

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 07.02.2025 (07.31.2025) Council Members present: Robert (Bob) Conner (Fire Commissioner), Roger Gadway (Chair), Fred Greef, Chuck Kliesh (Treasurer), Tom Montag (Fire Commissioner), Sherry Walston. Absent: Chris Stein, and Lloyd Olson (Vice Chair). There were 11 additional Snowden Community members present.

Roger called the **Meeting to Order** at 7:00PM. After introductions, the June 04, 2025 DRAFT **Meeting Minutes** were approved as previously presented by email. **Treasurer's Report:** Chuck reported the treasury balance was \$3081.14 after the June meeting; with \$15 in donations, and \$0.07 accrued interest, the current balance is \$3,096.21.

Correspondence: None.

Additions to the Agenda: Jenn asked to discuss the upcoming Annual Meeting and Potluck.

Old Business: By-laws Update: Larry McCollum followed up on check-signing issues presented by the Treasurer at the June Meeting: The current SCC By-laws Article VII: Contracts, Loans, Checks, and Deposits; Section 3 reads "Section 3. All checks, drafts, or other orders for payment of money shall be signed by the Treasurer and either the Chair or the Vice Chair of the Council." **This requirement can** be problematic, especially as the Treasurer currently winters away from Snowden. At the June SCC Meeting, Larry offered to draft several possible options for revising the By-laws to make check signing more functional, and less dependent on the presence of the Treasurer. Larry presented three options to the Council and community ([See attached document](#).) After discussion, Jenn Sharp moved, and Tom seconded the motion to revise the By-Laws existing Article VII, Section 1 to read: "All expenditures requiring a check, draft or other order must be approved in advance of payment by a majority of the Council at a regular monthly meeting." ([Current SCC By-Laws](#)); and to revise Article VII, Section 3 to read: "An approved expenditure shall be paid by check, draft or other orders for payment of money; and shall be signed by the Treasurer OR one other Officer of the Council." The motion to revise the By-laws, as stated, passed unanimously. The proposed revision will be posted on the SCC website until October 01, 2025, SCC Meeting, when a vote for adoption will be held. Comments can be sent by email to snowdencouncil@gmail.com, or raised at an SCC Meeting prior to the vote.

Broadband Update: Roger reported that the State BEAD (Broadband Equity Access & Deployment) office has received word from the new federal administration that the allocated funds (\$1.2 Billion) for building affordable high speed internet access for rural Washington State residents will be forthcoming – ONLY when BEAD starts all over on the (nearly completed) 3 stage ISP bidding process to serve the rural 1,000 home project areas, first removing various standards from the bidding process, such as good customer service and employee well-being, and requiring that the lowest bidder wins, regardless of other considerations (such as quality of work, track record, etc.). Also, in the new bidding process, the ISPs get to determine what is affordable for the customer, not the BEAD office. The minimum standards for upload and download speeds are still in place. BEAD is determined to put the bidding process on the fast track, predicting that the ISP bidding will be completed by early this September.

CenturyLink Update: Bea reported that the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) did take public comments at the CenturyLink (CL) hearing on June 05, and we are still waiting for the Commissioner's final order regarding CL's petition to be re-classified as "competitive" and therefore allowed to

drop rural customers using their landlines. The tally of Public Comments received by the WUTC is: Opposing the CL Petition: 95; In Favor of the CL Petition: 0; Undecided: 5.

Land Use Committee: Sallie Edmunds reported that the Klickitat County All Community Councils continue to meet regularly, and their project is drafting a component about County Parks and Recreation to submit to the BoCC (Board of County Commissioners) for inclusion in the County Comprehensive Plan update. There was discussion on how Snowden could conduct a survey about where we recreate and what we do. We could use a survey-software (such as Survey Monkey) and use the SCC Facebook, website, and email Attendee list to direct people to the survey. Eric Wilson pointed out that there will be many more important topics to be included in the Comp Plan update – and this is a good opportunity to learn how to query Snowden residents, though hopefully we will find ways to meet together and have community discussions, as well. The survey is not intended to replace discussions, but to complement them. Roger will attend the next All Community Council meeting in two weeks; he will need to know Snowdenites' opinions and priorities regarding such topics as bike lanes, restrooms, trailheads, parking, and: do we need a "park"? In discussion it was agreed that while we don't need a park in Snowden, Klickitat County needs more parks, and emphasizing them in the Comp Plan will open the door and help to apply for grant funding. Sallie reminded us that the revised Comp Plan will supersede our Snowden Sub-Area Plan, therefore it is vital to include issues important to us in the revised Comp Plan. Sallie outlined the County's progress in updating the Comp Plan: The County has submitted a rough draft of the revised Comp Plan to the State; July and August will be devoted to collating and summarizing the public comments taken during the five Community Meetings; September and October will receive input from public entities (such as public utilities, etc.)

Regarding the large-scale timber harvest going on in Snowden, Jenn spoke of how little protection is given to forest health by the County or the DNR, with the current Critical Areas Ordinance, and the DNR's emphasis on extraction, while trivializing harm logging can cause to wetlands, wildlife, etc. The Land Use Committee will be studying the DNR Forest Practices Application (FPA) and intends to have a "workshop" on how to use the DNR website to sign up to be notified of FPAs and participate in study and comments of FPAs in areas of interest. Anyone with an interest in this workshop should contact the Land Use Committee membership or email the SCC (snowdencouncil@gmail.com).

Wildfire Protection Committee: Jenn reported that the Committee will meet again on July 08 and host the 2nd Annual Firewise Community event at the Mountain Brook Fire Station on July 14. The next big goal will be to create a Snowden Firewise Community with a Snowden Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to be a component of the County CWPP. Regarding the letter, the Council agreed to write to the BoCC urging them to update the existing County CWPP: while the overall Plan does not expire until 2028, the Emergency Component of the County CWPP does expire this year.

New Business: Location for 2025 Annual Meeting: Jenn asked the Council if they want to have the 2025 Annual Meeting in September at their Pond Camp again this year. (The Council received some criticism in 2024 for holding the Annual Meeting on private property, even though access was well publicized, and everyone in the Snowden community was welcomed.) Roy Conant moved and Chuck K. seconded the motion to have the Annual Meeting at Jenn and Eric's Pond Camp again this year; the motion passed unanimously. Sherry moved and Tom seconded that the Council pay the \$60 porta-potty rental fee this year; this motion also passed unanimously.

Fire Commissioner's Report: Bob reported that 54 homes were lost and there was terrible devastation in the wake of the recent Rowena Fire; and there are currently two fires burning in east Klickitat County. While the cause of the Rowena Fire is still "under investigation", there is a lawsuit being filed against the Union Pacific

railroad for having caused it. Bob again urged us to call 911 if we see smoke, but to stay off others' private property, and let the Fire Department handle the incident. Tom invited everyone to attend the West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority (WKRFA) Meetings on 3rd Thursdays at 6:00PM in the White Salmon Fire Department training room. He also announced that the WKRFA has a new captain; and that with the acquisition of a 4-wheel drive fire truck, now all four fire stations have a 4-wheel fire drive truck.

Bridge Report: Eric reported that Oregon and Washington States have each committed \$125 million dollars in funding, and the Bridge Authority will begin their design phase in September, with a start date for construction in 2027. Eric reminded us that the "construction work window" is from October to March, to protect fish runs, and hopefully construction can be completed in 2 work cycles. The \$534 million previously committed by the federal government is currently being withheld (seemingly to punish two "Blue States" for their convictions). A new, very interesting development is that as the Port of Hood River is designated as a recreational site, federal regulations require some mitigation for loss of recreational opportunity caused by the new bridge. Bingen and White Salmon are making a strong pitch that new land acquired for recreation mitigation be on the Washington side of the River.

For the Good of the Order: None.

Hearing no further comments, Roger **Adjourned** the meeting at 8:34PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Bea Lackaff

(SCC Secretary (Pro Tem))