

OREGON COUNCIL OF ROCK AND MINERAL CLUBS

MADRUS ANNUAL MEETING, Saturday, JUNE 24, 2017

Attending: 11 members: Mike Medvec and Daniel Petersen of Oregon Agate Mineral Society, Vicki Johnson of Willamette Agate Mineral Society, Edwin Anderson of Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society, Susie Koppert of Mt Hood Rock Club, Tomoko & Hidemi Kira of Clackamette Mineral Gem Club, Dave & Maureen Williams of Umpqua Gem Mineral Club and Troy & Lenora Smith of Mt. Hood Rock Club

Dave Williams, president opened the annual meeting at Madrus, OR Pow Wow Show. Minutes were read and some additions were made and approved. Officer reports from Treasurer absent and report has not been sent to Dave or Secretary. Dave will contact Don Innis, past president to find out what the problem is and receive a treasury report.

Since we were meeting in Madrus and the Smith Rocks are in nearby Redmond, Dave Williams, president gave a geology report: Smith Rocks is a part of the Crooked River Calderas and now is Oregon's Super Volcanic Hot Spot. Dave brought up the re-imburement to Susie for her long trips for the RAC Planning Groups, but not for regular Council meetings. Operation Instructions reviewed.

There was much discussion re: letters and emails to Sec. Zinke and some Senators regarding keeping the Federal Land open for Recreational Rockhounding. Lenora had a short article printed in the American Lands Access Assoc. Newsletter April- June 2017 issue on Rockhounding in OR. Also she has written Sec. Zinke again and the copy of that letter was passed around for everyone to read and a letter to Senator Mike Lee. Both letters were read by everyone. The letters were reminding Sec. Zinke and Senator Lee to keep recreational rockhounding on our Federal Land. They were invited to come to Oregon and see our Portland Regional Show on Oct. 13-15 which is managed and staged by 5 local clubs of Portland Area.

Susie gave a detailed report of The RAC BLM meetings she attended: Field Trips to Stinking Water, Leslie Gulch, and Graveyard Plume Point to review need for sage, and native plant restoration after Soda Burn. Idaho and Oregon BLM offices experiencing slow down in process of implementation, partially due to hiring freeze of new staff and big change of personnel (some leaving for new locations or new departments, such as Forestry or USDA. Consistency between departments has been challenging for various BLM area—for Land Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) and Environmental Impact Studies (ELS). Beaty Butte wild horse training facility and projects have been supported by local ranchers. Minerals Program: Calico Plan Operations 1: What type of minerals are to be mined, 2. Malheur Project @ Castle Rock a) Juniper Timber Fire Project (remove and cut). Land Wilderness Studies Units: 1. Impact on vegetation, 2. Economic function, 3. Proximity to other Wilderness Areas. Need to develop a conclusion or approach to sorting out the 3 requirements stated above for what type of land use and management for each area studied. Right of ways and activities to be authorized for each unit such as: recreation with OHV(4wheelers). Camping can be blocked by Lumbar Co. in certain areas and new leasing areas could be closed such as mineral and gravel. Withers Fire District working on road barriers to help deter Forrest fires from spreading. BLM Land is not sold but may be exchanged.

Holley Orr (Burns Recreation Assistant of Malheur and Burns Areas promoting recreational Functions and Areas to be used: 1-Malheur Bird Observatory, 2- Bike & Brew, 3-Other ideas were being discussed . (Rockhounding was not mentioned but Susie addressed at public open input time.)

HEPA & SMAC group: Stinking Water Area has a new Environmental Association with Goals:

1. Determination of Aquatic needs and what types of Recreation may or could be prohibited.
2. Vale and Burns Districts Watershed Areas could be closed to public.
3. Malheur National Forrest Department involved in repairing habitat restoration.

Susie has applied for both RAC's: 1. SouthEast Oregon RAC, and 2. John Day, Snake River RAC. Both have openings. But SE seems to have a lot of people applying. A few of SE members and one of the BLM employees suggested Susie apply for John Day RAC. (Note: unless you are a part of the RAC , you are not allowed to comment until invited at the public input time.) So this is why it would be great to have a Rockhound on these RAC's, especially in the good rockhounding areas!!)

Just received the Treasurer Report for the Council from Debbie McPherson:

As of July 7, 2017 Balance was \$2225.90, Paid out ALAA dues of \$50 Leaving a balance of \$2175.50