

Oregon Council Spring Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2022

Sweet Home, Oregon

Attendees:

Susie Koppert - Mt Hood Rock Club
Dave Williams - Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club
Maureen Williams - Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club
Linda Harvey - Tualatin Valley Gem Club
Bill 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.
L Kelley - Oregon Coast Agate Club
Carol Kelley - Oregon Coast Agate Club
Don Starr - Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Club
Edwin Anderson - Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Club
Don Esch - WAMS
Vicki Johnson - WAMS
Ted Johnson - WAMS
Geri Esch - WAMS

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm at Sweet Home High School

Meeting Minutes: Change made to the October 2, 2021 meeting minutes. Fixed heading to Oregon Council Fall Meeting Minutes submitted by Linda Harvey.

Motion made to approve revised minutes (Vicki Johnson) and seconded (Hidemi Kira). Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report - prepared by Maureen Williams (absent at meeting): Motion to approve (Linda Harvey) and seconded (Bill Harvey). Treasurer's report was approved.

Notified that Oregon Council's Form 990 was filed and accepted by the IRS as a 501c4.

Linda to talk to Peg and Aaron regarding Oregon Council 2022 dues for North America Research Group.

Old Business:

2022 membership fees paid by clubs - 14 clubs, 1404 members.

A big thank you to Karl Granzow for doing the Council's website. He has been working with Vicki and Maureen to update the Capitol pictures. They are done.

Main BLM contact in Prineville is Kevin Weldon (District Geologist). Dave to work with him to make sure he will put us down for Saturday, September 24th, 2022 at Hampton Butte for the National Public Lands Day reclamation work party.

Dave is still planning to work with BLM to put together a rockhound management plan to be used as a model for the rest of the nation.

Informational signage is still being looked at for some of the collection areas. Susie said the importance was put aside for a while and was not prioritized over the last 2 years. Signage needs to be approved by multiple BLM staff. Dave will ask Kevin about this as well.

Susie Koppert: Will be attending the next RAC meeting in John Day - October 20-21, 2022. She attended meetings in January (John Day - Snake) & February (SE - Lakeview).

She will be talking about the McDermitt lithium mine and the Glass Butte claim for magnetite that really isn't what is being mined - BLM wants to take it away from claim owner. She is keeping in contact with the RAC's.

Highland Park is doing Zoom meetings about the rock hounding hobby.

Ed Anderson: NW Oregon RAC - California to Washington & up the Willamette Valley concentrating on fishing & rafting. There have been Zoom meetings with forest fires being the main topic. Future (next week) Zoom meeting on fish rehab, new fire stations, trails & forest rehab with bicycle and motor cycle trails. Goldmining and rockhounding areas continue to be watched.

Very little funding going to rockhounding. Funding currently going to watershed restoration (state) and associated land. Feds would like the funding back if not spent.

Ed has one more meeting to attend and then his RAC tenure will be done. There will be 2 appointments open. Given the amount of time and funds required - does the Council need to continue to participate in Western Oregon RAC? The person will need to be able to write paperwork.

Thank you Ed for your investment of time and money to sit on the RAC and for being our representative!

Susie - fees are needed to keep some of the areas open for recreation. We will not be losing roads, trails, etc.

Each club should be able to do a remediation project once a year, going out for 4-6 hours to put things back the way they were to begin with. It would go far in promoting rockhounding.

McDermitt - lithium mining - 5 mile area with fracking to be done. Leaves a huge mess with very little return in lithium. It would ruin the water in the area. There is an existing open mine in the Carolina's that has had this happen. McDermitt is in the court's now regarding going forward or not.

Don Esch - WAMS worked with the Prineville Forest Service in the White Fir Springs area and brought in an excavator to dig trenches and level the area (the club claim) for a day of digging and reclamation.

Lenora Smith: BLM - emails received but not many. Lenora has resigned from ALAA - she still gets emails from Shirley. Hidemi has also resigned from ALAA.

ALAA sent out a newsletter.

New Business:

Klondike Kate's: Corbett Club making benches out of fallen/hewn trees. The Museum is not finished. Council purchased a brick for the memorial rock wall/walk.

Hidemi, Tomoko, Maureen & Dave put the Oregon Council case in the Portland Regional show. Case looked great and won an award. The case was also displayed at the 2022 Sweet Home Show. Thank you Hidemi and Tomoko for all your hard work on the case.

Vicki Johnson - Display Case at the State Capitol: Capitol building will be closed in 2022. Capitol Accessibility, phase 1, Americans with disabilities, phase 2, phase 3 is for seismic updates. The 1938 portion of the building will be the focus. WAMS has to take out the display by May 2022, and Tualatin Valley will not be putting in a case. Vicky has two advocates at the Capitol that will keep her informed on progress. It is not known if putting exhibits in the case will be continued. The Capitol owns the case. If we get a place to put a case we will need to update the case. There is not a lot of information on what is happening going forward. Everyone at the Capitol really enjoys the case.

Vicki has told the capitol representatives that the Oregon Council would be willing to supply a new case if the existing one gets broken.

It was moved (Dave) and seconded (Susie/Linda) to authorize Vicki to discuss with the Capitol financial remuneration to continue to have an exhibit case at the Capitol if necessary.

Tom Wilson won the Oregon Council trophy at Portland Regional Show in October 2021. He was thrilled to have received our award.

Annual 2022 Meeting: The next meeting will be held at the Prineville Rockhound Pow-Wow, Crook County Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 18, 2022 @ 1:00 pm.