

**Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs**  
**Sweet Home Meeting Minutes**  
**Saturday, March 31, 2018**

**Attendees & Clubs-** Dave and Maureen Williams - Umpqua Gem and Mineral Club; Tomoko Kira, Hidemi Kira and Nita Whitaker - Clackamette Mineral and Gem; Ed Anderson and Cindy Cole - Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Society; Vicki Johnson, David Kersenbrock and Lisa Higgins - Willamette Agate and Mineral Society; Don and Terry Innes - Far West Lapidary and Mineral Society; Susie Koppert - Mount Hood Rock Club.

Lenora Smith was on vacation so Maureen Williams filled in as secretary.

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by President Dave Williams at 1:17pm.

**Introductions:** Members introduced themselves and gave their club affiliation. An attendance sheet was passed around for all to sign.

**Approval of Minutes:** Maureen Williams read the minutes from the Portland Regional Show Meeting held on October 14, 2017. A change in the spelling of "capital" to "capitol" will be made. Cindy Cole made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Terry Innes. The motion was approved with corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** Maureen Williams has agreed to be the new Council Treasurer following Debbie McPhersons resignation. Maureen provided copies of the current Treasurer's report. After reading the report Cindy Cole asked how many rock clubs were in Oregon? Hidemi Kira reported 19 clubs were registered with the NWFMS in 2017. Don Innes had a list of 23 clubs. The NWFMS has a listing of Oregon clubs in a directory provided at their annual meeting. Their next annual meeting will be in Yakima, April 27th-29th. Hidemi said he will get a 2018 NWMS directory for the OCRMC board. Don Innes said he receives a copy too.

Terry Innes submitted the annual membership dues for the Far West Lapidary Society.

Vicki Johnson clarified that the WAMS check was for both their 2017 and 2018 dues.

Cindy Cole and Vicki Johnson moved and members approved the Treasurer's report with an amendment regarding the WAMS payment.

### **Old Business**

**Club Membership & Contact Update:** Hidemi and Don have the NWFMS 2017 membership directory. An updated book will be distributed at the NWFMS annual meeting. Hidemi will pick up a 2018 directory for the OCRMC.

**Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management Access Issues-** Lenora is on vacation, so she will provide an update at our Madras meeting. .

**BLM RAC Meetings and RAC (Resource Advisory Council) Membership Update-** Susie Koppert reported her membership applications have been filed and accepted by two BLM RACs (John Day - Snake River and Southeastern Oregon). The Oregon RACs have sent their membership applications to Washington, D.C., but final approvals have not been announced. Susie is frustrated because all the applicable timelines have been met, but Washington, D.C. is not moving ahead with the process of making selections for the RACs.

Susie stated rock hounds need to contact their federal legislators. She stressed we should write (or email) our Senators and Representatives regarding the lack of movement on RAC membership applications. Susie spoke with Kathleen Cathey, a Field Representative from Senator Wyden's office, at a Burns - SE Oregon RAC meeting. Ms. Cathey reported Senator Wyden and his staff felt strongly that form letters and petitions

were not as effective as personal letters from individuals. It is important that letter writers express their concerns about access to public lands administered by the BLM and Forest Service for recreational rockhounding. They may wish to note that rockhounds engage in surface collecting using hand tools. We also adhere to a code of ethics regarding our activities. This serves to differentiate rockhounds from the mining industry. The BLM has noted funding is down which affects road maintenance and access for rockhounds. Susie indicated the delay in forming the RACs precludes addressing the concerns of commercial, recreational, oil/gas exploration, timber, farming, mining, cattle grazing and Native American interest groups. Recreational rockhounding is certainly the smallest and least visible activity on BLM lands.

Susie has attended 41 governmental agency meetings, at her own expense, to promote the interests of recreational rockhounds. She is a great ambassador for the OCRMC and certainly exemplifies the Council's mission.

## **Discussion**

David Kersenbrock asked about any procedures we should be following when contacting various agencies. Do we have anyone higher on the chain of command we could talk with about our concerns?

We agreed a personal letter seems to elicit the best response. The group talked about how to get our club members to write to our representatives.

Maureen will type up Susie's contact list for our Senators and Representatives.

Susie explained how the Southeastern Oregon RMP Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Map is used and also distributed RAC area maps.

Dave asked how her field trip to the Plush sunstone area was received by BLM staff. They had a wonderful time because for many it was their first time to go collecting. After the trip, Susie sent them back some polished sunstones.

In early February Susie attended a wild horse round up with BLM staff. She was also selected to participate in a sage grouse field trip next month.

Ed Anderson looked into applying for membership on the Salem RAC. He found the application process excessively complicated with a decided preference for individuals with lots of advanced degrees. In the end, he did not pursue the application. Susie tried to assure him many members of RACs were not chosen based solely on their level of higher education. She knows of members who did not have college or even high school diplomas. The process can be more complicated than people are used to, but that does not preclude an application. The agencies are looking for people with a passion for resource issues.

Cindy reported her family members sent her information from the Lakeview and Klamath newspapers. Both had information about the RACs in their areas.

## **New Business**

**OCRMC Trophy Judging/Case Award:** Members discussed whether our case judging rules should be changed. After some deliberation it was decided to leave the rules as currently established – All Oregon Material and the work of the exhibitor.

Congratulations to Hidemi and Tomoko Kira for winning the Oregon Council trophy in October.

**Operating Procedure No. 3 Amendment-Travel Expenses:** Dave Williams explained we needed to amend this Operating Procedure to allow for limited travel reimbursement for council representatives pursuing our interests with various federal agencies.

As currently written this operating procedure states:

There will be no reimbursements for travel expenses when attending Oregon Council meetings or other functions.

Dave suggested replacing the above language with the following:

There will be no reimbursements for travel expenses when attending regularly scheduled Oregon Council meetings, except as follows: The Board may approve partial reimbursement for travel expenses incurred by duly appointed Council representatives attending governmental agency meetings on behalf of the Council.

### **Discussion**

Cindy suggested putting a \$500.00 cap on expenses. Another suggestion for a possible cap would be a percentage of Council revenue. It was decided to let the board determine any upper limit as needed.

Lisa inquired about having a prior-approval process by the board so we can have budget accountability.

Dave will rewrite the Operating Procedure to reflect the concerns raised by the members and have something ready for consideration by the annual meeting in Madras.

**OCRMC Informational Brochure/Sheet:** Dave Williams suggested preparing an informational brochure explaining the OCRMC mission to send out with our membership renewal application. Don recommended looking at a tri-fold from the Far West club as an example. All agreed it would be good idea and help explain the OCRMC objectives to our member clubs.

**Capitol Display Case Update:** Don and Vicki reported sending 9 CDs with Capitol case photos to our webmaster, Karl Granzow, in order to update our web page.

Vicki reported the Columbia Gorge Rockhounds club will be exhibiting beginning mid-May. Reedsport is interested in the next slot scheduled for November.

**Date, Time, Location for Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be held at the Madras Show on Saturday, June 23, 2018 @ 1:00pm.

**Announcements, Future Meetings, Shows, Events:** The Rickreall Show will be held April 13, 14 & 15 with the Umpqua Gem & Mineral Clubs Roseburg Show on May 5 & 6.

**Adjourn :** Meeting adjourned at. 3:43pm.