

**May, 8, 1999**

**Quarterly Meeting**

**AGENDA**

**President: Opening of Meeting**

Bob O'Brien

**Treasurer's Report**

Kathy Earnst

**Committee Reports**

Wagonmaster - Ed Lehman

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Election of Officers**

**Open Comments**

**Adjourn**

**Proposed Article XII**

Article XII

Section I. The Mineral Council representatives shall also be officers in the Wagonmaster Association with one individual elected by the members as the wagonmaster to be in charge of organizing and leading all field trips.

Section II. Members of the public may attend any Wagonmaster trip. To do so, there is a per day membership fee, making that person a member of the Wagonmaster Association for a period of 24 hours. At the end of said time, unless such fee is paid again and the sign-in list signed again, the membership ends for that day.

Section III. The moneys collected will be turned over to the Treasurer of the Mineral Council and used to defray the cost of insurance as required on the field trips.

**3/16/99 Westside Board Meeting Minutes**

The Mineral Council West Side board met on Tuesday, March 16, 1999 at the Maplewood Clubhouse. President Bob O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:40PM.

There were no minutes of the previous meeting.

Kathy Earnst accepted the position of Treasurer.

· Bills submitted - Liability insurance

Committee reports:

Wagonmaster

· Boeing club is working on the Greenwater trip.

· Burma Road area - Sporting goods stores in Enumclaw and Buckley carry the road use permits.

Old Business:

· We have lost several February quarterly meetings because of snow. Perhaps we should change to 3 meetings per year.

New Business:

· We need more map packets. Ed will have packets (200-300) made up at Office Depot.

Meeting adjourned.

**4/20/99 Westside Board Meeting Minutes**

The Mineral Council West Side board met on Tuesday, April 20, 1999 at the Maplewood Clubhouse. President Bob O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

Glenn Morita's address and phone number have changed to:

1011 128th St. SW #E103

Everett, WA 98204

425-423-8502

Jackie gave the treasurer's report.

Ed will get more map packets made. He has paid for the insurance for 1999 - \$185.

Committee reports:

Wagonmasters

- Bob Pattie will get a report on the Greenwater. There are differing reports about the collecting at the Greenwater sites.
- Ed is working on a 6100 Road trip for thundereggs. Road use permits are \$65 per vehicle. He would like to have a couple of RV's and a couple of full size trucks.
- Field trip on 5/1/99 to new site at Walker Valley. Meet at 4th St. McDonalds, exit 199, Marysville at 9:00AM.
- Racehorse Creek trip: 10-12 people, there will some meta-sequoia fossils found. Roads are in good shape.

Old business:

- Gold and Fish regulations - New restrictions. Need to take the regulations with you when you go gold panning, jade, agate collecting, etc. Cannot disturb any type of rooted vegetation. Second substitute House Bill 1893 if signed could overturn a lot of the restrictive rules. · Map books - Ed will make about 300 sets.
- In 3 of the last 4 years the February quarterly meeting has been canceled due to weather. It has been suggested that we go to 3 meetings per year, November, March, and August..

New Business:

- Vi Jones presented some information she got off the Internet on a process to go through to get roads re-opened. · Glenn reported that the BLM has sent notices advising the WSMC that it considers the Hansen Creek claims abandoned.

Good of the Order:

- Bob Pattie will get a mailing list of WSMC member clubs.
- The printer is running fine, however, it is old enough that we cannot get replacement parts.

Meeting adjourned

## **A Process for Re-opening Closed Roads**

Good afternoon

I am posting this into the sci.geo.mineralogy news group because it has collecting information that is relevant to the usage of public lands in the United States.

If you are not in the U.S. the information may be relevant to dealing with government officials.

Regards

David Ramalho

The following is posted with permission from Walter Mroch who sent it to a list I'm on. I know it's old news to most of you but thought it might come in handy for some.

Walter specifically wrote regarding rock collecting but it translates into outdoor use for all...

As promised here is a precise methodology for reclaiming roads on BLM land and USFS administered lands. The key to remember on all dealings with the government is to be rational and factual not emotional. Be matter of fact and if the agencies don't cooperate keep precise records and copies.

Send all correspondence return receipt so that you have an agency staffers signature. This will keep everyone honest.

### **The Methodology**

Note: I would assume that rockhounds don't need every road reopened but rather only those that are required and have previously been used to gain reasonable access.

### **RS2477 Right of Way**

- 1) Acquire topographic maps and aerial photographs showing a clear sign of a road. You may need to acquire an older copy of the topo map since the USGS has kindly been eliminating many roads from maps since the 1980s. You will need one or both of these to establish a physical presence.
- 2) Prepare a statement that indicates that the said road(s) have been used and maintained in accordance with the Hodel Policy. Under this policy a road may be maintained by vehicle traffic, obstacle removal or filling of holes to allow passage. These are all simple but legally acceptable methods of maintaining the road.
- 3) Go to the BLM or USFS depending on whose property the road lies. Walk into the office and tell them that you want an application for RS2477 Right of Way Grant to reopen an unlawfully closed road in compliance with the Hodel Policy and FLPMA (Federal Lands Policy Management Act). Get the name of the staffer and transcribe your conversation. They will likely hem and haw and deny its existence. If they refuse to provide you with the necessary forms go to the County Board of Supervisors and present the evidence.

4) Send registered letters to your senator, representatives and governor with the same information as presented to the Board or BLM or USFS. Include petitions with signatures of as many rockhounds or other land users that you can assemble in a legally correct manner.

5) If no action is taken keep hammering away. Use your right to an audience at the County Board and request that RS2477 be made an agenda item. Get as many rational people together as possible and be well represented at the meeting.

6) If there is still no action organize the clubs and land users and contact the news media. There is nothing that makes a politician more nervous than press indicating that they are not listening to their constituents. Its bad for votes.

### **Wilderness Areas**

Note: I would assume that rockhounds don't need every wilderness area reopened but rather only those that have previously been accessible.

1) Cite the Wilderness Inventory Handbook and request a copy from the agencies of GPO.

2) One of the basic tenets of the Wilderness Act is that agencies can't legally close roads simply to create wilderness areas. This is specifically prescribed in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook guidelines used by both the USFS and BLM.

3) A road is also defined therein and can be a trail, cowpath, mine access road, etc....

Again remember that the odds are that there is NO property in the 33 western states affected by land use laws that would qualify under the guideline criteria. A wilderness area must be roadless. If your aerial photos show a road then it is not a wilderness area. Petition the responsible agency for removal of the wilderness status. Again cover your bases with registered letters and the like.

Problems: The basic problem in California, for example, is that most of us work and the places we go during our free time are 5 hours away. We do not have the luxury of attending every wayward meeting. The government and Sierra Club, sponsored by member monies, can send their representatives wherever and whenever they want since that is their job to pass their agendas. We need to get some activity and action somewhere to get the ball rolling. There is some activity in Inyo County and Mono County but they are small compared to SanBernardino and Riverside Counties. Fortunately there are more rock clubs in the latter counties.

### **Here's a little item I found in my e-mail**

Forwarded from Lanny Ream:

Lanny,

If you haven't done so already, you need to revise your Washington guidebook and take this site out. I have collected on the Game preserve a few times over the years, but this past week was cited by the Sheriff and Game warden for unlawful activity on a state preserve.

According to the game warden, that preserve has been off-limits to collecting as long as he could remember, and he said he'd worked for the department for 23 years. I recall from the 70's, however, when rangers at the state park routinely directed rockhounds to the game department land.

I subscribe to the theory that one must always assume that the rock out there belongs to someone else (until proven otherwise). So I don't hold you responsible. However, if you haven't changed this you should for the benefit of the readership. Your book has proven to be a valuable resource to me over the years.

I have opted to pay the fine (\$361.00) without challenge of any kind, as I conduct a business in the state of Washington and don't want to alienate any of the agencies (especially the DNR). Interestingly enough, I believe that when they figure in the cost of the airplane and at least one ground surveillance person to witness the collecting, they have exceed the \$361.00 by a couple of hundred bucks or more.

Lanny's response:

I imagine by now a lot of localities in the book are inaccessible. Perhaps it is time to either rewrite it or quite publishing it.

Lanny