

SCC MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Snowden Community Council is to represent and be actively involved in the welfare, environment, and orderly growth of the community. The Council will be advisory to such bodies as the Klickitat County Planning Commission and the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners. (SCC By-Laws rev.08/2024)

Snowden Community Council Meeting Minutes 04.02.2025 (04.15.2025) Council Members present: Robert Conner (Fire Commissioner), Roger Gadway (Chair), Fred Greef, Chuck Kliesh (Treasurer), Tom Montag (Fire Commissioner), Lloyd Olson (Vice Chair), Chris Stein, and Sherry Walston. Absent: None. There were 9 additional Snowden Community members present.

Roger called the **Meeting to Order** at 7:00pm. The March 05, 2025, DRAFT **Meeting Minutes** were approved as previously presented by email. **Treasurer's Report:** Chuck K. reported that there was no activity with the SCC account this last month; with the monthly accumulated interest of \$0.08, the current balance is \$3,043.99. Roger suggested putting some of the SCC money in a CD so that it could accumulate at a higher interest rate. The SCC anticipates spending significant amounts of money (up to \$3,000) that will be reimbursed in full according to the DNR Firewise micro-grant program. The grant is hoped to be awarded through efforts of the SCC Community Firewise Committee. Lloyd moved and Tom seconded the motion to look into the best rates to invest \$1,000 of the SCC treasury into a CD at better than current interest. The motion passed unanimously.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Old Business:

Communications Committee: Sandy reported that a White Salmon teacher emailed the committee that one of her students had studied the SCC website and found it very informative – especially the Community Resources page. The student found a link that had become out-dated; the committee responded by correcting it. The student also suggested that we add a link to a site about climate change that she thought would be an asset. The website committee reviewed the link, found it acceptable, added it to the resources page, and responded to the teacher that we found the student's comments very helpful.

Broadband Update: Roger reported that the process of bringing improved internet to Snowden and rural Klickitat County is still in the second round of bidding, and that the process is proceeding as planned until we hear differently. Lloyd commented that Spectrum is installing cable (fiber and/or coaxial) at no charge in the Jewett Creek Loop Rd. neighborhood.

Land Use Committee: Sallie reported that the County has so far hosted two Comp Plan Update Community Meetings, one in Goldendale, and one in White Salmon, which over 100 people attended. The third Community Meeting will be on April 10, at the Trout Lake Grange, and two more will follow. Chuck K. asked if the County will make all the comments from different Community Meetings available on their website, so citizens can learn from each other and be sure important topics will be included in the update, such as wildfire preparedness. In discussion, the point was emphasized that if a topic is not included in the Comp Plan Update, it cannot be added later, or be included in Sub- Area Plans. Roger reported that the BoCC claims they will have another round of public meetings on the Comp Plan Update after they compile the input from this round of meetings

Sallie said she and Roger would be meeting again with Pat Arnold and other Community Council representatives who agree it will be useful to have a Community Council Advisory Committee for communicating with the County with a unified voice on issues of concern, whether or not the County officially

recognizes the committee. The fledgling Community Council Advisory Committee will meet with the County Engineer next week to discuss needs for several local parks.

Community Wildfire Preparedness Committee: Jenn reported that the micro-grant application to the DNR is ready to submit. Jenn will submit the grant in her name (because of grant requirements), but, given approval, with the support and on behalf of the Snowden Community Council. The grant will reimburse funds spent for fire preparedness activities that include: 1) production and printing of a Map of Possible Evacuation Routes for Snowden; 2) purchase, installation and permitting of a series of Burn Ban signs to be placed strategically along the roads accessing Snowden; 3) hosting a public education event to be held at Mountain Brook Fire Station, this June. Sherry moved that Jenn should submit the grant with the approval and support of the SCC; Bob seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. In discussion, Roger pointed out that once Snowden is approved by the DNR as a Firewise Community, we will be included in the County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), which would allow us to apply for much larger grants, for example to have more water storage tanks in Snowden. However – the County's CWPP is NOT in compliance because it has not been updated as required, and so is ineffective. Jenn pointed out that the non-compliance of the County CWPP also disqualifies Klickitat County from FEMA assistance.

New Business: None.

Fire Commissioner's Report: Bob reported that the business of combining the administration of the White Salmon and FD#3 fire districts is moving steadily along. He described that during Fire Prevention Month (October) the RFA firefighters will visit schools, wearing gear and bringing fire trucks. They discuss fire prevention and school evacuation routes with the students. Bob reminded us that it is the BoCC, under the advice of the DNR and Fire Districts, who determines the beginning and end of the Burn Ban season.

Bridge Commission Report: As Eric was absent, Jenn reported that Oregon's Bridge Funding Bill failed to pass in the House; and federal funding is threatened along with the future of the Infrastructure Bill. The Bridge Authority is proceeding with Phase 1B – a Design Phase; so that they will be ready to begin when funding eventually arrives.

For the Good of the Order: Sallie alerted everyone that the Columbia Gorge Commission's funding is threatened in the Washington State House budget proposal – so if you support the Commission's mission, you should communicate your support to our State Representative.

Hearing no further comments, Roger **Adjourned** the meeting at 7:51PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Bea Lackaff

(SCC Secretary (Pro Tem))