discussed the structure and function of the tribal affairs, assessment, communications, outreach and executive committees. The conversation ended with a recommendation for the Executive Director and incoming Commission Chair to determine the best structure and approach for committees.

National Scenic Area Manager’s Report (11:40 AM) Commissioner Burditt reported on:

- Eagle Creek Fire
 - Safety signs are being installed now. Administrative closure persists, but individuals continue to ignore the closure. Hazard tree removal occurring at areas where people congregate. Work on key roads and trails. FS is monitoring log jams and evaluating

downstream risks. Rock fall risk remains high in places. The fire impact area remains an emergency response effort.

- Wyeth to Lindsey Creek area HCRH – most activity is actually construction of new development project that was approved before the fire and partly hazard tree work.
 - Multnomah Falls area still experiencing rock and debris fall; many burned trees will fall in coming months. Weekly coordination with key agencies. Partner meetings will continue with the next meeting in December.
- Cape Horn Trail
 - Exploring future permit system for Dog Mountain flower season
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund – working with counties on proposals, including three in Skamania County for FY19 funding. Northwestern Lakes take out area is Pacific Corps, who is looking to sell. FS is interested in public recreation access at the site.

Lunch (12:17 PM)

Gorge Commission Executive Director's Report (12:55 PM) Director Wolniakowski reported on:

- Gorge Commission-Forest Service-County Planning Directors meeting
- NSA Land Use Planner recruitment
- Oregon Governor's Fire Council
- Gorge 2020 Management Plan progress since October
- Climate change panel in progress
- Future public meetings

Election of 2018 Officers: (1:22 PM) The Commission elected a Chair and Vice Chair for calendar year 2018.

Commissioner Nichols moved to suspend Roberts Rules for today and to pursue a bylaws change in the future. The rule of concern is that a first nomination is voted on before another is made. Commissioner Nichols proposed an alternative procedure, which the Commission regularly employs for elections. Commissioner Wainwright seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously to proceed.

Chair Blair opened the floor, noting that he will not pursue nomination.

Commissioner Chamberlain nominated Commissioner DeKay for Chair. Roll call vote (see record). Bailey, Bonker, Chamberlain, Clark, Ericksen, Liberty, Minthorn, Nichols, Wainwright, Webster, Blair, DeKay all voted aye.

Vice Chair Commissioner Bonker addressed the Commission and nominated Commissioner Blair, noting that he himself would not consider continuing as Vice Chair.

Commissioner Chamberlain nominated Commissioner Nichols for Vice Chair.

Each nominee addressed the Commission briefly, expressing interest in the Vice Chair role.

Bonker – Blair; Chamberlain and Clark – Nichols; DeKay – abstained; Ericksen – Nichols; Liberty – Blair; Minthorn – Blair; Wainwright – Blair; Webster – Blair; Bailey – Blair; Nichols – self; Blair – self

Neither candidate had a majority from both states. The Commission decided to revote. Votes were the same except Commissioner DeKay voted for Blair.

Lorrie DeKay is Chair and Bowen Blair Vice Chair.

Other Business (1:38 PM)

- Commissioner Bonker suggested the Commission honor Dan Evans with an event in Olympia as part of Gorgeous Night Out
- Commissioner Nichols announced a December 7th open house for the EIS Columbia River Systems Operations
- Executive Director announced renewal of lease and renovation of office

Executive Session (1:44 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.

Executive Session (2:30 PM)

The Commission held an executive session to discuss Executive Director Annual Performance Review pursuant to Commission Rule 350-11-006(1)(h).

Adjourn (3:30 PM)

Approved 12.12.17