

# OREGON COUNCIL OF ROCK & MINERAL CLUBS

## Fall Meeting Minutes

Beaverton, Oregon

October 3, 2020

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**Call to Order** - The Council's Fall Meeting was held at Troy and Lenora Smith's home in Beaverton because the Portland Regional Show was canceled due to the pandemic. We were able to meet outside on the back patio and all were treated to a tour of Troy's rocks and shop. Lenora graciously provided beverages and chocolate cherry cake. A big Thank You to Troy and Lenora for hosting our meeting! The meeting was called to order by President Dave Williams shortly after 1:00 pm.

**Introductions** - Those attending included Susie Koppert (Mt. Hood), Bill and Linda Harvey (Tualatin Valley), Hidemi and Tomoko Kira (Clackamette), Dave and Maureen Williams (Umpqua) and Troy and Lenora Smith (Mt. Hood).

**Approval of Minutes** - Minutes from the October 26, 2019 Canby Fall meeting and the 2020 Spring Virtual meeting were approved. The Council's 2020 Annual Madras meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic.

**Treasurer's Report** - Maureen Williams, Treasurer, gave her report. A copy of the report will be mailed to all club representatives. It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the Treasurer's Report. Maureen advised that her attempt to file our annual Form 990-N with the IRS resulted in the discovery that someone had requested our non-profit status be terminated in 1982. She is in the process of obtaining a copy of the termination request from the IRS so we can find out who sent in the letter. She is hoping to hear back sometime in October. The IRS will charge a \$600.00 fee to reinstate our non-profit status. She has been successful in getting her and Dave's names listed as official officer contacts on our account at the IRS. Maureen stated we have sufficient funds to cover the IRS fee but if members wish to donate to help with this unexpected cost it would be greatly appreciated. It was moved and seconded to approve paying the \$600.00 reinstatement fee when required. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Lenora shared that she had found an old email dated July 10, 2009 from Dan Zaiss written to then Council President John Burford. In the email Dan talked about a Council meeting held in Madras on July 4<sup>th</sup> in which he stated "We not only elected a new group of officers for the Oregon Council, we also voted to continue the Council and to make a more effective effort of communication with the member clubs and to reinstate the Council's Newsletter". These actions were in response to a move by the past president earlier in the spring to close down the Council.

## **Old Business**

**Club Membership/Rice Museum/2021 Dues** - Dave said he has been asked by the Rice Museum about becoming a member of the Council. The museum is also interested in exhibiting at the Council's Capitol Display Case in Salem. After much discussion, it was agreed that the museum could join the Council and to assess fees based on their dues paying membership (not just staff).

2021 renewal applications will be mailed to clubs in December. Given that many clubs needed to cancel their shows in 2020, it was agreed that if clubs were in financial difficulty they could request a hardship waiver in 2021. Clubs who can afford to pay dues are encouraged to do so. New clubs will be assessed regular membership fees.

**OCRMC Tri-Fold Distribution** - Maureen requested that anyone needing copies of the Council's informational tri-fold to let her know. We have plenty on hand, so drop her an email or call.

**Hampton Butte Reclamation Project Update** - The Council sponsored a very successful reclamation project at Hampton Butte on Saturday, September 26, 2020. This date was selected to coincide with National Public Lands Day so the BLM could lend their support to our endeavor. This was the second year the Council had organized a project at this site. Council members who attended included Dave and Maureen Williams, Hidemi and Tomoko Kira, Troy and Lenora Smith, Susie Koppert, Barbara Brandt, Alar and Ene Sock, Sue and Will Steward, Taylor and Megan Turnbridge, and Tim Schmidt. BLM staff were represented by Amanda Roberts, Kevin Weldon and two interns. Amanda's husband and Stephen Burinsky (unaffiliated) also lent a hand. In total we had 21 workers participate in our event. A great turnout given the pandemic and forest fires. After much hard work with shovels and rakes, we were able to fill twenty to thirty excavations covering approximately 1/4 acre. Our volunteers and BLM staff were very pleased with the degree of participation and the amount of ground we were able to cover. Although much remains to be done at this site, we all recognized the need to fill and level our holes when we are digging. Another remediation project will be planned in 2021 (date and location to be determined). Dave will draft an article describing our efforts for the ALAA Newsletter and the Central Oregonian newspaper.

Dave, Maureen, Hidemi and Tomoko went to Glass Buttes on Sunday following the Hampton Butte event. They were conducting a field inspection to see if the site had potential for a Council sponsored reclamation project. Regrettably, access to the dig sites was difficult and the ground was very rocky. Their conclusion was that the area did not lend itself to the type of remediation work Council members could accomplish.

**BLM RAC Membership/Meetings** - Susie Koppert continues to attend several different RAC meetings and is hoping for an appointment to the John Day – Snake RAC and/or the Southeast Oregon RAC. Ed Anderson is serving on the Western Oregon BLM RAC and reports by email that they will have a Zoom

meeting later in October. Thanks to Ed and Susie for continuing to advocate for access to public lands for recreational rockhounding.

**Forest Service/BLM Access Issues/ALAA Update** – Lenora reported that Shirley Leeson has returned to her regular duties as ALAA President following recovery from an illness. We are glad she is back and willing to continue serving our interests in the ALAA. Lenora continues to keep us posted about state and federal land management and access issues. You should be receiving her emails as relevant news and administrative/legislative actions require our attention and comments.

### **New Business**

**Oregon Trophy Display Case Judging** – We had originally planned on awarding the Oregon Trophy at the Portland Regional. Because that show was cancelled, we need to find a new venue to do the judging for the trophy. In the interest of changing geography and moving around to different shows, it was discussed and agreed to award the trophy at Sweet Home in March 2021.

We also agreed that it would be a great idea to enter an Oregon Council Case at the Sweet Home Show to help spread the word about the mission and activities of our organization. Hidemi and Tomoko volunteered to help prepare a display case for the Council. Let them know if you have ideas or materials for the exhibit.

**BLM Stewardship Agreement/Signage Project/Categorical Exclusion Permit** – Dave has been in contact with the Prineville BLM regarding these items for the last two years. Unfortunately, their office has been occupied with reorganization and other issues, so we haven't made a lot of progress. Susie and Dave will both talk with Amanda Roberts, the new BLM Field Manager, about getting restarted in discussions on a way forward. To summarize, we would like to formalize an OCRMC/BLM Stewardship/Partnership agreement and obtain a permit to use a small garden tractor for reclamation projects. We would also like to install signage at collection locations with the AFMS Code of Ethics and other site specific information advising rockhounds about good stewardship practices.

**Officer Elections** - Great News, at long last our Secretary Lenora can look forward to retirement as Linda Harvey has generously agreed to be our new Secretary. Lenora will continue her role as Information Officer distributing news on land management and access issues. Thanks to Lenora for her many years of dedicated service to the Council. Hidemi Kira has agreed to continue on as our Vice-President following Terry Innes resignation to attend to family matters. You may recall that Hidemi has been serving as VP since late last year. Both were unanimously voted into office. Many thanks to both Linda and Hidemi for "volunteering" to serve.

**Capitol Display Case** - Vicki Johnson, our Capitol Case Agent, reported by email after our meeting . The Capitol is currently closed to the public so we cannot put in new displays. NARG removed their exhibit in late May 2020. The Tualatin Valley Gem Club was to install their exhibit this November, but

with the Capitol closure it looks like they will have to wait until May 2021. WAMS is willing to display in either May or November 2021, depending on what TVGC decides.

**Spring Meeting Date** - Ed Anderson and the Sweet Home Club have invited the Council to have our Spring meeting at their show on the last weekend in March 2021. Hopefully we will be back to some semblance of normalcy by that time and clubs can resume holding events. We will plan on meeting in Sweet Home on Saturday, March 27, 2021 @ 1:00 pm. Thank you Ed for the invitation.

**Adjourn** – Our meeting was adjourned at around 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lenora Smith  
OCRMC Secretary