

**Trout Lake Community Council
Meeting Notes - Approved
In person at The Grange
April 1, 2025
7:00 – 8:30 pm**

**Council Meeting:
Topic**

**Council
Lead**

**Start
Time**

Regular Council Meeting called to order

Lucas

7:09

Council Members present: Joanna Turner, Lucas King, Dave Wampler, Jim Lambert, Travis Pearson, Pat Arnold

Community Members Present: Lori Zoller, Sean Gregor, Sarah Arnold,

Agenda Review

Lucas

Nothing to add

Minutes review:

Lucas

March 4, 2025

Lucas - Change "State fire commissioner" to "Fire Ratings Bureau"

Motion to approve as amended: Dave 2nd: Travis

Guests:

Lucas

7:05

County Commissioner Lori Zoller

Thankful for the new BoCC, has made a difference

Zoom came up - The last 4 years were way worse than what people knew. Legal rights were pushed, civil rights, departments didn't trust commissioners - were afraid of retaliation. There was no consensus on the board - everyone just kind of did their own thing, there were a lot of individual conversations with BoCC members, Department heads and Human Resources.

Grateful for the new commissioners for wanting the county to get back on track.

Feel like they are starting to make progress.

Short term rentals - on the Commissioner agenda for 4/17

- Biggest problem with the budget
- Assessor's office can get a program to assess things as short-term rentals
- can't start a permit program until more info gathered
- estimated 300-500 short term rentals in the county
- 50 current nuisance complaints
 - need staff to check out places
- No local ordinance now - state law requires them to be licensed
 - provide safety features such as fire extinguishers, smoke alarms etc
- Draft ordinance

Involvement on other boards - each commissioner is on 6 or 7 boards

- Lori is on the board for aging and disabilities for seniors

- funds Mt Adams transportation

Todd is on MCED board

Ron - transportation committees and unions

Lori has 6 community councils

Controversial issues - the public was told things could be done that can't be

Q – Sarah - what's happening with the jail? It is staying in KC, the new corrections facility officer who was retired, Bill, came out of retirement. He is doing a great job changing the culture at the jail. Needed to start at bare bones, correction officers are better educated. Working with Erin Quinn (head of the health dept).

It's a much nicer place. Grant signed today for health services in the jail to administer drugs and have a medication tracking system. They now have holding cells. They are seeing more mental health issues. 60 beds, currently between 26-35 inmates.

Contracts with the City of Goldendale, Bingen, and White Salmon to transport and keep clients. New Food system coming. Juveniles are still at Norcor. 1/3 of the jail population are indigenous. Looking at some local indigenous artists who could do some murals or something to add some color.

Working on stopping "frequent flyers", non-dangerous clients that can be taught skills in county positions, get their ged's.

Probation services have been an issue. There hasn't been a charge for this service. It's a hard job to track down folks and keep them motivated, working through the courts etc. The County wanted cities to pay for their share of probation services and the issue became contentious. Probation services grew from 80 to over 300 clients in the last year for 2 officers. WS/Bingen don't want to pay. Judges are currently not putting folks on probation because we don't have capacity.

Q - Lucas - status of comprehensive plan updates? The meetings have been going well, White Salmon had over 100 people that attended. Planning dept is pleased with the input. They are approaching it a bit backward - they are updating the plan but wanted to get a feel for the communities first. Critical ordinances updates need to be done before community updates are added.

Q - Pat - Critical Area Ordinance - Yakama Nation approved Skamania County ordinance Lori is forging relations with the Yakama Nation, they have a hard time with the culture in KC - working on improving it

Yakama Nation stipulates to have regular updates on jail, they want to work with us and it hasn't really been allowed/encouraged in the past.

Q - Pat - Re: comp plan - the county has to consult with the tribe, how does formal consultation work? The Yakama Nation can consult with the BoCC - that happened a long time ago (Joan Fry). They disagree with the green energy programs - Inslee created energy regulations to push through some things.

Personal property tax change to excise tax

Q - Travis - how is the county doing budget wise? You heard in the past that we were broke, not true. We have savings and investments - we're ok, but need to be careful.

Last week our public health dept was cut \$363K from state funds. School lunch programs were cut and food programs among other things

Q- Sarah - income from dump? \$600K dollar contract from Skagit County and we lost it. 2-5 years we'll be doing pretty well if the green energy programs start.

Airport - has been profitable, college aviation program, build-out at port area.

Klickitat Port is doing really well - A whiskey distillery is coming soon.

Q - Joanna - UnderCanvas - set for May 1st. Public works has to approve things. Husum wasn't included.

ATV problem - didn't pass ordinance because so many visitors in the county. Farm permits though can be gotten by farmers.

Q - PAT - WA house defunded Gorge commission. Lori didn't know.

Q - Joanna - HR Bridge? Jake is still on bridge authority, going to DC, Salem, and Olympia. Still need quite a bit of money.

Safety training for elected officials if there's a large emergency event. Fed government has Moses Lake airport and the Dallesport airport as a state emergency services location. C3 US Airforce planes landed and told the airport they'd be landing every 2 weeks for training.

Q - Joanna - emergency planning and communication challenges? Emergency alerts, frustrations with evac alerts. Working on setting protocols etc. so that miscommunications are prevented. Reaction time to fires is quicker because of a local DNR helicopter
Federal Government cut wildland fire \$, senate and house put it back in

Q - Joanna - Workforce housing? Rentals are a huge challenge, that conversation will be part of the short-term rentals ordinance discussion. Commissioners don't have a housing workshop yet. It is on the priority list

Q - Pat - childcare services funding? There was a Dept of Commerce grant to Goldendale based on a need assessment for childcare. Someone else thought that it should have been county-wide. Funding will be shared throughout the county. Paperwork was behind, risk of losing funding.

Working on getting workshops back on zoom. Meetings with departments will be before or after workshops.

Q - Lucas - what are you optimistic about? - Getting through some of the issues that have been hanging around. the airport, Dallesport water, short-term housing - we're getting things done.

So many considerations for all the things. Lori really likes her job, but it is a challenge.

Comprehensive Land Use Planning

Pat

8:00

Next learning session –

Scott - planning director reporting is very efficient. He realized the need for Q&A and has updated the Co website

Deadlines/deliverables for solar plan and comp plan in general. State Comp plan manager is happy to have a preliminary plan, there are updates to the plans which will impact each other. A discussion draft will have unresolved issues, a final plan by June can't happen, but they are happy with a draft.

Community Council Reps will meet again on 4/9, will have dialogue with the planning dept. Planning dept sees the councils as only involved in sub area plans, not overall county plan. Neither Scott nor Evan know the county very well, but we all are interested in planning. Jeff Hunter will take chapter on parks and rec and work through that - we all have park things going on that are pretty specific. Jeff is coming to the next meeting with Lori - they will ask to work on park/rec chapter.

Lori - is grateful for the Councils' organizations and input and the organizing of the other councils. It's really important that we are doing this.

- Great thing if every community could do an emergency plan.

Planners will post all the notes from the community meetings.

If the county plan is adopted without including updated sub area plans - then does it invalidate sub area plans?

Planning commission meetings are the 3rd Monday of the month in Goldendale

What are we going to do with our park?

Treasurer's report

not here

Tom

8:16

Program of work & Round Robin (if time allows)

All

Q for Lori - staffing at Sheriff's dept - recruiting issues. the sheriff has 2 open positions which are funded.

Pat - CEKC, would they consider an application to buy hybrid meeting equipment. They helped Lyle buy zoom equipment for \$5000. They've expressed an interest

Dave - what happened at the Natural Area Preserve (NAP) mtg? - Wasn't set up as soliciting for community feedback, more a presentation then conversation.

Joanna - Suicide Prevention Training in TL May 5/14

Pat - friends of the WS, James King presentation - Dept of Ecology got funding for water quality sampling for e-coli only. Every 2 weeks at a bunch of access points for 18 month, data not yet compiled. They are working on a plan to address contamination on the White Salmon. Taking it seriously because of so many folks who recreate on the river. JC hoak (sp?) as known contamination site. E-scli by the old damn site? sources? Old septic systems, agriculture - like Gilmer creek. Study finished last August.

Lucas - fire, Daina and FACT are still working on Firewise day at the park. Free community chipping end of May/early June.

Fire Dept - lessons learned - have better pre info with DNR, qualifications uploaded to be utilized more effectively. Direct agreements for cooperative fire agreement is on hold, DNR will be used as "middle person".

NW forest plan update has been stopped.

No legal commercial huckleberry picking this year. Suits have been filed by commercial fruit processors.

We are the only nat'l forest that requires a permit to pick huckleberries. Will be a financial hit for the store. Individuals need a permit, but it doesn't cost anything. Needed so they can track use.

Adjourn

8:34

Motion – Travis, Pat 2nd

Update from Klickitat PUD - June?

Comprehensive Land Use Planning: Learning sessions 101 – ongoing;

Quarterly – Update from Keaton Curtice

Program of work topic each month

Other future topics: Affordable building lots – planning challenges and issues

Climate change - a continuing conversation

Short-term rentals discussion