

OREGON COUNCIL OF ROCK AND MINERAL CLUBS
SPRING MEETING MINUTES
SWEET HOME, OREGON
SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

- **Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order just after 12:00 pm in the Sweet Home high school multi-purpose room. Thanks to the Sweet Home show hosts for arranging a meeting place.

- **Introductions/Attendees** - Those attending included - Dave & Maureen Williams (UGMC), Daniel Sampson (UGMC), Gordon & Eleanore Hale (TVGC), Adam Kneeland (CGRH), Malia Parsons (CGRH), Edwin Anderson (SHRMS), Robert Rose' (NARG), Tomoko Kira (CMGC), Ted & Vicki Johnson (WAMS), Susie Koppert (MHRC), Don Starr (SHRMS), Bruce VanderZanden (CORC), James Shaman (CORC), Ed Taft (CORC, MRGC)

- **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from our October 5, 2024 Hillsboro meeting were not available for approval as our Secretary was not able to attend.

- **Treasurer's Reports/Approval** – Maureen Williams distributed and discussed three treasurer reports documenting expenses and revenues for the following periods: FY 2024, 10/5/2024 – 12/31/2024 and a current 12/31/2024 – 3/30/2025 report. Copies of these reports will be sent to Council members. Ted Johnson moved and Adam Kneeland seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's reports. The motion was approved.

- **Old Business**

2025 Membership /Website Update –Maureen announced that to date the Council represents 18 clubs with a total membership of 2563. This was an increase from 17 clubs with 2435 members in 2024. A discussion followed about how to recruit more clubs from southwest and eastern Oregon. The Council has reached out to clubs in these areas over the past few years, but did not receive any responses. Dave reported he had received a call from Ron Metcalf in the Owyhee (Vale) Club inquiring about joining. Hopefully Council members with contacts south and east of the cascades can promote our activities to non-member clubs. We will also need new informational tri-folds for our 2026 membership renewal this November.

Maureen also reported that our Webmaster, Karl Granzow, is interested in retiring after many years of dedicated service to the Council. Further discussion about vacancies follows in New Business.

Oregon Trophy Competition – Judging for the Oregon Trophy was done at the Portland Regional show last October. The winner was John Wozniak from the Tualatin Valley Gem Club. Many thanks to Gordon Hale for getting the trophy engraved and presented to John. If club members wish to enter the competition in 2025 they should go to the Portland Regional website for an application. Please encourage your members to enter and make sure they check the application box for the Oregon Trophy competition. As a reminder, the trophy is awarded to the best display case of “All Oregon Material” which is the work of the exhibitor. Cases can display rocks, minerals, fossils and lapidary works. Competition rules are posted on our website.

Thanks also to Daniel Sampson for creating a great new trophy out of “All Oregon” materials and to Priscilla Hall-Ford for providing a superb storage case for the trophy.

BLM RAC/Public Lands Update – Susie Koppert (BLM John Day-Snake RAC Representative) and Dave Williams reviewed recent permitting developments for HiTech’s McDermitt exploration drilling project. This phase of the project includes drilling up to 267 exploration holes over a period of five years to delineate potential lithium reserves. The Council had previously submitted a letter to the BLM in August 2023 addressing our concerns about continued access to the area for recreational rockhounding. On March 26, 2025 the BLM provided notice of their Environmental Assessment and a Finding of No Significant Impact for the project. They then gave a five day public comment period ending on March 31. The comment period was later extended until close of business on Friday, April 25th. Dave sent emails to Council members detailing how to submit comments to the BLM regarding their findings and how they might affect rockhounding. Susie noted that it is very likely some collection areas will be closed during the exploration phase of the project.

A discussion followed regarding the Dark Sky Sanctuary project intended to establish areas where Lighting Management Plans would help preserve night sky viewing opportunities. Areas in Lake, Harney and Malheur counties are either existing or proposed for sanctuary designation. It is

uncertain how any restrictions may affect rockhounding. Members also discussed the status of the proposed Owyhee Canyon Lands National Monument. It does not appear monument designation is moving forward for the Owyhee at this time.

Several members requested copies of BLM collection site reports for the area around Prineville. As these reports are dated, please check with local sources about the current availability of material and access. Ed Taft emailed copies to members after our meeting.

- **New Business**

Officer Vacancies – The Council is currently in need of a Vice-President due to the untimely passing of Hidemi Kira. Please let Dave know if you are interested in helping the Council in this role. As noted above, we are also in need of a Webmaster as Karl Granzow would like to begin enjoying more of his retirement. Karl has served the Council for many years and we owe him our gratitude for a job extremely well done. Fortunately, Adam Kneeland and James Shaman both volunteered their time and skills to manage our website. Thanks to both Adam and James for their assistance.

2025 Hampton Butte NPLD Reclamation Project – Dave confirmed with James McGuire (Prineville District Geologist) that we will again partner with the BLM on Saturday, September 27, 2025 for a National Public Lands Day reclamation project at Hampton Butte. Our 2024 event was well attended and everyone felt their efforts were very worthwhile. This is our opportunity to demonstrate rockhounds commitment to good stewardship practices on our public lands. More information about the project will follow next month.

Council Show Case – The Council's show case of Oregon rocks and fossils is on display out in front at the show. The case also includes photos of Council activities and information about our mission. Please take a look when you are at the show.

Capital Display Case Update – Vicki Johnson has received word that we should be able to begin exhibiting at our capital case this September following completion of the CAMS Phase III seismic retrofit project. The Tualatin Club is next up to display and Vicki will be working with Rey Agustin to make installation plans. Thanks to Vicki for staying up to speed with events at the capital.

2025 Annual Meeting Location/Date – We will hold our annual meeting at the Madras show at 1:00 pm on Saturday, June 28th. We will meet at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds (430 SW Fairgrounds Road) in the kitchen building next to the outdoor pavilion where we met last year. Thanks to Ed Taft for making these arrangements.

Announcements/Events – Ed Taft advised that Petersen’s Rock Garden and Museum in Redmond are again open (Spring Hours - Wednesday thru Sunday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm). Volunteers have been working hard to get things back up and running. It would be appreciated if people could vote for Petersen’s on the Webfoot Home Improvements site (webfoothome.com) to help them win a \$20,000 grant.

- **Adjourn** – Thanks to everyone who attended today’s meeting. Special thanks also to Malia and Maureen for taking notes at our meeting. Hope to see everyone in Madras.

Submitted by Dave Williams – OCRMC President