

**OREGON COUNCIL OF ROCK AND MINERAL CLUBS
SPRING MEETING MINUTES
SWEET HOME, OREGON
SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024**

- **Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order just after 1:00 pm. We met at the high school in conjunction with the Sweet Home Show. Thanks to Ed Anderson and Joe Cota for arranging a meeting room.
- **Introductions/Attendees** – Sonia Watt (OAMS), Tomoko & Hidemi Kira (CMGC), Dave & Maureen Williams (UGMC), Gordon & Eleanore Hale (TVGC), Don Starr (SHRMC), Ed Anderson (SHRMC), Robert Rose' (NARG), Ed Taft (CORC), Adam Kneeland (Columbia Gorge Rockhounds), Ted & Vicki Johnson (WAMS), Ray Agustin (TVGC)

Susie Koppert (OCRMC Director) was unable to attend due to health issues. We will miss her usual report on BLM RAC activities. Get well soon Susie. Don Innes, a former Council President, passed away recently. Don held many positions with the Far West Club and Northwest Federation. His absence will be greatly felt by all who knew him.

- **Minutes Update** – Notes from the October 7, 2023 Hillsboro Fall meeting were moved and seconded for approval by Ted Johnson and Adam Kneeland. Notes were approved as submitted. Sonia suggested it would be a good idea to order name badges for officers and directors who did not already have them. A discussion followed regarding archiving and distributing our minutes. Adam suggested using Google Documents. It was noted that our Webmaster, Karl Granzow, posts the minutes to our website.
- **Treasurer's Report/Approval** – Maureen Williams distributed the current treasurer's report and will mail copies to absent representatives. Report was moved and seconded for approval by Sonia Watt and Ted Johnson. Report was approved without revisions. Maureen noted that annual Council dues are based on club membership numbers from December 31 of the preceding year. She also continues to contact clubs in southern Oregon to encourage them to join the Council. Thanks to Maureen for organizing a trophy recognizing Lenora Smiths' many years of dedicated service to the Council.

- **Old Business**

2024 Membership Renewal/Website Update – Maureen announced the Council represented 17 clubs in 2023 with a total membership of 2277. To date, our 2024 membership totals 16 clubs representing 2403 members. Maureen continues to work with Ed Taft to sign up the newly formed Madras club. Karl Granzow continues to serve as our Webmaster and we are indeed very fortunate to have his help. Maureen works closely with Karl to keep our website updated. Sonia noted it would be helpful to have information regarding our officers/directors respective duties listed on the website if someone needs their assistance.

BLM Informational Report – Dave continues to pursue collection site signage options (NFMS Code of Ethics) with the Prineville BLM office. We would also like to obtain a categorical exclusion for the use of a small tractor/backhoe at Hampton Butte. Progress on these topics has been slow, now extending for a period of several years.

Discussions also covered proposed lithium mining at McDermitt. The Council sent a letter to the BLM commenting on access limitations to rockhounding sites at McDermitt. Ed Taft reported several McDermitt ranches have been sold which may affect access. Gordon Hale commented that the proposed lithium mining may utilize in situ leaching which could affect groundwater resources.

Ed Taft advised that a recently filed claim (Juniper Drift) at the Bear Creek petrified wood collection site has been withdrawn. It should be noted that because petrified wood is not a locatable mineral, any claim would not preclude rockhounds from collecting on mining claims. Rockhounds are cautioned about confronting claim owners on these issues. Refer any questions to the local BLM or Forest Service office. Dave will confirm the claim has been cancelled with the Portland BLM Claims office.

- **New Business**

OCRMC Officer Vacancies –After considerable persuasion, Sonia Watt has graciously volunteered to be the Council's new Secretary. Many thanks to Sonia for offering her time and talent to help us out with this very important position. As reported earlier, Ed Taft (CORC) has volunteered to be our new Information Officer and Adam Kneeland a new Director. Thanks to both for agreeing to fill these posts.

Oregon Trophy – Sonia offered to check into getting a new case, instead of the pizza box, to house our trophy. She has a friend who may be able to build one for us. We approved up to \$100.00 for this project. Thanks again, Sonia.

It was pointed out that the trophy should be awarded to the best display case of “All Oregon Material” which is the work of the exhibitor. It should not be awarded again for the same material from a prior year. These guidelines should be clearly stated on the case entry form. Dave is to let Gordon Hale know appropriate wording for the Portland Regional show entries.

2024 Hampton Butte NPLD Reclamation Project Update – Dave Williams reported the Council’s National Public Lands Day event will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at Hampton Butte. Our stewardship efforts consistently show great results with many previous holes filled and leveled. The Prineville BLM is very pleased with our continuing NPLD partnership.

We discussed other potential sites which could be amenable to our or individual clubs reclamation efforts including Bear Creek, White Fir Springs and Whistler Springs. Dave and Ed Taft are trying to arrange a site visit to Bear Creek with BLM staff.

OCRMC Show Case – Dave and Maureen plan on setting up the Council’s display case at the Hatrockhounds/NFMS show in Hermiston this May. This will provide great outreach to the east side where the Hatrockhounds are a Council member. Thanks to Mike Filarski and Judi Allison for their invitation.

Ed Anderson provided a description of the NFMS Stamp Program. Give him a call with questions or stamps.

Capitol Display Case Update – Vicki Johnson, our capitol case agent, advised the capitol is still undergoing a seismic retrofit and we are not able to access our case. The capitol is tentatively scheduled to reopen in January 2025. Clubs exhibit Oregon rocks, minerals and lapidary work on a six month rotating schedule. Thanks to Vicki for keeping us informed about progress in Salem.

Future Events/Show Announcements – Ed Taft commented that there was a rock sale in Fossil on April 20 starting at 10:00 am. Adam reported the Columbia Gorge Rockhounds are having a sale this June 22nd and 23rd.

2024 Annual Meeting Location/Date – It was decided to hold our next meeting at the Madras Show on Saturday, June 22, 2024 @ 1:00 pm.

- **Adjourn** – Thanks to everyone who made time to attend the Sweet Home meeting. Hope to see everyone again in Madras.

Submitted by Dave Williams – OCRMC President