

Oregon Council Annual Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2021

Prineville, Oregon

Attendees:

Edwin Anderson - Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society
Susie Koppert - Mt Hood Rock Club
Vicki Johnson - Willamette Agate & Mineral Society
Dave Williams - Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club
Maureen Williams - Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club
Bill Harvey - Tualatin Valley Gem Club
Linda Harvey - Tualatin Valley Gem Club
Troy Smith - Mt Hood Rock Club
Lenora Smith - Mt Hood Rock Club
Hidemi Kira - Clackamette Mineral & Gem Corp.
Tomoko Kira - Clackamette Mineral & Gem Corp.

Meeting called to order at 1:12pm at Prineville, Oregon

Meeting Minutes: There were no changes to the Fall Meeting Minutes, October 3, 2020, submitted by Lenora Smith - it was motion made to approve (Bill Harvey) and seconded (Ed Anderson). Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report - Maureen Williams A revised report was handed out to attendees.

Treasurer's report motion made to approve (Ed Anderson) and seconded (Bill Harvey) - Treasurer's report approved.

IRS update: Oregon Council has been reinstated and is a 501(c)4 non-profit business in Oregon. The anonymous payment was given to help with the reinstatement fee (\$600.00). May never find out what happened in 1982. Maureen to make copies of everything she finds that is historical to give to Linda Harvey to keep (Linda to scan and keep an electronic copy on a thumbdrive).

Old Business:

Club Membership 2021: There are 14 clubs that are current clubs with 1242 members. There are 3 clubs pending (2021 paperwork pending) with an additional 165 members. 2020 had a total of 17 clubs with 1483 members.

OCRMC Tri-Fold Distribution: Susie has been sending & giving out pamphlets to agencies and clubs. Susie puts tri-folds in the kiosks at BLM and gives out at the different meetings she attends to promote what the Council is doing. Our tri-fold is being recognized in different regions of the U.S.A.

There are more available for distribution. Contact Maureen if more tri-folds are needed by your club.

(Mix of Old & New Business)

BLM Cooperative Stewardship Agreement/Signage: Dave has signed the BLM Cooperative Stewardship Agreement. Discussion of signage at sites like Hampton Butte was done during the BLM field trip held on June 18th. There is a formal vetting process if not using a sign that may already exist. Kevin Weldon, assigned by Amanda Roberts (BLM Field Manager) to work with the Council, will be looking through

signs that already exist at BLM. We may be able to use an existing sign at Hampton Butte. BLM has assigned a "Recreational Sight Ranger" to patrol Hampton Butte and Glass Butte collecting sites on a weekly basis to see what people are doing while rockhounding at the two sites.

A Categorical Exclusion Permit is to be requested to be able to use small equipment to refill holes in places like Hampton Butte, etc. The Council is hoping to be able to use when we are at Hampton Butte on September 25, 2021.

June 18, 2021, we visited 2 out of the 5 sites: Congleton Hollow & Hampton Butte - very disappointing to see what we did at Hampton Butte after the reclamation work done last year - and the year before. It was worse than before the reclamations had been done. Congleton Hollow, the dry wash, was equally hole ridden but much rockier ground. Glass Butte is said to be similar in misuse. Amanda, Kevin and Emily from BLM accompanied the Council members.

New News: Amanda Roberts has been asked to put together a "Recreational Rockhound Management Plan" manual - a first in the nation. It will be a manual for recreational rockhounding management. BLM wants the Council's input while putting this plan together. Abuse and misuse has led to the need to have regulations for Public Land.

Need to address the code of ethics right now along with what the rules are for collecting, how much, can it be sold commercially, what can't you do, etc.

Dave will be asking for input while he attends the upcoming meetings with Amanda to work with the rules/regulations to apply to the Plan.

BLM RAC Membership/Meetings:

Ed Anderson - Western Oregon RAC reviewed (2nd meeting) 105 projects that were submitted in ZOOM meetings - 3, 8-hour meetings May 17, 19, 20, 2021. (Related to the SRS act.) There is a 23 million dollar budget for 18 counties. Issues recognized: road and trail rehab, Wildfires, streams & watersheds, youth training and employment, fish habitat, fire damages, gorilla campsites (homeless sites). No mitigation or obliteration of roads and no rockhounding areas encroached on as a result of these meetings. A result of underfunding of these projects will be an increase in usage fees. Senior citizen passes will not be impacted by the increase in usage fees and will continue to be valid.

Ed, as a newly recruited volunteer for this role (by Dave), has contributed 300 hours of homework to roles, obligations, descriptions, marketing materials federal funding, state funding, county money. Ed, a hearty Thank You! from one and all for all your hard work and representing us!

Susie Koppert - Attended meetings concentrating on Snake River, Prineville & Ochoco areas. There are a huge number of people camping due to Covid. In Prineville area alone as many as 580 RVs were counted. It was a mess with garbage and waste, etc. With no sign that anyone was cleaning up after themselves. Fees are coming. Could result in \$5 to \$10 fees for rockhounding in areas and possibly permits online required. Washington already has \$25 to \$35 usage fees.

Susie is trying to get into the John Day/Snake (Deschutes) RAC - has application pending. She continues to go to the meetings and give input as a representative of the Council. Baker City is looking for help with recreational collecting management.

Conservationists have purchased Priddy Ranch. It is now part of the Deschutes Land Trust.

Our relationship with the Prineville BLM is looked at as instrumental in moving forward to promote responsible recreational rockhounding.

Lenora - ALAA - is sending things to and receiving information from Senator Merkley - forest fire concerns are the biggest topic for Oregon. Forest management - harvest and replanting needs to be reinstated. There has been turnover at the ALAA - Doug True is now President, Jennifer Haley is Vice President, Dave Williams is now Director and Hidemi Kira is a Director. Cliff Bentz is new to the House of Representatives (Eastern Oregon).

Hidemi - National Parks Day: September 25, 2021 is the date for the work party at Hampton Butte - doing same reclamation (on the same holes) as before. Council is hoping to have BLM supply equipment to help clear the land better and faster. All clubs are to be informed and invited to participate as usual. If any clubs are doing reclamation at any site send to Maureen and it can be put on the website - take pictures to show the proactive work. T-shirts from the last work party were handed out for delivering to individuals that participated in 2020.

Vicki - Display Case: March 2020 the NARG case came out and the State Capitol was closed. Middle of July 2021 it may reopen. Cases to begin again once the State Capitol is reopened to tours. Could be as soon as May 2021. First case to be pieces from multiple people but not a particular club in the interim. WAMS will be doing November 2021 and TVGC will be doing May 2022 - all tentative with the reopening of the State Capitol. Clubs scheduled to put in a case will be reminded 6 months before they put the case in. Vicki will work with 2 clubs in preparation for the new case display. Two clubs new to the Council: Oregon Coast Agate Club and Trails End Gem & Mineral Club interested but not ready to do a display at this point.

Hidemi - Crown Point Country Historical Society - 5 organizations creating a new museum. Columbia Gorge Rockhounds (Corbett Club) is building a rock wall from the chimney from Klondike Kate's house. This will be done in Corbett - a new wall. Looking for funding and support. There will be a rock museum.

Funds needed for our Webmaster (Karl) - \$50.00 for website management annually. Motion made (Bill Harvey) and seconded (Ed Anderson) motion approved.

Fall 2021 Meeting: There will be a display case at Portland Regional for the Oregon Council Trophy. Lenora to get the trophy from the last recipient. Meeting date to be determined. Oregon Council Trophy Judging will be done by Troy, Hidemi and Dave on Friday, October 1, 2021 before 10am. Award presented on Saturday, October 2, at 6:30pm.

BLM & Oregon Council Field Trip
June 18, 2021



June 19, 2021-Oregon Council of rock and Mineral Clubs (OCRMC) and BLM on “recon.,” field trip- Photos Show- Prineville BLM offices-BLM Safety instructions given by Amanda,Emily and Kevin; Hidemi &Susie at closed road Eagle Rock; & Congleton Hollow holes with Dave, Linda, Susie and BLM staff.