

**Columbia River Gorge Commission**

Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2015

Gresham City Hall

1333 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, Oregon

***MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE***

Bowen Blair  
Don Bonker (09:10)  
Lynn Burditt (Ex-officio; non-voting member)  
Keith Chamberlain  
Lorrie DeKay  
Dan Ericksen (09:15)  
Robert Liberty  
Carl McNew  
Antone Minthorn  
Rodger Nichols (09:15)  
Janet Wainwright  
Damon Webster

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

Gorham Blaine

***STAFF PRESENT***

Nancy Andring, Administrative Assistant  
Terry Cullen, Principal Planner  
Michele Dailey, GeoInformatics Manager  
Jeff Litwak, Counsel  
Krystyna Wolniakowski, Interim Executive Director

***AUDIENCE PRESENT***

Barney, Casey – Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program  
Boger, Brent – City of Washougal, Council Member  
Erickson, Patrick and Beverly  
Fogarty, Colin – Confluence Project  
Fancher, Steve - City of Gresham, Public Works Director  
Heany, Fred  
Keister, Larry  
Irish, Sherry  
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Leon, Peter – Wishram Community Council

Others were present during the day.

***AGENDA***

**Call to Order and Roll (9:01 AM)**

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

**Welcome from local officials** (9:02 AM) Steve Fancher, Public Works Director, City of Gresham gave welcoming comments.

**Approval of Minutes for April 15, 2015 Commission meetings** (9:05 AM)

Commissioner Minthorn moved to adopt the April 15, 2015 meeting minutes. Commissioner Webster seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0 with Commissioners Gorham Blaine, Don Bonker, Dan Erickson and Rodger Nichols absent.

**Opportunity for Public Comment** (9:06 AM)

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

- Colin Fogarty, Confluence Project

**Administrative Assessment Overview** (9:14 AM)

The Commission reviewed recommendations of the Administrative Assessment completed in fall 2014 by the Center for Public Service in the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University and from the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington and began discussion of next steps.

Questions and comments were made by Commissioners Chamberlain, Blair, Nichols, Bonker, McNew, Ericksen, Liberty, Webster, Minthorn, Dekay, Wainwright, Burditt and Interim Executive Director Wolniakowski.

Commissioner Liberty made the following motion and Commissioner Nichols seconded it. Executive Director will develop an integrated strategy to include the following:

- 5 year work plan for staff and each commissioner;
- List of critical tasks to implement;
- Budget for each of the tasks;
- Outreach for supporters of the tasks;
- Events and activities in which this could be done to implement the tasks; and
- Interim resources not legislative dependent.

Motion passed 11-0 with Commissioner Blaine absent.

Additional comments and questions by Interim Executive Director Wolniakowski and Commissioners Liberty, Burditt, Blair, Ericksen.

**Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission** (10:14 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 came to the meeting after it started, and Chairman Chamberlain returned to this agenda item later in the morning and asked if he would like to address the Commission. Mr. Barney declined comment.

**Break** (10:14 AM)

The Executive Session listed on the meeting agenda was cancelled.

**Discussion of 2012 Remand Decision from Oregon Court of Appeals** (10:42 AM)

The Commission discussed the decision from the Oregon Court of Appeals requiring the Commission to add language ensuring new development would not cause adverse effect. **(see attachment A)**

Legal Counsel, Jeff Litwak presented the agenda item. Questions and comments were made by Commissioners Nichols, Liberty, Ericksen, Chamberlain.

Public Comment from: Fred Heany; Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Additional questions and comments from Commissioners Minthorn, Bonker, Burditt, Liberty, Nichols, Blair, Webster and Legal Counsel, Jeff Litwak.

Michael Lang provided public comment and handed out a 1 page, 2 sided list of proposed language changes to the Commission. **(see attachment B)**

Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the text change to the Natural Resources section of the Management Plan with the language in the memo from Legal Counsel Jeff Litwak to the Gorge Commission submitted as part of the record, and to communicate to the counties in the Gorge that land division applications are only exempt from cultural resource reconnaissance survey evaluation when the application does not approve ground-disturbing activity. Commissioner Ericksen seconded the motion.

Additional questions and comments by Commissioners Burditt, Blair, Ericksen, McNew, Nichols, Dekay.

Motion passed 8-3 with 3 commissioners from Oregon and 5 commissioners from Washington voting yes. Commissioners Blair, Wainwright, and Liberty voted no and Commissioner Blaine was absent.

Additional comments from Commissioners Liberty, Nichols, Blair.

**Presentation to Former Gorge Commissioner Jim Middaugh. (12:29 PM)**

Chairman Chamberlain presented Jim Middaugh a recognition award for his 10 years of service.

**Lunch (12:31PM)**

**Continued Discussion of Commission's 2015-2017 Budget, Goals/Priorities (1:14 PM)**

The Commission continued its discussion of its expected budget, goals, and priorities for the 2015-2017 biennium.

Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, spoke to the Commission on this item.

Interim Executive Director Krystyna Wolniakowski and GeoInformatics Manager Michele Dailey presented information about Vital Signs Indicators and decision support systems.

**National Scenic Area Manager's Report (1:33 PM)**

Commissioner Burditt reported on:

- Fire conditions.
- Forest plan revisions.
- DHS Spill of National Significance (SONS) exercise late summer.
- Resource reductions at the USFS and potential impacts to the Gorge Commission.

**Director's Report and Update on Executive Director Recruitment (1:51 PM)**

Interim Director Wolniakowski reported on:

- Executive Director recruitment.
- Planner recruitment.
- Tribal/USFS/Tribal Nations Government to Government Summit (Question from Commissioner Wainwright).
- Meeting with Klickitat County Commissioners (With verbal report by Commissioner McNew).
- Meeting with Washington Governor's Office Natural Resources Director and OFM in Olympia.

Comments from Commissioner Blair.

**Other Business (2:07 PM)**

- Commissioner Liberty raised comment and made a suggestion about recent visit by President Obama. Comment by Commissioners Burditt, Wainwright.
- Commissioner Dekay provided an update on 1Gorge.

**Adjourn (2:11 PM)**

Approved 6.9.15