

**Trout Lake Community Council  
Approved Meeting Notes  
In person at The Grange  
August 5, 2025  
7:00 – 8:30 pm**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Council Lead</b>	<b>Start Time</b>
<b>Regular Council Meeting called to order</b> Council members in attendance: Diana, Lucas, Tom, Jim, Aaron, Joanna, Travis, Pat  Community Members: Sara A, Margo, Glenda/spouse, Dennis	<b>Daina</b>	<b>7:01</b>
<b>Agenda Review</b> Good	<b>Daina</b>	
<b>Minutes review:</b> <b>July 1, 2025</b> Joanna asked about the motion made by Pat and the comment about Will Add- Motion made by Pat to involve the council endorsing the pool and that the council would facilitate actively seek the 25 signatures needed to add the motion to the ballot  Comments about Will - irrelevant Motion to approve min as amended: Tom, 2nd Lucas	<b>Daina</b>	
<b>Guest Speakers:</b> <b>Jenn Sharpe – County Solar ordinance overview/update</b> <b>Eric Wilson – Update on status of replacement of the Hood River Bridge</b> <b>Jenn - County Solar review committee:</b> on 7/10 they concluded the process of reviewing a proposed ordinance to the BoCC. Committee of 9 folks. Feel strongly that there is a place for solar. If solar companies want to, they can be permitted through the state and would not necessarily have to be in compliance with the county’s ordinance. Anyone within the energy overlay can argue that solar is allowable (utility scale solar) - the overlay excludes White Salmon, Dallesport and Trout Lake proper and a couple other places. They just approved 2200 acres (14 landowners) , 1500 of those acres will be solar panels. Battery energy storage (BES) - components are very dangerous, volatile and were not included in the draft ordinance. Right now the “no solar” zone is the western ½ of the county. But it could easily be challenged by a large/wealthy company. County zoning doesn’t apply to scenic area which is already a no development zone Agrovoltaics - allows farming families to survive challenges of farming along with solar (potatoes do well). Oregon State University is doing lot of research on it Is Community solar affected? County will have to address that KPUD. They don’t have to buy this power, it goes back into the energy grid (a commodity) Companies install their own power lines - would make it easier for a data center to come in	<b>Pat or Daina</b>	<b>7:06</b>

Wind energy generation - licensed and approved under energy overlay  
But industrial solar will be managed by this new ordinance  
Ordinance doesn't address private, household, community solar at all  
Main issues for committee: reluctance to accept agricultural spaces along with solar and the map

Jeff King and one of the fire chiefs, spent a lot of time writing up what training and management will be needed on these solar sites.

Goes to planning commission on 8/18 then BoCC

For Agrovoltatics the solar panels are higher than traditional panels to allow for crops and/or grazing of livestock.

How many jobs does it bring/leave? What is the housing demand during/post construction

Feasibility study includes staffing/housing estimates etc. However, they don't need to provide it if they go through the state for permitting.

### **Eric - architect, Bridge Authority Member for the HR/WS bridge.**

Formed out of the 5 state bridge commission 2 yrs ago. Passed In legislature of OR and WA. 12 commissioners - 6 from Klickitat County and 6 from Hood River County. Their purpose is to fundraise, build a new bridge. Commissioners are appointed by the BoCC. 6 voting members and 6 alternates.

Member for 2 years. Successful fundraising. Successful in getting program staff funding from each state legislature.

Just resubmitted for 3rd time fed grant request for bridge funding. Ranked highly in 2024, brought back last year and now had to rework the application for new administration and resubmit in June for 2026. Asking for just over ½ billion \$

Key points - our bridge is rated 6 out of 100, so it is a challenge. The cost/benefit analysis is high for our bridge.

Should know by the end of 2025 if funded.

Hired a design/build contractor - Kewitt Infrastructure West is the contractor. (there were 3 proposals)

Design phase will be around 18 mo and then will start construction

What will the design be?

The adjusted toll rate (from a couple of years ago) goes to bridge authority. The total is about \$6 million right now and needs to be saved for the downpayment for loan that will fund the bridge construction. Goal is to have 20% of tipia loan (fed low interest loan program) for bridge, will borrow \$1.5 million over 40 years

Best case scenario - bridge will be done early 2031/32. Can only work in the water from Oct through March. The contractor thinks it will take longer.

The original bridge concept was for concrete, which has now been updated to steel which allows fabrication to happen offsite which will reduce staff hours of people working in the wind.

11/12 piers, 2 lanes, 2 partial breakdown lanes, 18-16ft ped/bike way. Will allow for 2 lanes in one direction for emergencies. \$1.12 bill total.

New toll - isn't set yet, will be a little more. Tipia loan requires that it goes up 15% every 5 years. Not sure where they are going to start yet.

There is 1 current vacancy on the commission and maybe another

The bridge will land just to the west of the current location. West of port bldg in Oregon, lands a couple 100 feet west of the current bridge on the Washington side.

The fishing site currently will pass over a corner of the fishing site, they don't want a pier in the water. Access on this side of the river is challenging because of the RR.

**Council Elections staffing/coordination/outreach** **Daina** **8:13**

**This year: position #'s 4 (Jim), 5 (Daina), 6 (Aaron) up for election,**

Candidate Interest Forms need to be submitted by Friday Oct 3rd.

Information needs to go out

Joanna can update the documents and post them by the end of aug

Joanna can talk to Ginny Bright about gathering volunteers

Pat will get voter list

Daina will update candidate interest statement

Sara A will help with the election committee, Joanna will chair

**Connecting our community workshops** **Joanna** **7:52**

IAF PAcific - community building, elder story time and facilitated community conversations

Dennis - thought about interviewing elders and having a database of stories

**Comprehensive Land Use Planning Update** **Pat** **8:01**

7/24 BoCC met with other councils, planning dept, health dept, public works and econ develop etc, to discuss the councils updating the existing park and trails plan. They are on board with them doing that - it's a giant amount of work, trying to get it done before Feb 2026 for the grant application funding deadline with Wishram and Dallesport really in need for grant funding. Next meeting on 8/13. BZ is fully in, Pat is working on Glenwood and High Prairie to be involved too. Does anyone know anyone who lives in Roosevelt or High Prairie?

BoCC isn't going to post a draft plan, est. 2 yr process to get the comp plan done properly.

Comp plan wont have sub area plan completed by the end of the 2 year process, but the parks and trails plan can be specific to the communities.

**Finalize list of specific topics for Planning** **Lucas** **8:26**

**Commissioners to address when we invite them to our September 2nd meeting**

There are 3 Dist 1 planning commissioners, suggestions don't seem to mirror what we understand community priorities to be.

How is the planning process working for them, how do they reflect voices from the district?

What was their interest and what training did they receive about planning/land use.

What is their role in rewriting the comp plan

They have a history about making decisions that don't reflect what folks want, why?

**Program of work & Round Robin** **Dave** **8:32**

Joanna - NAP really busy with lots of recreational activity that is not in compliance with management goals of the NAP,

Klickitat Valley Hospital (Goldendale) on list of 14 rural WA hospitals that might close due to federal funding cuts.

Pat - request for the council to support/host a discussion on the pool ballot measure before ballots come out mid oct. There hasn't been a vote to expand a rec division since 1922.

Lucas - suggest we discuss in Oct. Joanna suggest 6-7 on Oct 7th

Pat - ORFH is coming on 9/23 to talk about farmworker housing and housing.

<https://www.orfh.org/>

Daina - fuel break tour next Tues jennings/cheese cave

Aaron - is there a fire/evacuation plan for trout lake? There really isn't one. The county doesn't want to identify evacuation routes because they don't know where the danger will be coming from.

Need to review TL emergency plan, joanna will print copies for next meeting. How do we support vulnerable populations? What if we're cut off from the rest of the county?

Daina - Sept 4th at the grange - smoke workshop at the grange 6-8pm

Jim - how can folks access the fire adapted communities newsletters, look at FACT website

**Adjourn**

**8:45**

**Motion - aaron, 2nd - travis**

**Update from Klickitat PUD -**

**Fire Chief and/or Commissioners – Fire District boundaries and process for inclusion,**

**Planning Commissioners – Andy Van Laar and/or Rick Graves – availability to come to September mtg.**

**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 – July?**