

**Columbia River Gorge Commission**

Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2016

Skamania Lodge

1131 SW Skamania Lodge Way, Stevenson, Washington

***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***

***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 U. Wolniakowski, Executive Director  
Gordon Howard, Consultant, Long-Range Planner

***AUDIENCE PRESENT***

Barney, Casey – Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program  
Brewer, Angie – Director, Wasco County Planning  
Carver, Nicole – US Forest Service  
Hamlin, Bob – Skamania County Commissioner  
Hurbour, Kate  
Irish, Sherri  
Keister, Larry  
Koch, Paul – Port of Cascade Locks  
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Peters, Alan  
Repar, Mary  
Robins, Dale – Regional Transportation Commission  
Stallman, Kristan – Oregon Department of Transportation  
Vervloet, Bart – Columbia Gorge Windsurfing Association  
Watness, Philip - Skamania County Pioneer

Others were present during the day.

## **AGENDA**

### **Committee Meetings (8:45 AM)**

- **Outreach Committee**
- **Communications Committee**

### **Call to Order and Roll (10:01 AM)**

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

### **Welcome from local officials (10:02 AM)**

Bob Hamlin, Chair, Skamania County Commission welcomed the Commission.

### **Approval of Minutes for September 13, 2016 Commission meetings (10:05 AM)**

Commissioner DeKay moved to adopt the September 13, 2016 meeting minutes. Commissioner McNew seconded the motion. Commissioner Chamberlain commented that committees should formalize decisions with motions. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

### **Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission (10:08 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: Mr. Barney noted the Tribal Council is considering the Spring Creek Hatchery project proposed by the Windsurfers Association on Washington State Parks property. The Cultural Resources Program is opposed because of Tribal fishing concerns.

### **Opportunity for Public Comment (10:11 AM)**

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

- Mary Repar, Stevenson: Supports VSI program. Suggests forming a committee to maintain forward progress on the VSI project and seeking funding. Housing and population pressures are a concern and it's time to address carrying capacity. Suggests asserting authority to address.
- Paul Koch, Port of Cascade Locks: Seconded what Mary said. Provided written comments. (see attachment A) Following up on request to provide transportation priorities, Jan 2016. Supports the policy and lens Commission developed. Recommends granting ED authority to support projects; adopt the lens (done); adopt Gorge transportation goals (done). Sees need to 1) create a comprehensive transportation plan for the Gorge, 2) convene meeting of two governors to address Gorge needs, 3) work with partners to enhance transportation, 4) seek a meeting with the DOTs to address emergency planning. Highlighted example of veteran transportation across state lines.
- Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia River Gorge: Oil transport by rail – a proposal to increase traffic was withdrawn. Land use applications and County review. Large scale agriculture proposal for a guest house changed to labor housing approved for a vineyard when landowner is not able to maintain. Farm labor housing definitions and use clarification for the Management Plan. Showing housing to be necessary.

- Dale Robbins, Long-range transportation planner: Thanked Director Wolniakowski and staff for work on transportation policy. Provided example of implementation. Dog Mountain parking area is an example of site needing future letter of support for grant funding for maintenance. Proper review and permitting would follow the support letter.

**ACTION ITEM: Urban Area Boundary Legal Descriptions (10:30 AM)**

Jason Hildreth, GIS Planner, and Ben Beseda, Tenneson Engineering, presented the completed urban area boundary legal descriptions for the 13 urban areas in the National Scenic Area which have been reviewed by Gorge Commission and U.S. Forest Service staff. **(see attachment B)** Commissioner Nichols moved to proceed with rule-making to adopt the legal descriptions. Commissioner Liberty seconded. Staff clarified that rulemaking includes a public process and staff is available to discuss in more detail. The Commission voted to initiate the rulemaking process.

**Committee Reports (11:32 AM)**

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

- Meetings with legislators and Governors ongoing, critical for funding
- Continue work on newsletter and celebration for the November anniversary
- Strategizing Management Plan engagement to generate funding support
- Commissioner Wainwright suggested that a letter of thank you be sent to Paul Lumley

**Gorge Commission Executive Director’s Report (11:45 AM)** Director Wolniakowski reported:

- 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration planning
- Scenic resources training tool
- Budget appeal process for our request to add 3 FTE
- Klickitat County Commission meeting next week, Planner position and budget
- Columbia River shipping risk assessment effort will include general info for the NSA above Bonneville Dam. Growing Dept of Ecology relationships
- Legislators and Governors outreach offer to assist Commissioners

**Lunch (12:10PM)**

**ACTION ITEM: DRAFT Roadmap for Management Plan Review and Update (12:47 PM)**

Staff presented the draft roadmap **(see attachment C)**—a timeline and phased process for review of the Management Plan as required by the National Scenic Area Act—and request comments and approval to move forward immediately with outreach and public engagement.

**Public comment (1:14PM):**

Mary Repar, Stevenson – Cumulative impact analyses should be done for all SNCERs, baselines for the resources will allow you to look at trends, integrate VSI and Management Plan review.

Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge – Advance public notice is key for quality engagement, request opening the roadmap and timeline for 2 weeks before deciding to proceed, structure appears to follow Scenic Area Act requirements. The list of identified issues contains several items that were addressed in the last plan revision process. Economic resources page includes land use issues. Mr. Lang stated that Friends has compiled a list of topics of concern for revision. Staff clarified that public comment is welcome from the public any time.

Larry Kiester, Washougal resident – recommends utilizing volunteer assistance to accomplish the work

Kristen Stallman, ODOT – ODOT and USFS launching congestion mitigation effort for (mostly) Walls and Falls corridor. Some funding is secured by Multnomah County, federal funds pending. Offer and hope to work together as planning efforts proceed.

Commissioners recommended using public process to elicit the information we need from participants as soon as possible during this first 6 months. Last revision did not have formal committees, but issue discussions were convened as needed with agency partners. Workshops are meant to serve the role of in-depth discussion with advisory partners. Suggestion to include non-agency community leaders in advisory capacity. Take advantage of other efforts (e.g. Gorge Tourism Alliance). Monitoring Reports will be informative. Solicit assistance with trends, modeling, forecasting, and maintaining monitoring. Commissioner Liberty moved to adopt the staff report and Commissioner Wainwright seconded. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**National Scenic Area Manager's Report (1:38 PM)** Commissioner Burditt reported on:

- Next month will update on dam removal, prescribed fire, others as requested
- Goal to work closely during plan review, given staff demands
- Continuing resolution until December 9<sup>th</sup> for Federal budget
- Nationwide administrative transition planning
- Rx burn went very well before the rain came, seeding has been done, Catherine Creek Forest Health project ongoing with large outreach effort
- Last week Astoria after action review for oil train derailment
- Transportation and safety projects
- Oregon Solutions project group, user fees are being discussed
- Gillette Lakes transaction, MOU with Skamania County for land adjustments

**Other Business (1:53 PM)**

- Millennium Bulk terminal NEPA we commented earlier and we will review during this comment period
- Officer elections will occur in November

**Adjourn (1:58 PM)**

Approved 11.8.16