

Columbia River Gorge Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2015

Rock Creek Hegewald Recreation Center
710 SW Rock Creek Drive, Stevenson, Washington

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Gorham Blaine
Bowen Blair
Lynn Burditt
Keith Chamberlain
Lorrie DeKay
Carl McNew
Antone Minthorn
Rodger Nichols
Janet Wainwright
Damon Webster

MEMBERS ABSENT

Don Bonker
Dan Ericksen
Robert Liberty

STAFF PRESENT

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

AUDIENCE PRESENT

Anderson, Scott – Stevenson Business Association and Stevenson City Council
Brown, Keith – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Cornelison, Peter – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Davenport, Jessica – Skamania County Planning Department
Irish, Sherri
Keister, Larry
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Repar, Mary
Robbins, Theresa – Cape Horn Conservancy
Shoal, Robin – US Forest Service National Scenic Area Office
Spencer, Paul
Watness, Philip - Skamania County Pioneer
Waymire, Robert – Skamania County Economic Development & WA Investment Board
Wesner, Ashton

Others were present during the day.

AGENDA

Call to Order and Roll (9:00 AM)

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

Welcome from local officials (9:01 AM)

Pat Albaugh, Executive Director, Skamania County Economic Development Council and Scott Anderson, Stevenson City Council and member of the Stevenson Business Association welcomed the Commission and made comments.

Approval of Minutes for May 12, 2015 Commission meetings (9:06 AM)

Commissioner Blair moved to adopt the May 12, 2015 meeting minutes with one change to correct Commissioner Nichols first name (misspelled). Commissioner Wainwright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. Motion passed 9-0 with Commissioners Bonker, Erickson and Liberty absent.

Opportunity for Public Comment (9:07 AM)

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

Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission (9:11AM)

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. No members of the Treaty Tribes were present at this time of this agenda item.

Continue Discussion of Commission's 2013-2015 and 2015-2017 Budget Updates (9:12 AM)

The Commission continued its discussion of its expected budget, goals, and priorities for the 2015-2017 biennium. Interim Executive Director Krystyna Wolniakowski made a presentation.

Questions and comments made by Commissioner Blair.

Legislative Updates (9:16 AM)

Interim Executive Director Krystyna Wolniakowski made a presentation regarding progress on organizing the National Scenic Area Tour for August 2015. Questions and comments made by Commissioner Wainwright.

Integrated Work Plan Update for 2015-2017 (9:20 AM)

Interim Executive Director Krystyna Wolniakowski made a presentation including an overview of the work program planning process and a review of assessments funded by the Commission and progress on developing the Staff's work plan for the next biennium. (see attachments A and B)

Questions and comments made by Commissioners Wainwright, Blair, Webster. Request from Commissioner Blair to make all the reports available on the website.

Break (9:50 AM)

Presentation: Columbia River Gorge Urban Area Policy Assessment (10:03 AM)

Oregon Consensus Program at Portland State University (Turner Odell) and Ruckelshaus Center (Chris Page) presented their findings and draft report to the Commission for comment prior to submitting their final report to Oregon State Department of Lands and Conservation Development. (see attachments C and D)

Questions and comments made by Commissioners Nichols, Minthorn, Blair, Wainwright, Nichols.
Request from Commissioners Minthorn and Blair to have the consultants reach out to the Portland Office of the BIA and CRTFC.

Public comments were made by: Mary Repar; Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

Presentation: Decision Support System (DSS) - Implementation tool for developing an integrated work plan (11:15 AM)

Michele Dailey presented an update on how a DSS will be used to develop the strategy and work plan for the next biennium by integrating previous and current efforts, including the Vital Signs Indicators, transparent processes, partner collaborations and more, to satisfy future information needs.

Questions and comments were made by Commissioners Wainwright, Blair, Nichols.

Public comments were made by: Mary Repar; Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

Lunch (12:03PM)

Presentation: U.S. Forest Service and the National Scenic Area (12:49 PM)

Lynn Burditt, NSA Manager, provided an overview of the Forest Service role and contribution to the goals of the National Scenic Area. (see attachment E)

Questions and comments were made by Commissioners Wainwright, Blair, Blaine.

Break (1:58 AM)

Discussion of 2012 Remand Decision from Oregon Court of Appeals (2:12 PM)

The Commission will consider a written explanation of new Plan text adopted at the May 2015 Commission meeting that responds to the Oregon Court of Appeals requiring the Commission to add language regarding adverse cumulative effects. Jeff Litwak, Legal Counsel, CRGC presented this written explanation. (see attachment F)

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

Commissioner Nichols made a motion and Commissioner Blaine seconded the motion to take this up again after 90 days to allow for time for consultation. If the Commission receives input, it will consider that input and may reconsider the May 12, 2015 motion. If the Commission receives no input, then it will vote on the explanation.

Public comment was given by Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge (see attachment G); Mary Repar; Theresa Robbins. The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (see attachment H) and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (see attachment I) submitted comment by email.

Motion passed 9-0 with Commissioners Bonker, Ericksen, Liberty absent.

Director's Report and Update on Executive Director Recruitment (3:11 PM)

Director Wolniakowski reported on:

1. Bi-State Legislative Forum 9/11/15.
2. Multnomah County Land Use Boundary clarification project.
3. Pending litigation.
4. Executive Director search.
5. National Scenic Area planner search.
6. Today's agenda wrap-up.

Other Business (3:20 PM)

Commissioner Chamberlain proposed a selection committee for the Executive Director selection process. That committee will be Commissioners Minthorn, Blair, DeKay, Nichols, Bonker with Commissioner Chamberlain as an ex-officio member.

Commissioner Wainwright made a motion to approve this and Commissioner Blaine seconded it. The motion passed 9-0 with Commissioners Bonker, Ericksen and Liberty absent.

Adjourn (3:23 PM)

Approved 7.14.15