

Columbia River Gorge Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2016

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

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Gorham Blaine
Bowen Blair
Don Bonker
Lynn Burditt
Keith Chamberlain
Lorrie DeKay
Dan Ericksen
Robert Liberty
Carl McNew
Antone Minthorn
Rodger Nichols
Janet Wainwright
Damon Webster

MEMBERS ABSENT- All Present

STAFF PRESENT

Krystyna Wolniakowski, Executive Director
Jeff Litwak, Counsel
Nancy Andring, Administrative Analyst
Ray Joseph, Senior Planner
Riley Marcus, Klickitat County Planner working with the Gorge Commission
Katie Skakel, Planner

AUDIENCE PRESENT

Barney, Casey – Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program
Cornelison, Peter – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Irish, Sherri
Keister, Larry
Kraemer, Nick – Tenneson Engineering
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Leon, Peter – Wishram Community Council
Meyer, Adam
Repar, Mary
Shoal, Robin -
Thornsbury, Marc – Port of Klickitat

Others were present during the day.

AGENDA

Committee Meetings (8:30 AM)

- Tribal Affairs
- Assessment

Call to Order and Roll (10:00 AM)

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

Welcome from local officials (10:05 AM)

Mayor Paul Blackburn from the City of Hood River welcomed the Gorge Commission and provided remarks.

Approval of Minutes for February 9, 2016 Commission meetings (10:10 AM)

The Commission moved to adopt the February 9, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

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 stated the tribe has questions regarding a Skamania County Development Review application with regards to creating steps in the bedrock of the Columbia River for windsurfers to have access. Mr. Barney believed the project was negatively affecting the natural resource of the Gorge. Commissioners Liberty, Blaine and McNew commented on the proposal.

Opportunity for Public Comment (10:20 AM)

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

- Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, commented on proposed legislature from Oregon
- Peter Cornelison, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, discussed a presentation made by Bowen Blair at the Columbia Center for the Arts at Hood River about the history of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.
- Mary Repair discussed housing and environmental issues in the Gorge. She asked if the Commission would investigate air issues and monitoring in the gorge. Robin Shoal discussed the National Forest Service's role and placement of existing air monitoring stations.

Urban Area Boundaries Legal Descriptions Project Update (10:30 AM)

Krystyna Wolniakowski and Jeff Litwak presented an overview of the project and requested the Commission give policy direction necessary to complete the final legal descriptions. (see attachment A) Commissioners Burditt discussed the process of the project. Comments were made by Commissioners Liberty, Chamberlain, Nichols, Blair, Ericksen, and McNew. Michael Lang discussed the process and the history of the Legal Description project. He stated the Friends of the Gorge supports the process and attempted to address concerns from the Commission. A motion was made by Commissioner Liberty and seconded by Commissioner DeKay to approve staff recommendation. Discussion by Commission Liberty, Blair. The motion passed 10-2 with Commissioners Chamberlain and Ericksen voting no.

Break (11:22 AM)

Multnomah County Land Use Designation Project (11:31 AM)

Krystyna Wolniakowski, Lynn Burditt, and Ray Joseph presented a report describing and correcting numerous mapping discrepancies in Multnomah County's National Scenic Area land use designations. This report was presented pursuant to Commission Rule 350-50-035, which allows the Executive Director and Area Manager to jointly correct typographical, grammatical, cross-reference or mapping discrepancies. These corrections do not constitute an amendment to the Management Plan. Commission Rule 350-50-035 does not require Commission action, and the Commission took no action, except to receive the report. With the Executive Director and Area Manager's report, the corrections became final [\[see attachment B\]](#).

Transportation Planning in the National Scenic Area (11:40 AM)

Krystyna Wolniakowski presented an update on the process that has been established for coordinating regional transportation priorities in the National Scenic Area with Oregon and Washington partners [\[see attachment C\]](#). Comments from Commissioners Blair, Liberty, Chamberlain, McNew, DeKay, Blair, Burditt. Public comment from Mary Pare commented on the transportation planning within the Gorge.

Lunch (11:56PM)

Special Presentations to the Commission (1:05PM)

Commissioners discussed topics of interest and criteria to be considered when inviting guest speakers to present to the Commission. Discussion from Commissioners Nichols, Blair, Bonker, McNew, Wainwright, Liberty, Ericksen, Blaine, Burditt, Minthorn and Dekay. Mary Repar suggested other topics of interest.

Committee Reports (1:20 PM)

Tribal Affairs and Assessment Committees presented information about the outcomes from the morning discussions, as well as updates from other committees as needed.

Tribal Affairs: Commissioners Minthorn, Nichols, and Wainwright discussed the topic(s) of the morning committee meeting.

Assessment Committee: Commissioners Liberty, Blair, Bonker, Ericksen, McNew, Chamberlain discussed the topics of the morning's committee meeting

Outreach Committee: Commission Wainwright provided an update on the committee's work to date. Commissioner Nichols discussed the proposed CRGC newsletter. Commissioners Blair, DeKay, Wainwright and Ericksen also provided updates about the committee's progress.

Executive Director's Report (1:57PM)

- Hiring update for 2 vacant positions and interim staff
- Website improvement update
- Technology upgrades – phones and conference room updates
- Planning for the 30th Anniversary
- Resuscitating the Vital Signs Indicators Project: Commissioners Blair, Liberty and McNew comment on the project. [\[see attachment D\]](#)

National Scenic Area Manager's Report (2:17PM) Commissioner Burditt reported on new NFS staff and other projects.

Other Business (2:34PM)

Commissioner Blair discussed Executive Director Krystyna Wolniakowski six month evaluation. Commissioner Blair explained that criteria for evaluation would be the criteria in the job description used to hire Krystyna Wolniakowski. Commissioners Chamberlain, Blair and Wainwright commented on the evaluation process, which would be done in Executive Session as allowed by the Commission's rules.

Adjourn (2:40 PM)

Approved 4.12.16