

Columbia River Gorge Commission

Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2016

Columbia Gorge Discovery Center
5000 Discovery Drive, The Dalles, Oregon

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bowen Blair
Lorrie DeKay
Robert Liberty
Carl McNew
Antone Minthorn
Rodger Nichols
Janet Wainwright
Damon Webster

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gorham Blaine
Don Bonker
Lynn Burditt
Keith Chamberlain
Dan Ericksen

STAFF PRESENT

Jessica Gist, Natural Resources and Land Use Planner
Jason Hildreth, GIS Analyst/Land Use Planner
Jeff Litwak, Counsel
Riley Marcus, Klickitat County Planner working with the Gorge Commission
Krystyna Wolniakowski, Executive Director
Gordon Howard, Consultant Long-range Planner

AUDIENCE PRESENT

Barney, Casey – Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program
Irish, Sherri
Jensen, Dale - Spills Program Manager, Washington Department of Ecology
Keister, Larry
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Lawrence, Stephen - Mayor, The Dalles, Oregon
Lewis, Jason - Senior Transportation & Legislative Policy Advisor, Utilities & Transportation Commission
Nelson, John – Friends of the Columbia Gorge Board Member

Others were present during the day.

AGENDA

Committee Meetings (8:30 AM)

- Assessment
- Tribal Relations

Call to Order and Roll (10:02 AM)

Chair Blair called the meeting to order and Jeff Litwak called roll.

Welcome from local officials (10:05 AM)

Mayor Lawrence welcomed the Commission. He spoke to several issues of interest to The Dalles including rail operations and safety, urban area boundaries, and funding for economic development. He highlighted downtown revitalization and small business grant, anticipated road maintenance, and tourism industry successes.

Approval of Minutes for July 12, 2016 Commission meetings (10:21 AM)

Commissioner DeKay moved to adopt the July 12, 2016 meeting minutes. Commissioner Webster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. Commissioner Liberty abstained.

Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission (10:22 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, noted the Tribe's interest in Management Plan revision and in requiring cultural resource monitors to be on-site for projects. Mr. Barney has met with Marge Dryden about this issue in the past. When asked, Mr. Barney clarified that he believed professionals, students, and/or tribal members could serve to oversee ground-disturbing activities for permit compliance and discovery of resources. The Tribe is against the transport of coal through the Gorge.

Opportunity for Public Comment (10:26 AM)

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

- Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia River Gorge discussed coal transport through the Gorge and thanked the Commission for its attention to the issue thus far. He reviewed FRA's June report and invited Commissioners to visit the tracks near the BNSF bridge. Commissioners requested copies of the statistics document and photographs.

Travel Oregon: Gorge Tourism Studio for the National Scenic Area (10:32 AM)

Kristin Dahl, Travel Oregon; Kevin Gorman, Friends of the Columbia Gorge; Casey Roeder, Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance and the Skamania Chamber of Commerce; and Stan Hinatsu, U.S. Forest Service presented the process and outcomes of the Gorge Tourism Studio, a six-month collaborative effort facilitated by Travel Oregon. The Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance developed a Statement of Intent, Action Areas/Teams, and a 15-Year Vision for Sustainable Tourism. (see attachment A)

Break (11:30AM)

Follow-Up to the Mosier Oil Train Derailment and the Washington State New Oil Transport Law and Implementation Rules (11:42 AM)

Dale Jensen, Spills Program Manager, Washington Department of Ecology, and Jason Lewis, Senior Transportation and Legislative Policy Advisor, Utilities and Transportation Commission, reported on Washington's response to the Mosier oil train derailment and Washington State's new oil transport law and implementation rules.

Lunch (12:45PM)

Vital Sign Indicators Update (1:33 PM) Jessica Gist, Natural Resources Planner, presented an update on recent staff work and next steps for implementing VSI. See Vital Sign Indicators PowerPoint Presentation. Michael Lang with Friends of the Gorge commented.

Committee Reports (2:09PM)

The Assessment and Tribal Relations committees reported on their morning meetings. Janet Wainwright summed up the Tribal Relations Committee meeting, and recommended changes to the language of the Commission's 2014 resolution on hazardous materials transportation. Jeff Litwak recommended that the Commission wait to give him time to research whether amending the resolution while the Union Pacific land use application in Wasco County is likely to be appealed to the Commission. Commissioner Antone Minthorn talked about the treaty of the four tribes and mentioned that however the resolution ends up regardless of the language, that they will have a final comment. Robert Liberty reported on the Assessment Committee's meeting, discussing the scoping and timing of the Management Plan Road Map. Bowen Blair discussed the staff limitations with the Management Plan update and making sure we have a sufficient amount of public input. Janet Wainwright reported on the Communications Committee. Lorrie DeKay reported on the Outreach Committee.

Executive Director's Report (2:39 PM) Director Wolniakowski reported on:

- Recruitment for new NSA Planner
- Final Budget for FY 16 and Budget Request for FY 17-19 (see attachment B)
- IT Security Audit
- Legislative Strategy and Commissioners' Involvement
- October Commission Meeting Preview:
 - Management Plan "Gorge 2020" Roadmap—introduction for October Commission meeting
 - Urban Area Boundaries Legal Descriptions
- Visual Monitoring Points/Key Viewing Areas in NSA Progress Report

National Scenic Area Manager's Report (3:00 PM) Robin Shoal, Natural Resources & Planning Staff Officer for the U.S. Forest Service National Scenic Area reported on:

- Fire season update
- Recreation
- Falcons on Beacon Rock
- Appreciation for Gorge Commission and Staff

Other Business (3:03 PM)

- The Commission approved the Chair and Executive Director drafting a resolution of appreciation of Pat Bleakney (former commissioner and former Commission Chair) who recently passed away. The Chair and Executive Director will send the resolution to Darlene Bleakney. Bowen Blair set forth this motion and Carl McNew seconded.

Executive Session (3:06 PM)

The Commission held an executive session to consult with counsel regarding current litigation or litigation likely to be filed pursuant to Section 350-11-006(g). The Commission made no decisions in Executive Session.

Adjourn (3:50 PM)

Approved 10.11.16