



AGENDA: SPECIAL SESSION

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, 511 WASHINGTON ST. SUITE 302, THE DALLES or VIRTUALLY @

<https://wascocounty-org.zoom.us/j/3957734524> OR Dial [1-253-215-8782](tel:1-253-215-8782) Meeting ID: 3957734524#

While these virtual options are provided, we cannot guarantee connection or quality of the call.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Individuals wishing to address the Commission on items not already listed on the Agenda may do so during the first half-hour and at other times throughout the meeting; please wait for the current speaker to conclude and raise your hand to be recognized by the Chair for direction. Speakers are required to give their name and address. Please limit comments from three to five minutes, unless extended by the Chair.

DEPARTMENTS: Are encouraged to have their issue added to the Agenda in advance. When that is not possible the Commission will attempt to make time to fit you in during the first half-hour or between listed Agenda items.

NOTE: With the exception of Public Hearings, the Agenda is subject to last minute changes; times are approximate – please arrive early. Meetings are ADA accessible. For special accommodations please contact the Commission Office in advance, (541) 506-2520. TDD 1-800-735-2900. If you require an interpreter, please contact the Commission Office at least 7 days in advance.

Las reuniones son ADA accesibles. Por tipo de alojamiento especiales, por favor póngase en contacto con la Oficina de la Comisión de antemano, (541) 506-2520. TDD 1-800-735-2900. Si necesita un intérprete por favor, póngase en contacto con la Oficina de la Comisión por lo menos siete días de antelación.

10:00 a.m.	CALL TO ORDER Items without a designated appointment may be rearranged to make the best use of time. Other matters may be discussed as deemed appropriate by the Board. Corrections or Additions to the Agenda Public Comment at the discretion of the Chair
10:00 a.m.	Columbia River Gorge Commission Climate Change Action Plan Comments –
10:15 a.m.	Executive Session – Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) Real Property Transactions/Notice to Purchase Real Estate
	COMMISSION CALL
	NEW/OLD BUSINESS
	ADJOURN

If necessary, an Executive Session may be held in accordance with: ORS 192.660(2)(a) – Employment of Public Officers, Employees & Agents, ORS 192.660(2)(b) – Discipline of Public Officers & Employees, ORS 192.660(2)(d) – Labor Negotiator Consultations, ORS 192.660(2)(e) – Real Property Transactions, ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection, ORS 192.660(2)(g) – Trade Negotiations, ORS 192.660(2)(h) – Conferring with Legal Counsel regarding litigation, ORS 192.660(2)(i) – Performance Evaluations of Public Officers & Employees, ORS 192.660(2)(j) – Public Investments, ORS 192.660(2)(n) – Security Programs, ORS 192.660(2)(n) – Labor Negotiations



**WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION
AUGUST 8, 2022**

Room 302, Wasco County Courthouse

This meeting was also held on Zoom

<https://wascocounty-org.zoom.us/j/3957734524>

or call in to [1-253-215-8782](tel:1-253-215-8782) Meeting ID: **3957734524#**

PRESENT: Kathy Schwartz, Chair
Steve Kramer, Vice-Chair
Scott Hege, County Commissioner
STAFF: Kathy Clark, Executive Assistant
ABSENT: Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer

Chair Schwartz opened the session at 10:00 a.m.

Changes to the agenda: Vice-Chair Kramer asked to add a discussion about the Wildfire Risk Map process.

Chair Schwartz opened the floor to public comment; there was none.

<p>Agenda Item – Columbia River Gorge Commission Climate Change Action Plan Comment Letter</p>

Chair Schwartz explained that the Board had considered a comment letter prepared by staff and included in the 6.21.2022 Special Session Board Packet; that letter was revised and included in the 8.3.2022 Regular Session Board Packet. She explained that the Board had not reached consensus on either version of the proposed comment letter and had set today's Special Session to explore other options for sending in comments. Since that time, Chair Schwartz had submitted an alternate letter, included in today's Board Packet, for Board consideration; Commissioner Hege also submitted an alternate letter earlier this morning (attached) for the Board to consider. She thanked Commissioner Hege for his draft, saying that she finds it completely acceptable – a nice blend between the letter proposed by staff and the letter she had included in the Board Packet.

Commissioner Hege said that his main point is that the Board provides comment

and that our staff is working with their staff as they have more work ahead. He said he wants them to know that we are paying attention and want to work with them.

Vice-Chair Kramer stated that all three letters basically say the same thing. He said he appreciates Commissioner Hege's comments and is fine with sending his letter on to the Gorge Commission.

*****The Board was in consensus to sign the comment letter drafted by Commissioner Hege regarding the Columbia River Gorge Commission's draft Climate Change Action Plan.*****

Agenda Item – Fire Risk Mapping
--

Vice-Chair Kramer said he wanted to take this opportunity to apologize to his colleagues and the community for his misinterpretation of the process that was followed for the mapping exercises. He said he is pleased to see that State Forester Mukumoto has pulled the map and done a complete reset. He said we need our public and community involvement in this process; it hasn't gone away and there is still a lot of work to do for our residents and the courageous firefighters who go out to protect us.

Chair Schwartz said that she was not sure an apology was necessary but it is accepted; we all do our best to get the information out as we know it. She said that she has read that the process will start back up again in the fall. Vice-Chair Kramer said that he believes the timeline is still up in the air. He reported that there was a call last Thursday for the eastern region; there will be letters that will come around – we need to keep our eyes open for those. He said it is in the best interest of the community to have these partnerships to deal with the assessments at the local level where we understand our circumstances best.

Commissioner Hege said that although they have pulled it back for now, it is not going away. The maps that come out may not be remarkably different than what we have already seen. Vice-Chair Kramer said he thinks that is right. There is work being done with Chair Bennett and Senator Findley through conversations with the State Forester and Governor Brown. It was a hurried up process and there were misinterpretations; now we can talk on a local level so we can get the assessments dialed in as best we can so constituents do not face unintended consequences that could come out of it such as insurance rates. It will require community involvement and we need to express our concerns so we can put the best map forward.

Commissioner Hege said he wants people who live in the wildland interface to understand that it is their responsibility to keep their properties defensible. The intent is that we do not want the kind of fires we have seen in California to happen here and we can do that through citizens working to make their properties defensible. Even if the fire comes, we can protect the structures. The citizens need to wake up and do the work to help our firefighters protect their property. They need to understand how important it is to do this work.

Chair Schwartz agreed saying that it is important for people to understand what the implications are. Some people do not realize that we have insurance regulations. She said she hopes that through the process they will also take into consideration that there are cultural and language differences. We need to make sure it reaches everyone who needs to know. She said she believes she did not recognize the letter she probably received for what it was and therefore discarded it; a lot of other people probably did the same.

<p>Agenda Item – Executive Session Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) Real Property Transactions</p>
--

At 10:17 a.m. Chair Schwartz opened an Executive Session Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) for Real Property Transactions. She explained the process for the session and cautioned the media to not report on anything discussed during the Executive Session except for the general topic as previously announced.

The Regular Session reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

{{Vice-Chair Kramer moved to approve the purchase of the real property known to us as Tax Account 1914 currently vested in Taner Elliot for the purchase price of \$1,500.000. I also move to authorize Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer, to complete the transaction, including signing any and all required documentation upon legal review. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion.}}

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Hege stated for the record that the property being purchased is 154.73 acres

The motion passed unanimously.}}

Mr. Stone reported that the Miller Road Fire personnel are demobilizing; it should be cleaned up and wrapped up soon.

Chair Schwartz adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

Summary of Actions

MOTIONS

- **To approve the purchase of the real property known to us as Tax Account 1914 currently vested in Taner Elliot for the purchase price of \$1,500.000. I also move to authorize Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer, to complete the transaction, including signing any and all required documentation upon legal review**

CONSENSUS

- **To sign the comment letter drafted by Commissioner Hege regarding the Columbia River Gorge Commission's draft Climate Change Action Plan.**

Wasco County
Board of Commissioners


Kathleen B. Schwartz, Commission Chair


Steven D. Kramer, Vice-Chair


Scott C. Hege, County Commissioner



AGENDA ITEM

Columbia Gorge Commission Climate Change Action Plan

[STAFF PROPOSED LETTER COMMENT LETTER](#)

[CHAIR PROPOSED COMMENT LETTER](#)

[PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMITTED TO BOC](#)



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

511 Washington St, Ste. 101 • The Dalles, OR 97058
p: [541] 506-2520 • f: [541] 506-2551 • www.co.wasco.or.us

Pioneering pathways to prosperity.

August 8, 2022

Columbia River Gorge Commission
PO Box #730
White Salmon, WA 98672
(Sent by email to connie.acker@gorgecommission.org)

Subject: CRGC Climate Change Action Plan Draft

Dear Commissioners;

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the draft Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). We appreciate Columbia River Gorge Commissions's (CRGC) work to improve our local resiliency, and have several recommendations for ways to improve the draft.

First, we would encourage CRGC to spend more time prior to adoption soliciting input from key partner agencies and subject matter experts. Several of the recommended policies will have far reaching impacts to not only economic sectors like agriculture, forestry, and tourism, but also resource protections. The statewide planning system has, as a foundation, state agency coordination that can be leveraged to ensure drafted concepts are vetted by experts across the various disciplines. There are also many statewide or regional efforts addressing climate change and natural hazards underway that will be critical to coordinate with to ensure consistency and reduce conflict.

Second, equity impacts or thresholds for greenhouse gas emissions criteria for potential UGB expansion need to be established in order to offer clarity to local jurisdictions seeking an expansion. The Management Plan policy adopted with Gorge 2020 and the CCAP do not establish a methodology for operationalizing these concepts in a clear and objective manner. It is unclear when that methodology will be developed, which further creates an obstacle for local jurisdictions in submitting a successful application.

Finally, we support policies which seek to reduce barriers to resiliency or similar projects including permitting. Whether its riparian restoration, FireWise tree maintenance practices, or natural hazard recovery, our many partners would greatly benefit from removing full scenic area review constraints, including time and money, from the overall process to permit these critical projects.

Thank you for your consideration.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

511 Washington St, Ste. 101 • The Dalles, OR 97058
p: [541] 506-2520 • f: [541] 506-2551 • www.co.wasco.or.us

Pioneering pathways to prosperity.

Columbia River Gorge Commission
PO Box #730
White Salmon, WA 98672
(Sent by email to connie.acker@gorgecommission.org)

August 3, 2022

Subject: CRGC Climate Change Action Plan Draft

Dear commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the draft Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Climate Action Plan (CCAP). We appreciate CRGC's work to improve our local resiliency and to be a resource to our City (The Dalles) and County's recently formed Climate Action Committee.

We want to commend the CRGC's staff on their efforts to reach out to the various stakeholders throughout the Scenic Area and to particularly thank them for recently meeting with not only our Planning Director, but also a group of local agricultural stakeholders who were interested in assuring that agricultural zoning was preserved in the National Scenic Area. Those conversations have been productive and resulted in some much needed clarification regarding interpretation of some of the language contained in the document. We also appreciated the staff's recent informative CCAP presentation to us at our last county commission meeting.

We would like to encourage the Gorge Commission and their staff to continue to reach out to stakeholders throughout the process and to please keep us informed of any upcoming proposed policy changes. We are particularly interested in working together to come up with a methodology for establishing acceptable greenhouse gas emissions for potential UGB expansions in our future. We recognize the benefits of coming up with these mutually acceptable policies for the benefit of our citizens and the preservation of the NSA.

Finally, we commend and fully support policies which seek to reduce barriers to resiliency or similar projects including permitting. Whether it's riparian restoration, FireWise tree maintenance practices, or natural hazard recovery, our many partners greatly appreciate your willingness to consider the streamlining of processes in order to permit these critical projects.

Thank you for your consideration,
Wasco County Board of Commissioners

Kathleen B. Schwartz, Chair

Steven D. Kramer, Vice-Chair

Scott C. Hege, County Commissioner

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in response to the letter with proposed comments for the CRGC CCAP in the Wasco County board packet for today's meeting. I have a few comments and I am unsure if I will be able to attend the Monday Special Session, so I would appreciate it if my comments can be included as part of the public record.

1. The proposed letter urges the CRGC to put off adoption of the CCAP to allow for yet more review. This does NOT represent my position, as a resident of Wasco County for almost 50 years, and I suspect it does not represent the views of many other residents. The Draft CCAP plan has undergone a very robust public review process already for many months, a process in which agency experts as well as concerned citizens such as myself have had ample opportunity to submit suggestions. I read the previous CCAP Draft, and the current Draft carefully. I've attended presentations about both Drafts. Many positive changes were made in the current Draft in response to public comments, an indication of the Commission's responsiveness to our concerns. I expect that the final CCAP will further incorporate appropriate suggestions made during this additional public comment period. **Delay is not necessary.**

2. The letter from Wasco County also referenced "policies that will have far-reaching impacts" as a further rationale for postponing adoption of the CCAP. However, climate change will have even greater impacts as we are witnessing right now with extreme summer temperatures and wildfires. The CRGC has made it clear in the CCAP and at presentations like the one they gave today that any future policy changes resulting from actions in the Plan will be subject to additional public comment process. **Rationalizing**

delay based on concerns about potential future policy changes is not valid.

3. The suggestion that adoption of the CCAP should further be delayed until some precise methodology for assessing equity impacts or greenhouse gas emissions is in place is a curious request. Does the county have such methodology in place? Not that I'm aware of. And yet, the county is still able to determine what kind of development will be allowed within its jurisdiction. **Again, this is just not a valid excuse for delaying adoption of the CCAP.**

4. Finally, I also support the part of the CCAP that allows for reducing permitting barriers to resiliency projects such as riparian restoration. But the proposed letter goes on to suggest that your "many partners would greatly benefit from removing full scenic area review constraints...." I would certainly be opposed to **removing** scenic area review constraints entirely, if that's what the letter is suggesting. Even resiliency projects should be subject to some review process.

In conclusion, I hope the County will decide against sending the proposed letter. Its purpose seems to be simply to delay and obstruct the very important work that the CRGC is doing to address the impacts of climate change which we are so obviously experiencing here in the Gorge. Delaying action on this important work will not serve the best interests of the residents of Wasco County.

Thank you for the work that you do and for considering my comments.

Debi Ferrer
The Dalles



AGENDA ITEM

Executive Session – Notice to Purchase Real Estate

[NO DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED FOR THIS ITEM – RETURN TO AGENDA](#)

[PURSUANT TO ORS 192.660\(2\)\(E\) REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS](#)



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

511 Washington St, Ste. 101 • The Dalles, OR 97058
p: [541] 506-2520 • f: [541] 506-2551 • www.co.wasco.or.us

Pioneering pathways to prosperity.

Columbia River Gorge Commission
PO Box #730
White Salmon, WA 98672
(Sent by email to connie.acker@gorgecommission.org)

August 8, 2022

Subject: CRGC Climate Change Action Plan Draft

Dear Commissioners;

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the draft Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). We appreciate Columbia River Gorge Commission's (CRGC) work to improve our local resiliency, and have a couple recommendations for ways to improve the draft.

First, we have appreciated your staff's willingness to work with our staff through this process and would encourage that effort to continue. We would ask that ample time is allowed to work not only with our county staff on these items, but all of the other counties in the Scenic Area as well. Wasco County staff has put a great deal of effort into reviewing the draft plan and has been working to identify elements that could be a challenge to the implementation and management of the plan at a local level. Several of the recommended policies could have far reaching impacts not only to economic sectors like agriculture, forestry, and tourism, but also resource protections.

Additionally, we would ask that this plan work to coordinate with the regional efforts that are underway to address climate change. It will be critical to coordinate with them to ensure consistency and reduce conflict. We are supportive of policies which seek to reduce barriers to resiliency or similar projects including permitting. Whether its riparian restoration, FireWise tree maintenance practices or natural hazard recovery, our many partners would greatly benefit from reduced time and resources to permit these helpful projects.

Thank you for your consideration.