

Lyle Community Council meeting

1.8.25

Called to order at 6:30 pm

Greetings and Introductions:

Members in attendance: Bill Weiler, asst chair; Oren Johnson, Brian Pfealy, treasurer; Marty Denis, acting secretary. Wendy Luisi on Zoom. Bill is running the meeting in Glenda Lovejoy's place; she is out of town. Glenda is chair.

Lori Zoller in attendance as well as several community members.

No December minutes available to approve.

Treasurer report: Brian Pfealy - paid two bills: \$219.17 for website; \$59.30 for website security. \$1117.61 current balance. Brian motion to reimburse Marty \$107.80 for Santa party expenses. Oren seconded. Unanimous approval.

Fire Dept report: Justin Ramsay - 201 calls in 2024 including EMS and fire calls. The LFD is working on grants; solar: cut back on electric bill to zero. Working on acquiring a DNR truck which is bigger than the one it is replacing. Putting monitor on front and having lettering done; can be run by one person. Other grants: new fire danger signs; used grant for the monitor; new SCBA equipment. Oren commented that people are commenting approvingly on filling tanks here.

Justin: rock falls are more WADOT issue than law enforcement.

Lyle School report: Anne Varkados - Jan 20 no school, MLK day; Jan 22 school board meeting; Jan 23 end of semester; Jan 24 grades due. Still need bus drivers, can apply by calling school for contact number; still need paraprofessionals to work with kids who need them. Still need teacher, paraprofessional and bus driver substitutes. Families were very grateful for the Christmas gifts.

Lyle Lions report: Terry Mills - Game day is every third Friday of the month, usually have 6-8 people attend. Gave out 106 gift/food boxes to support over 300 people. Spent over \$10,000; Dallesport donated 1700 lbs food; donors gave large amounts of staples such as peanut butter, ramen and cereal. School sponsored a cereal drive. Lions administered eye exams to two children. Reader board will be two-sided, approximately 3x5 and will cost between \$45,000 and \$48,000. Have raised up to \$17,000 so far. There is so much they can do with a reader board, such as announcing community and school events, fire safety information etc. Lions cannot do things without the support of the community.

Jessica inquired whether the public can attend Lions meetings, Terry answered affirmatively. She inquired about getting information to join; materials are available at meetings. Lyle Lions is a 501c3 non-profit; donations are tax deductible. Terry observed that December is a very busy month for the Lions.

New Business

Anna Barlow from Color Outside the Lines was unable to come to the meeting to talk about her company's role in the mural project. We will invite her to the February meeting.

PUD representative was unable to attend to give update on status of funding for Lyle water projects since the conference in October.

Election of Council Officers: Nominations: Glenda to retain chair; Bill to retain vice-chair; Brian to retain treasurer; Marty was elected as secretary. Brian moved and Oren seconded. All so moved, seconded and approved.

Old Business

EV charging stations project - Vern Harpole: should have chargers by end of summer at the Merc. Will be located at the NW corner of the parking lot. Six total: 4 fast (2 Tesla, 2 ordinary), 2 slow for locals' use for overnight charging. The fast charging stations are expected to be used by tourists and visitors to Lyle.

Mural update: Marty - announced that Anna could not come tonight due to her husband's accident requiring surgery. Marty said that Anna's company has been involved with a mural in Bingen and another (she thinks) in White Salmon as well as others around the Gorge. Marty observed that the process is much slower than anticipated and that the LCC unanimously approved our involvement in the mural project last April.

Klickitat Trailhead Safety Committee update: Oren - three people are meeting with Oren next week; he anticipates that the closing and opening of the gate there will begin early this spring.

Comments/concerns for the good of the community

Ken Hansen, President of Klickitat Trail Conservancy: welcomed Bill Weiler to the Board of Directors; gave brief update. Oren stated that there is interest in increasing lumens at the trailhead, meaning brighter lights. Dimmer lights are ok for esthetics but not so much for security. Jessica observed that dimmer lights are better for birds and other wildlife.

Lyle Delta: Vern and Bill: USFS involved. The plan - with Dan Miller - Forest Service grant for community outreach. Yakima Nation is on board now. Hoping for county commissioners to address issues like parking and lowering speed limits at edges of Lyle town. Yakima Nation agrees that recreation and fishing can coexist.

What to do with potential Klickitat River mouth dredging spoils: truck it away, expensive; add to delta, can plant on it (Yakima idea/preference); allow to drift downstream.

Zoom meeting on February 12 at 10 am with Dan Miller, LCC members, windsurfing people. Army Corps Of Engineers and Yakima Nation in talks. Oren observed that it was all farmland at one point; suggested to maybe add dredging spoils to railroad fill at west end of delta.

Tracy McCune inquired about the income on the chargers. Vern stated that residents pay 12 cents/KwH; national average for selling electricity at chargers is 38 cents/KwH. The Merc will pay 11 cents/KwH and collect 38 cents, will also be responsible for paying fees for management. The project received a grant of \$360,000 with a minimum match of 25% from the Merc. The whole project is expected to run \$500,000 with CEKC receiving a 5% stipend. There will be no net change in electricity rates; the grant pays for a new transformer.

Oren stated that he and Vern chatted about an idea called "Paint the Town" where LCC could offer to provide paint and hopefully painters to put a fresh coat of paint on the buildings of Lyle. Need to solicit contributions from community members; perhaps get a CEKC grant; potential summer work for students; approach paint companies: for the Old Lyle Elementary School, Oren observed that Sherwin Williams matched the amount of paint they donated to the amount that was purchased and they also sold the paint at wholesale cost.

Oren raised a little under \$1200 for the new Santa suit last year with \$600 in cash and the rest in kind. He will solicit donations for projects that he believes in.

CEKC gets a 5% cut of any funds raised over \$1000.

Brian stated that we need to be accountable for fundraising.

Tracy McCune mentioned that parcel maps have been updated in the last quarter of 2024. She found hers to be incorrect and urged community members to check their parcels on the new maps.

Oren observed that there are two construction sites in Lyle: one is adjacent to Centerville Hwy. Oren is concerned that soil can slough onto the roadway. The other is not on Centerville but adjacent; he is having a meeting with Jeff Hunter, Dir. of Public Works

Bill observed that we are hoping that Senior Services gets the grant for creating a bus route with a stop in Lyle; Lori Zoller is involved: two options: CAT or Mt Adams Transportation.

Bill called Claire West to the front of the room to present her with a book about plants for her help with LCC Zoom meetings.

Adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Marty Denis

LCC members: Glenda Lovejoy, President - Bill Weiler, VP - Wendy Luisi, *acting Sec.*
(while Marty Denis is out of town) (Brian Pfealy, Treasurer communicated report by text)

Greetings & Introductions:

- Lyle School Update—Ann Varkados
Friday is senior night. Basketball at 6pm. No school on Monday Feb.17th for Presidents Day.
Track sign up March 3rd. Spring Carnival coming. Ian Moynihan will be playing music for the Grant March Foundation.
- Treasurer's Report: Brian Pfealy - \$1009.81 current balance.
\$107.80 to reimburse Marty for Santa Night supplies; \$219. for website
- Lyle Fire Dept Update—Patty Elkins
January had 12 calls; burn pile limits; smoke challenges can cause disputes, 1st - encourage conversations, 2nd - contact non emergency dispatch for help.
SCPA grant was released 2/10; FEMA \$500k grant on hold; DNR grant still in process.
- Lions Club—Terry Mills
Club is slowly growing with over \$100 in donations and 115 people for fundraiser

Speakers

1. Speaker--Anna Barlow from Color Outside the Lines (COTL)
Mural project presentation: Anna went over how COTL works with underserved populations to create community oriented art projects, helping to build a deck for funders. Anna met with Lyle Market owner and presented one option as;
Artist Tobi Grubbs, from This.Studio, Hood River, willing to fund total project, includes community party with kid involvement. His prototype mural showcased 3 wall panel sections of a bird/salmon/trees-flowers,
Timeframe: late summer / early fall
Wendy inquired about possibilities if town prefers local Lyle artist, Anna affirmed
Budget range: \$3,500 - \$10k. (breakdown avg. of \$3k to artist & \$1k for supplies)
Glenda reminded us the town voted for wildflowers, wildlife, Mt. Adams/ Mt. Hood, local history, kiteboarding, which Anna says Tobi can incorporate and draft.

Old Business

1. Update on EV charging station—Claire affirmed grant being managed
2. Klickitat Delta Update—Bill
FS showed progress in speaking with BNSF Railways, they are open to an access underneath the crossing, however this poses access issues for EMT (confirmed by Patty Elkins). The next step is finding a petitioner, possibly the Klickitat County Commissioner.

New Business

1. Postponing appointment to the open seat at position1 due to Council quorum not present.
2. KPUD will be here for the Annual Update of Lyle water/waste findings in May
re: any funding options may have come out of their Annual Conference in October.
3. Spring Clean Up: April 12 & 13

Community Notes:

Bill brought up possible interest in learning more about fire insurance options for the town.

Mtg adjourned @ 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Luisi

Lyle Community Council meeting

3.12.25

Called to order 6:35 pm

Greetings and introductions:

Members in attendance: Glenda Lovejoy, chair, Bill Weiler, asst chair, Brian Pfealy, Treas, Marty Denis, Secy, Wendy Luisi, Oren Johnson. 23 total in attendance.

Posted on blackboard: Meeting in Dallesport Thursday May 1, 6-8 pm. Sponsored by Klickitat County Planning Dept regarding updating the comprehensive plan for the county.

Lyle School update: postponed

Treasurer report: Brian Pfealy: no financial activity in the month of February. Balance \$1009.81

Lyle Fire Dept update: Patty Elkins: 8 calls including 5 medical (1 motor vehicle - rocks in road); 1 fire - smoke investigation. In 2024, there were 201 calls, 59% medical which is lower than usual. Wildfires are on the increase; be FireWise.

Brian is going after grants - eg new fire danger signs being placed around our area. DNR grant to upgrade brush rig. Solar plan still ongoing.

Been advertising to hire more EMS; only 2 interested so far. Please put the word out to contact Lyle Fire Dept.

Patty retiring as of 4.1.25.

Patty recounted a lifesaving cardiac call involving Bingen/White Salmon Fire Dept and county ambulance services. Dispatcher walked wife through CPR; the husband survived the event.

Lions Club: Terry Mills: Served 125 breakfasts in February. Conducted 2 eye exams; provided a pair of glasses for an elderly lady.

Starting fundraising for the new reader board on May 4. Vern Harpole stated that CEKC will provide a matching grant of \$15,000. Terry commented that we generally know little about our community - He wasn't aware that CEKC had their own funds to give out.

Fundraisers: another classic car event; taco feed; silent auction/raffle tickets.

Oren moved to approved February minutes; Bill seconded. Approved.

Speakers

KPUD annual update regarding any funding opportunities coming out of their conference last October: pushed to April.

Mt Adams Resource Stewards (MARS) re: reducing fire risk; Sarah Allaben presenting. Sarah@mtadamsstewards.org; Phone: 440.497.8224. Fire adapted community coordinator; Community Wildfire Risk Reduction. As of 2020.

Structures: home hardening: eg, good roof; wire screens over vents

Property & Neighborhoods: defensible spaces

Community & Landscapes: Community/neighborhood fuel breaks; mechanics due reduction; hand crews; prescribed fires.

Evacuation planning: emergency alerts; go bags; smoke preparedness; post fire planning.

Trout Lake

Volunteer-led group with MARS coordinating staffing; eg evacuation routes brochures; newsletter and education FACT program

Annual free chipping service is popular

Ember defense mesh (screening); gravel distribution

Defensible space on properties

Ambassadors

Neighborhood people (HOA, road, small developments) coordinators like Sarah

Divided Trout Lake into zones to make it workable

Mow 30 feet around house and keep green if possible

Developing contractor list

Collection of grants, \$3-4000; MARS \$30,000, 2 or 3 grants

Bill: could we get a chipper for clean-up days; have to sign up

Vern: Youth employment stipends for eg weed whacking? Regs for hiring kids

Plenty to do with just volunteers: newsletter; FireWise

Prescribed fire: Planned, skilled application of fire within a defined range

Mt Adams Prescribed Burn Assoc (PBA): Coalition, mutual support, training, equipment to borrow

Timeline: Planning: majority of time spent - consult, burn plan writing, assist with permitting, unit prep resources

Fire: equipment cache, volunteers & experienced staff; monitoring the burn

Review: after-action, plan additional entries to property

This is available to private properties

Patty: prescribed burns in partnership with FireWise saved homes in San Francisco

PBA

Learn & Burn workshops

Burn unit prep

Small landowner burn in Glenwood

Pile burning with Columbia Land Trust

Next steps - with Sarah

\$4000 micro grant through FireWise USA

Join Mt Adams PBA

Learn & Burn Saturday May 17

Request prescribed fire site visit

Wendy: timeframe for neighborhood burns? Whatever community wants, where interests and priorities are

Oren: small cedars along driveway by his house need to be removed

Bilingual Brochures are in the Post Office

Charlie - DNR - wildfireready.com

Lyle Schools: Ann Varkados: 3/19 school board meeting. 3/19-3/21 conferences, early dismissal. 3/24-3/28 spring break. Students of the month this month: Perseverance.

All Klickitat County school participating in safety drills during March. 1st week, planning. 2nd week, secure. 3rd week, lockdown. 4th week, evacuate & shelter. To prepare kids so they don't freak out.

4/12 Spring Carnival 11-2pm.

Still need subs: teachers, para, bus drivers

PTO 1st Tuesday at 5 pm.

Old Business

Spring Clean-up: Glenda Lovejoy: April 12 & 13, 9 am - 4 pm. Yard debris drop box from Columbia Gorge Disposal, delivery Thursday, pick up Tuesday after clean-up. 20-30 yard box.

3 containers from Republic for trash.

Need volunteers: no volunteer coordinator. Sharon will speak to her senior volunteers

Banner: \$80 for 3x6; \$110 for 4x8. Need a new one.

Oren moved that we get a 4x8 banner; Brian 2nd.

QR code to PayPal for donations; checks are also acceptable. For tax deduction, need to provide EIN number.

Website will have volunteer sign-up links.

EV Charging stations: Vern Harpole: Meeting this Friday: MCEDD and Kelly (property owner). Discussion to see if Kelly can provide matching funds to qualify for the grant.

Delta/sand bar: Bill Weiler: Plans will soon be completed regarding dredging the mouth of the Klickitat. Community meetings, UCD. Must deal with dredgings, either spread on sandbar or let go downstream.

Vern: Trying to get Klickitat County to sponsor crossing railroad tracks. Need to survey community for support and need Lyle Fire Department support as well.

Transportation Plan: Ron Harvey: bike, walk, road and sidewalks - to get funding need to be on that plan. Also, Comprehensive Plan review; probably a 2-year plan; solar and battery storage standards

Brian: Where did you paint come from to cover up graffiti under bridge? Patty Elkins stated that community members provided their own paint

New Business

Appointment to LCC Position 1 open seat: Glenda Lovejoy: Oren moved that Jessica Smith be appointed to the 1st seat position on the Community Council. Position will expire this year then must be reelected to serve a full 3-year term. Marty 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Lyle Beautification: Wendy Luisi: Learning from Bill Weiler how to propose/write grants.

Tree planting - beautification: what is the community interested in?

Wendy's thoughts: tree planting locations: 1 parking lot where kite boarders park to provide shade; 2 Confluence Cafe lot - they would like some trees - more intentional, not just scattering of trees; 3 around Lyle Activity Center, maybe some fruit trees; 4 by the Merc and French's Farm; 5 perhaps some fruit trees in the in-lieu site if residents want them; 6 rows of trees along Hwy 14 through town.

A program, America in Bloom was suggested; they can provide national beautification grants.

County Comprehensive Planning outreach meeting: Dallesport May 1 6-8 pm sponsored by the Klickitat County Planning Dept.

Suicide Prevention and Info

Lisa Baranek: attended last night (3/11/25); was very informative

Additional sessions: March 17 Klickitat Community Center; April 15 White Salmon Senior Services; childcare and dinner provided

Adjourned: 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Marty Denis

Lyle Community Council meeting

4.9.25

Called to order 6:39 pm

Greetings and introductions

All members present except Brian Pfealy; Glenda Lovejoy via Zoom

Lyle School update: Ann Varkados: April 12 School carnival 11am - 2pm; April 23 School board meeting; April 30 pictures; May 29 Art in the Park; June 6 Graduation; June 9 8th grade promotion

March was all about Honesty. Safety drills continue - all schools in Klickitat County; Lyle drills every Wednesday.

Still need teacher and para subs; bus drivers as well.

Treasurer report: no report

Lyle Fire Dept update: no report

Lyle Lions Club: no report

March minutes: Oren moved to approve; Wendy 2nd; all in favor.

Speakers

KPUD: Gwen Miller current GM; Russ Patton engineer; Vicente engineer in training; Brandon; Sharon; Doug Miller.

Sharon: Public rate meeting to discuss water and wastewater rates - May 20 at 3pm in Goldendale; and you can call in.

Brandon: Waste water system: \$256,000 in bank. Projects, 2026: Sewer System videoing to find all problem areas. 2027-2028-2029 additional \$25,000 potential repairs

2026: \$50,000 software update to reprogram everything, mostly labor cost.

Last year \$3/mo rate increase; next year \$6/mo rate increase.

Loan will be paid off in 2026 - public works trust fund.

Current sewer system at 45% capacity now - approx 476 customers; capacity to 980, good to 2060.

Brandon (con't): Water system: \$70,000 in bank - purchased equipment: reducer, sample stations. Projected new well cost forecast \$900,000.

Russ Patton: his first job was here in Lyle 20 years ago on the new waste water treatment system. Current upper new well can handle entire city. Lower well not so great. No redundancy. Omeg well is the only well. Have water rights at the school property; can put in new well and pump up to reservoir. Creating report of current situation. Have new pump to install if necessary. Q?: Can rehab old well? Will check in fall, otherwise new well.

Oren: Q?: money, long process, 2.5+ years? Sharon: checking on inter funding loan to speed things up.

Russ: Trying to prevent long drawn out process

Brandon: good communication with Fire Department and Dispatch; he can monitor water levels from Goldendale now.

Sharon: Lead and copper service inventory - get water samples from each home, test for lead which leaches into water from pipe soldering. Will be required eventually and will need to be replaced. If you already know, tell KPUD.

Russ: Have not found lead service lines here yet; periodic random sampling. Marty: Q? Free testing or fee? If you ask for a test, there is probably a fee.

Oren: No water siren - didn't go off; would like redundancy. Russ: KPUD had to repurpose conduit to the siren so cannot use anymore.

KLASAC: Laura Bales - Klickitat Lyle Against Substance Abuse Coalition

Bill: All local community councils met at LAC today prior to our LCC meeting. One meeting per month. Bill attended today, met Laura.

Laura: Secretary; started 2013. Sheila Crapper is full time coordinator; could not attend tonight. KLASAC tries to meet every other month in Lyle or Klickitat. Student assistant professionals at both schools (SAP), Lyle-Michelle; Klickitat-Liz.

Programs: Project Northland - middle school prevention curriculum; Class Action - high school prevention curriculum.

Mainly prevention strategies: Family outreach night; Family game night; Family cooking night. Include parent classes, daycare and meal.

Executive committee also meets monthly; meetings have Zoom component.

Youth leadership group TADAA (Teens Advocating for Drug and Alcohol Awareness). Have taken kids to national conventions. 2024 - more outreach with other local communities. They also do training, for example the best way or most helpful way to say something.

Wendy: Q?: components? Family and Youth; adults. Q?: Counselors on staff? No, provide resources, eg current ongoing suicide prevention workshops with partners like the VA.

Old Business

Bill: Spring Cleanup this weekend: three trash dumpsters and one yard debris dumpster.

Wendy: signups; still need people for Sunday in specific slots.

Deb Draper: Chipper will be available in mid-may. Will come to your house and chip there.

Claire West: EV Stations; bid was accepted; finalizing contract next Monday at CEKC meeting.

Bill: Klickitat Delta update: 11 am Zoom meeting on Friday. No update on dredging yet. The Delta became DNR property when they got Balfour property. Several steps involved: permission, funding, Army Corps and Yakima Tribe will meet and decide.

Boat ramp: Jeff Hunter notified Bill that they are moving ahead on the boat ramp phase 2, probably next year. Pulling permits this year.

Wendy: Beautification: Lori Zoller has become involved in acquiring a grant. America in Bloom, a type of buy-in organization that helps communities beautify. Must apply now for next year. Potential source for funds: casinos.

Annick: Klickitat Trail parking lot: new light has been installed.

New Business

In agenda but not addressed at the meeting: LCC was awarded a micro grant of \$3843 from DNR for Fire Risk Reduction. To fund event advertising, chipping mowing/weed-eating. Will happen after Spring Cleanup. Lisa Beranek will be coordinating with MARS in early June for the chipping crew. All pruning and cutting of material is expected to be completed before MARS crew comes to town. OK to get to work on fire risk reduction around your property. Still working on plans for mowing/weed eating crew. Watch for updates.

Comments/Concerns

Laurece: do something about speed limits; trucks still speeding through town.

Claire: "Community volunteers" painted paw prints leading to school. (In response to discussion about crosswalk near school on Centerville Hwy.

What about mural: Marty: Anna Barlow presentation in February: Toby Grubb in Portland is willing to do it and help fund but we need to put up some money. Marty would like to explore more local artists.

CEKC to finalize EV grant next Monday 10am -12pm meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:01pm

Amendment to the April minutes:

Pursuant to an email submitted by LCC member Brian Pfealy on April 7, 2025 to the Lyle Community Council at large, Brian has resigned from the Community Council effective immediately.

Respectfully submitted by Marty Denis, Secretary