

**Columbia River Gorge Commission Rules Committee
Meeting Summary
December 8, 2025, 9:00 am via Zoom**

Attendance: Commissioners Laura Brennan-Bissell, Valerie Fowler, Robert Liberty, Rodger Nichols

Absent: Pah-tu Pitt

Staff Present: Jeff Litwak, Counsel

Public Attendees: Keith Cleveland, Hood River County, Kelly Howsley Glover, Wasco County, Steve McCoy, Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Review Summary of August 27, 2025, Meeting

The Rules Committee approved the meeting summary of the August 27, 2025, committee meeting.

Discussion of Draft Division 12 Rules

Commissioner Liberty stated that he did not see any significant policy choices in the draft rules in divisions 12 and 16 and recommended that Jeff highlight what he believed were the most important policy choices. Commissioners Fowler and Nichols agreed. Jeff discussed some of the rules shown in the table organizing the discussion for the Rules Committee.

Commissioner Nichols stated that he looked at the draft rules from the perspective of a journalist seeking records and that he believes Oregon's approach of having some records as conditionally exempt from disclosure as more transparent than Washington approach, which does not use a list of conditional exemptions. Commissioner Nichols believes that the draft rules using that Oregon's approach is appropriate. Jeff explained that the Gorge Commission might not be able to release a record under a conditional exemption because another state law or a federal law prohibits the disclosure.

Commissioner Nichols also recommended that Oregon's 15-day goal to provide records should be in the rules. Jeff said he can add this to the draft rules.

Commissioner Fowler stated that she agree with Commissioner Nichols that the rules should lean toward transparency

Commissioner Liberty also agreed, but noted that whether to disclose an exempt record is a complicated choice and suggested the rules provide for the staff to consult with the Commission. Jeff said he could add this, but would ask that it not be required because that could overwhelm the Commission with multiple requests.

Discussion of Draft Division 16 Rules

No committee members had questions or comments about division 16.

Public Comment

None of the public attendees had comments.

Follow Up

The Rules Committee asked Jeff to bring the draft rules to the full Commission. Jeff stated that he needed to clean up the draft rules and prepare an updated staff report, and that would likely be in spring 2026.

The meeting ended at approximately 9:40 am.