

Columbia River Gorge Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2017

Port of Skamania, Tichenor Building
40 SW Cascade Avenue, Stevenson, Washington

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bridget Bailey (10:35 am)
Bowen Blair
Don Bonker
Lynn Burditt
Keith Chamberlain
Sondra Clark
Lorrie DeKay
Robert Liberty
Antone Minthorn
Rodger Nichols
Janet Wainwright

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dan Ericksen
Damon Webster

STAFF PRESENT

Nancy Andring, Administrative Analyst
Jessica Gist, Natural Resources and Land Use Planner
Jason Hildreth, GIS Analyst/Land Use Planner
Jeff Litwak, Counsel
Krystyna Wolniakowski, Executive Director

AUDIENCE PRESENT

Albaugh, Pat – Port of Skamania
Barney, Casey – Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program
Cornelison, Peter – Friends of the Columbia
Davis, Judy
Dryden, Marge – U.S. Forest Service
Fagerness, Kari – Skamania County Economic Development Council
Keister, Larry
Klaas, Andrea
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Leon, Peter – Wishram Community Council
McCoy, Steve - Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Nielson, Dustin – Wasco County Planning
Pawlitz, Rachel – U.S. Forest Service
Pitt, Louie – Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Repar, Mary
Robbins, Theresa – Cape Horn Conservancy
Roberts, John – Hood River County Planning

Runyon, Rod – Chair, Wasco County Commission
Sears, Tricia – Oregon DLCD
Stallman, Kristen – Oregon Department of Transportation
Stone, Tyler – Wasco County
Watness, Philip – Skamania County Pioneer

Others were present during the day.

AGENDA

Committee Meetings (9:00 AM)

- Tribal Committee
- Assessment Committee

Call to Order and Roll (10:00 AM)

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

Welcome from local officials (10:02 AM)

Pat Albaugh from the Port of Skamania and Kari Fagerness from Skamania County Economic Development Council welcomed the Commission.

Welcome New Gorge Commissioner (10:05 AM)

The Commission welcomed Sondra Clark (Klickitat County Appointee) and Re-Appointee, Lorrie DeKay (WA Governor Appointee)

Approval of Minutes for June 13, 2017 Commission meetings (10:10 AM)

Commissioner Liberty moved to adopt the June 13, 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Wainwright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission (10:15 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, and Louie Pitt from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs addressed the Commission about tribal issues.

Opportunity for Public Comment (10:20 AM)

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

- Mary Repar spoke about the Gorge carrying capacity being reached, the Vital Signs Indicators project, starting a community advisory committee, and concerns about the environment.
- Michael Lang spoke about the oil train bill, Oregon HB 2131.
- Peter Cornelison spoke as a Hood River City Council member about HB 2131 and public lands.

U.S. Forest Service NSA Manager's Report (10:30 AM) Commissioner Burditt reported on:

- Dry Creek fire north of White Salmon, Rowland Lake fire, and the Indian Creek fire
- Search and rescue in Hood River and Multnomah counties
- Forest Service hiring process

- Gifford Pinchot National Forest
- Consistency Reviews
- Gorge 2020 and impacts in the SMA

Special Presentation: Regional Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning (10:45 AM)

Tricia Sears, Natural Hazards Planner for the Oregon Department of Land Conservation District, discussed Natural Hazard Management Plans implementing Oregon Statewide Planning Goal 7 and suggested the Commission could incorporate natural hazard management planning into the Management Plan. (see attachment A1 and A2)

Discussion Item: Final 2017–2019 Commission Budget (11:15 AM) Director Wolniakowski discussed the final Gorge Commission budget approved by the Oregon and Washington legislatures for the 2017-2019 biennium. Director Wolniakowski also discussed performance measures and updates that need to happen to bring both states into alignment.

Discussion Item: Data and Inventory Review as Part of “Gorge 2020” (11:35 AM)

Jessica Gist, Natural Resources and Land Use Planner, presented the staff’s review of Commission data, resource inventories how we maintain up-to-date information. (see attachment B1 and B2)

Mary Repar commented on how important the analysis of the data is. She said that the impacts from outside sources needs to be looked at, along with mitigations that are taken.

Michael Lang commented on plan review components and other issues.

Commissioner Bonker asked what the staff’s intentions are to follow up on questions. Commissioner Bailey asked about code enforcement. Commissioner Liberty asked if code enforcement actions are kept in a data base with the counties.

Lunch (12:20PM)

Guests: Thank you to **Marge Dryden**, archeologist and historic preservation program manager for the US Forest Service, who is retiring at the end of August.

Discussion Item: “Gorge 2020” Management Plan Update (1:05 PM)

Jessica Gist, Natural Resources and Land Use Planner, provided a progress report on the categorization of public and agency comments, and requested feedback on a prioritization process given the 2017-2019 Gorge Commission budget limitations. (see attachment C)

Tyler Stone and Dustin Nielson from Wasco County emphasized that the county wants to play a strong role in the management plan update. John Roberts from Hood River County Planning also asked that Hood River County be included in the process. Commissioner Nichols asked what would be the county’s most important issue. John Roberts said he would like to see a change that would allow more applications to fall into the expedited review category. Dustin Nielson agreed.

Michael Lang said the main priority of the management plan is fulfilling the purposes of the Act. He was concerned about having too many categories under the expedited review process and that open space designations need to be safeguarded.

Andrea Klaas from the Port of The Dalles wanted to remind the Commission that home base agricultural businesses are important.

Mary Repar commented that we need to have more coordination with environmental groups. Pesticides used in the Gorge are effecting the environment.

Commissioners discussed priorities. Commissioner Liberty stated that he felt there were four main issues: objectives, tourism, unfinished business, and vital signs to monitor our business.

Commissioner Chamberlain emphasized that the economy needs to be high priority.

Commissioner Bailey discussed the issue of whether the counties would give the development review process back to the Gorge Commission.

Commissioner Blair had concerns about the fast track process and stated that it shouldn't compromise resources. He also discussed urban area expansion, climate change, fossil fuel trains, transportation needs, and having standards that would help clear up ambiguities.

Commissioner Clark felt streamlining the process was important and that it would save a lot of work for everyone. Commissioner DeKay agreed.

Committee Reports (1:40 PM)

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

Gorge Commission Executive Director's Report (2:00 PM) Director Wolniakowski reported on: (see attachment D)

- Pacific Northwest Economic Region Meeting in Portland in July
- Workplan and staffing for 2017-2019 Biennium
- Klickitat County Development Reviews
- Management Plan workshop on August 8
- Gorge 2020 management plan update

Schedule for the 2017-2018 Commission Meetings (3:12PM)

Director Wolniakowski stated that the August commission meeting is cancelled.

Other Business (3:15 PM)

No other business.

Adjourn (3:16 PM)

Approved 10.10.17