

## **OREGON COUNCIL OF ROCK AND MINERAL CLUBS**

### **Madras Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Saturday, June 23, 2018**

**Attendees & Clubs:** Participants included 9 representatives from 5 Oregon rock and mineral clubs. Dave & Maureen Williams - Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club; Hidemi and Tomoko Kira - Clackamette Mineral & Gem Club; Susie Koppert, Troy and Lenora Smith - Mt Hood Rock Club; Vicki Johnson - Willamette Gem & Mineral Club, and Ed Anderson from the Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society.

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Dave Williams.

**Introductions:** Members introduced themselves and gave their club affiliation. An attendance sheet was circulated for participants to sign. Terry (Vice-President) and Don Innes were unable to attend due to family medical matters. There was a discussion about the reasoning of several club representatives who attended the Sweet Home meeting but have since chosen not to participate in council activities.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the March 31, 2018 Sweet Home meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Maureen Williams provided copies of the current Treasurer's report. We currently have \$2358.03 in our checking account with a paid membership of ten clubs. Ed Anderson made a motion to accept the treasurer's report which received unanimous approval. Maureen was nominated and elected to a new two year term as the Council Treasurer.

### **Old Business**

**Club Membership & Contact Update:** A new Northwest Federation Directory was received from Hidemi Kira. Dave is planning on sending a letter to all clubs who are not members of the Council. We had a general discussion regarding clubs dropping out of the Federation and the Council. Reasons given included financial limitations and that some club members had expressed adverse comments. The South Douglas Club has recently signed up for membership. Ed Anderson delivered a membership application to Oregon Coast Club. It was noted that the Roxy Ann and Grants Pass clubs were previously active in the Council. Susie Koppert was invited to speak at a member club about her experiences advocating for recreational rockhounding at the BLM. Unfortunately she was not available on the requested date which resulted in some negative feedback from the club contact person.

**Council Informational Sheet:** Dave suggested we need an informational sheet/brochure describing the Council's mission and objectives to send out annually with our renewal applications. The sheet would detail our efforts to promote recreational rockhounding with various governmental land management agencies. The sheet would also provide information about our Capitol Display Case in Salem (display changed every 6 months and rotated between the Oregon clubs active in the Oregon Council). Our Capitol Case of Oregon rocks and minerals is very effective as a visual reminder to our elected officials and visitors about the importance of rockhounding as a hobby. The brochure would also describe our website content and give information about the Oregon Trophy which is awarded every year for the best exhibit of All Oregon Material.

**BLM, USFS, and RAC Membership Update:** The BLM is looking for RAC members to represent dispersed recreational activities including rockhounding, mountain biking and hiking. It would be very desirable to have Council members serving on different RAC's, especially in the Willamette Valley area (Northwest Oregon RAC). Besides someone from WAMS, Ed Anderson is closest to the Salem area. Susie encouraged him to apply, indicating that relevant work experience, letters of recommendation and commitment were just as important as holding advanced degrees. She offered several examples of RAC members without college degrees being selected to serve on the committee.

Lenora will contact the BLM office in Salem to see if we can attend one of their RAC meetings and check to see where they are in their selection process. Dave and Ed said they would go with Lenora, if we are invited to observe one of their meetings. They encouraged us to apply last year, but we were unable to take advantage of the opportunity. Discussions continued regarding the need to advocate for Public Land access. Lenora indicated she had sent an email to Secretary Zinke after seeing a BLM video about recreation on federal lands. Unfortunately, nothing was mentioned about recreational rockhounding.

Susie Koppert stated that BLM staff have indicated they do not want lobbyists to fill certain RAC positions. As a result, she will not be representing a named interest group, but instead the hobby of recreational rockhounding in general. Susie believes she will be selected to serve on the John Day – Snake River RAC sometime in September. She will be attending a meeting in Ontario on June 27<sup>th</sup> regarding the Sage Grouse EIS. She will also be traveling to Lakeview in early August for another BLM RAC meeting.

Dave asked Lenora about the emails she regularly forwards to our membership. Most are from the Western Caucus of the House of Representatives. She tries to send the ones which affect us as rockhounds. Some recipients email accounts treat a few of her messages as spam. She will usually let you know if her emails are being rejected.

**Operating Procedure No. 3 Amendment – Travel Expenses:** Dave brought up a proposed change to Operating Procedure No. 3 - Travel Expenses which states: "There will be no reimbursements for travel expenses when attending Oregon Council meetings or other functions." In order to further the objectives of the Council, it was moved to replace the above language with the following: "There will be no reimbursements for travel expenses when attending regularly scheduled Oregon Council meetings except as follows: To promote our mission, it is sometimes necessary for duly appointed Council representatives to travel to governmental agency meetings. Subject to prior authorization by the Board, representatives attending agency meetings on behalf of the Council may receive partial reimbursement for their fuel expenses. The Board will limit any such expenditure to not more than 25% of the federal mileage reimbursement rate with an upper limit of \$250 per year." The amendment to Operating Procedure No. 3 was unanimously approved.

### **New Business**

**Newsletter News:** Our Newsletter editor, Don Innes, has advised that he must retire due to medical concerns. We want to acknowledge and thank Don for his years of tireless service to the Council and the many organizations (Far West Club, NWFMS, Ye Old Timers) he has helped. We certainly wish Don well and hope to see him at our upcoming meetings and shows.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in being our Newsletter editor, please drop any of the officers an email or give them a call. If we are not successful in finding a replacement, we may have to look at staying in contact using emails and our website. Dave said he could get out a President's Update four times a year. In addition, Lenora forwards our meeting minutes and updates regarding BLM, Forest Service and other agency activities to our membership.

**Capitol Display Case Update:** Vicki Johnson gave a report on the Salem Capitol Case. The Columbia Gorge Club just put in their exhibit following the Oregon Agate Club. Vicki said that Columbia Gorge display included an article about Klondike Katie and her love for agates, thundereggs and other Oregon material. They want to build a museum for Klondike Katie's rocks. The Lower Umpqua Club from Reedsport will be next up in November. The Trails End Gem & Mineral Club (Astoria) will display in May 2019 followed by the Mt. Hood Rock Club. Vicki indicated she had one incident with the Oregon Agate display when one of their members visited and noticed one of the pieces had slipped out of place. He then had one of the Capitol building staff open the case so he could put the piece back in position. Vicki said you are supposed to call her and have her there when the case is opened for any reason. This reduces any potential liability for the loss of materials from the case.

**Announcements, Date, Time, and Location for Next Meeting:** The next Council Meeting will be at the Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show, Saturday, October, 13, 2018 at 1:00 pm. The Portland Regional Show will be held at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds in Canby, Oregon (694 NE 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue). Please note the change in location for this year's Portland show. We will also need to award the Oregon Trophy at the Portland show. The trophy is awarded annually to the best display case of "**All Oregon Material**". The displayed material must also be the work of the exhibitor (not purchased specimens). We will need 3 judges (Council officers) to select the winner. There are specific rules to guide the judges in making their decision. We need to send out the contest rules and advise whoever is preparing the exhibit entry forms to make sure participants can enter the Oregon Trophy competition.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned by Dave Williams.

Submitted by,  
Lenora Smith  
OCRMC Secretary