

Columbia River Gorge Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2017

Best Western Hood River Inn, Riverview Room
1108 East Marina Way, Hood River, Oregon

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dan Ericksen
Janet Wainwright

STAFF PRESENT

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

AUDIENCE PRESENT

Barney, Casey – Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program
Burnette, Jill – Gorge Community Foundation
Buel, Branden – Gorge Community Foundation
Chaimov, Tom - Metro
Cornelison, Peter – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Dietrich, Karol
Elder, Will – Metro
Gatz, Casey – US Forest Service
Grigsby, Sara
Klaas, Andrea – Port of The Dalles
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Lingley, Terra – Oregon Department of Transportation
McGrew, Molly – Yakama Nation Tribal Council
Parga, Beatriz
Others were present during the day.

AGENDA

Committee Meetings (9:00 AM)

- Tribal Committee
- Assessment Committee

Call to Order and Roll (10:01 AM)

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

Welcome from local officials (10:02 AM)

Dustin Nilsen, the new City of Hood River Planning Director, addressed the Commission. He shared the City's 2018 priorities including parking, housing, and the Westside planning effort which is adjacent to the NSA boundary.

Approval of Minutes for November 14, 2017 Commission meetings (10:14 AM)

Commissioner DeKay moved to adopt the November 14, 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Webster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote with one correction from Chair Blair.

Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission (10:15 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. Casey Barney, Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program voiced concern for additional landfill development east of the NSA and the potential for increased train traffic.

Opportunity for Public Comment (10:17 AM)

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

- Sara Grigsby, Corbett resident and former Commissioner provided handouts (see attachments A1 and A2) and addressed the Commission to share public interests from rural western Gorge communities. The group will share this information before the Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Group. Priority concerns relate to quality of life for residents and visitors.
- Karol Dietrich, resident Shephard's Dell voiced concerns for increased traffic on the HCRH, emissions, and visioning post-Eagle Creek fire to address traffic. State tourism is still directing visitors to the Gorge, even while many trails are closed. She requested signs be posted with closing times for parks, and to pursue additional transit options. The one-way highway proposal is a concern for local residents.
- Beatriz Parga, owner of Bridal Veil Lodge voiced need for priority to be on protecting the NSA and resources, rather than promoting commerce. She mentioned safety concerns for bikers, pedestrians and motorists on the HCRH; increased graffiti and trash; masonry repair needed; and 50-foot buses are causing issues. She invited the Commission to Corbett and Commissioner Liberty offered to plan for a visit. (see attachment B)
- Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge provided updates on coal and oil. Millennium project has had two more denials for the section 401 permit. Friends has intervened in appeals. The Shorelines Management Act permit was denied as well and the applicant has appealed. Mr. Lang provided updates on the Tesoro Savage Vancouver Energy project FEIS

and recommendations to Governor. He mentioned Trump administration's actions related to train safety measures.

- Commissioner Nichols introduced Molly McGrew, State Street Solutions consulting for Yakama Nation. Ms. McGrew stated that the Tribal Council has supported her role in speaking in a government-to-government capacity.

INFORMATION ITEM: Presentation from Metro regarding garbage transport and disposal RFP-- Will Elder and Tom Chaimov (10:47 AM), Will Elder is s Senior Solid Waste Operations Planner, Property and Environmental Services for Metro. Metro is in the process of soliciting proposals for the transport and disposal of waste received at its two public transfer stations. Four landfills under consideration are located east of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area but the waste will travel through the National Scenic Area.

INFORMATION ITEM: Presentation by the Gorge Community Foundation (11:13 AM) -- Jill Burnette, Executive Director, and Branden Buel presented information about the Gorge Community Foundation and process for setting up a "National Scenic Area Fund" for Gorge Commission projects.

New Staff Introduction (11:50) Commissioner Burditt introduced Casey Gatz, Land Management Planner, who is working on Gorge2020.

Committee Reports (11:52 PM)

The Tribal and Assessment Committees presented information about the outcomes from their morning discussions. The Tribal Affairs Committee discussed strategies for engaging all four treaty tribes in conversations with the Commission and Forest Service. The Assessment Committee focused discussion on understanding the second purpose of the Act and addressing Urban Area boundary revisions, as well as the pros and cons of the growing tourism economy.

The Commission also discussed the committees' role as narrowing issues or discussions without full Commission input. The Commission reaffirmed its goal to evaluate the role of committees going forward.

Lunch (12:15PM)

Gorge Commission Executive Director's Report (1:02 PM) Director Wolniakowski reported on:

- Introducing new staff planners Joanna Kaiserman and Bryce Guske
- Gorge 2020 Management Plan Review and Revision Process
- Meeting with the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Council in Lapwai, ID
- Meeting with Representative Gina McCabe in Goldendale
- Progress with County Planning Directors and Gorge 2020 Planning Workgroups
- Climate Change Panel for February 2018 and other upcoming topics for future Commission meetings. Brief discussion of topics for panel.
- Reviewing and deciding on the 2018 Commission Meeting Schedule. Discussion about having a Commission retreat in Spring 2018. Commissioner Chamberlain moved to approve 2018 Commission Meeting Schedule as presented to Commission on 12/12/17, which does not include a meeting in January 2018. Commissioner Bonker seconded the motion. The Commission approved the motion on a voice vote with Chair Blair voting no.
- Commissioner Minthorn mentioned that climate change discussions within the tribes can relate to Climate Change Panel discussion.

- Commissioner Clark brought up the idea for commissioners to research facts pertaining to their top three issues to present at workshop discussion.

National Scenic Area Manager's Report (1:55 PM) Commissioner Burditt reported on:

- Eagle Creek fire: monthly photos with ODOT show natural processes (rock and tree falls, etc.) underway; Eagle Creek Suspension Bridge removal; rock scaling at Multnomah Falls.
- Working with partners ODOT, State Parks, other agencies and non-profits to organize five small groups and tentative strategies to take post-fire.
- Starting trail assessment process. No public information yet.
- Eagle Creek Fire (see attachment C1 and C2) response page: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/crgnsa/fire/?cid=fseprd561692>
- About 50% of burn area from 2017 wildfires was from the Eagle Creek fire.
- What's Open in the Gorge? Handout for what recreation sites are currently accessible.
- Emergency Response Actions Application process started.
- Carson Intersection meeting in January with WSDOT and others to plan for intersection.
- Wild and Scenic Rivers shoreline management process with Klickitat County.
- Congestion Mitigation Study is in process.

Executive Session (2:31 PM)

The Commission held an executive session to discuss the Executive Director 18-month performance review pursuant to Commission Rule 350-11-006(1)(h).

After the Executive Session concluded, Chair Blair reopened the meeting and reported that the Commission made no decisions and took no actions in the Executive Session.

Commissioner Nichols moved to approve, based on the 18-month performance review, a 4% salary raise to the Executive Director, effective July 1, 2017. Commissioner DeKay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Commissioners Webster and Bonker were not present for this vote).

Adjourn (2:42 PM)

Approved 2.13.18