



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS
ASSOCIATION
Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary/Editor Penny Esplin

PRESIDENT- Troy Ray

VICE PRESIDENT- Christoph Schmidt

TREASURER- Terrie Fox

Meeting Minutes from February 24th, 2022

Meeting Called to Order: We held our meeting in Troy's garage. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Troy called the meeting to order.

Attendance: There were 10 members present, including Walt Evans.

Secretary's Report: Troy read the minutes from January's meeting. Tammy made a motion to accept the minutes as read and Penny seconded and was passed and approved by all.

Treasurer's Report: Still need to contact Claudia and reimburse her for \$?? for Claims paperwork.

Membership: Please **pay your membership dues of \$30 for this year.** Anyone who hasn't been a paid member for the last 2 years will be deleted from the email list. We have membership applications on hand at our meetings or you can find the forms on our website.

We discussed the layout of the membership forms. Need to know if the form has been filled out for RENEWAL or NEW MEMBERSHIP so Troy know who to provide claims packets for.

The Raffle has started up again in February! So please bring neat stuff we can put on the raffle table and bring some cash!

Other than the membership dues we receive, the **Raffle is our only other income that pays for our claims.** If we can continue to pay for our claims, we can continue as an ASSOCIATION.

Claims Report: Claudia is our Claims Officer. Need to reimburse her for doing our claims paperwork.

***If you plan to go to our Jeeter Creek claim, you need to first contact Troy 503-330-3169 so he can forward the permit and code to you. Access is limited to PAID MEMBERS ONLY.**

-If you go to any of our claims, please get a Claim Maintenance slip from Troy and fill it out and return it to Troy or Penny and we will make sure Claudia gets it for our future claim's paperwork.

-Penny agreed to make up a sign for our claim, since the original sign and tree burned up. We will probably need to provide a post to nail it too! We should post a couple yellow metal Federal Mining Claim signs also.

In the News: Jeeter Creek Claim: It has been **logged completely** from the road to the river, because of falling trees and hazards from the fire. **The trail we made last year is no more, so we need to get another work party together for reworking the trail.** Christoph said Sundays are best for him.

-We really need to take advantage of our Jeeter Creek claim, while we still have our private VIP status. The gate will be up until the fall of 2023. Let's go!

More News: Troy recently talked with Jared Ritchey: The **Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife** wants to introduce salmon into Green Peter Reservoir! That would make all the creek tributaries that flow into Quartzville Creek **Essential Salmon Habitat!** He said the USFS is on our side about this. But, we will let everyone know more about this as we learn more.

-On **Dry Gulch**, where we drive across the dry creek gravel bed to access our claim(s), the **Army Corp of Engineers** has complained about us driving across that stream bed. We said, "Put in a culvert!" And we are all willing to show up there with shovels in hand ready to assist. As to what this all means to us and our claim access, we're not sure yet, but will post any updates.

-**Also on Quartzville Creek:** There have been some rotten groups of people camping on several mining claims. They have been threatening and blocking access to any claim owners. They have their own mining equipment lying about and have become physically violent and attacked Jeff (Jared's friend). He did not press charges but should have.

Upcoming Events/Outings:

-**New Date:** Beverly Beach Saturday April 9th, 10:00

-Rickreall Rock Show April 15th, 16th and 17th (Fri, Sat, Sun) WVM will have a booth. There may be another show in August.

-Hermiston Rock Show May 14th and 15th

-**Miner's Meadow?** Troy is trying to get our reservation for the weekend of Aug 26th, 27th and 28th

In the News: We discussed the letter with **Walt Evens** that he sent about **Public Lands for the People and California Dredging**. There are opportunities for joining PLP. A copy is at the end of the minutes*

Table Raffle: We made \$12.00 from the table raffle

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 24th, 2022, and will again be held at Troy and Chrisha's place. Membership dues are \$30.00 and it is time to renew. Hope to see you then.

Meeting Adjourned

***Please read below for update from PLP.**

Oregon Suction Dredge Regulatory Relief?

Hello Friends!

PLP's hard work to bring regulatory relief in California is bearing fruit. Public Lands for the People (PLP) has been approached by Walt Evens of the Oregon based Douglas County Prospectors Association (ODCPA) to entertain the idea of replicating the success of the PLP California Suction Dredge Guide for Reclamation Purposes for application in Oregon. This led to a working group between ODCPA, Karen Darnell of Oregon based Stream Savers and PLP. This working group will evaluate the Oregon laws in relation to suction dredge reclamation in the same manner PLP researchers evaluated California's laws. The attention may focus on the Oregon State Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) rules and legislative intent with an end goal of providing a legally defensible path of regulatory relief for the dredge miner similar to how PLP did this in California.

If this working group is to be successful, more dredge miners from Oregon must support/join their local mining organizations and PLP to fund the effort. PLP's member base in Oregon is presently only 10% compared to California members and this really needs to improve by at least 150 more members from Oregon to help cover the legal expenses.

BREAKING NEWS: PLP has sponsored a scientific study like no other. This study is pointing out the green benefits of suction dredging and that it could be the best tool to combat the effects of atmospheric mercury transport from China. The published study will be out very soon! This costs a lot to produce, and we need your help in paying off the balance to make this asset available for use in proving why dredging is beneficial to the environment. We are asking members to go above and beyond, donate a little extra to help make this a reality.

Join or renew today to know how to effectively and professionally counter the agencies while making Prospecting, Mining and Reclamation Great Again! Join/Donate | Public Lands for the People

If you like the work PLP does please help PLP help you on the path towards legally resuming suction dredge mining and reclamation not just in California but in the State of Oregon as well! Other states will benefit from the dredge study as well. As we get time and volunteers such as in Oregon, we can expand the reclamation dredging to other states.

Supporting PLP's Grand Raffle also helps us continue to fight for your rights. A book of 12 tickets is only \$10. We have a lot of great high value prizes. You can't win if you don't enter! Tickets are available NOW to purchase by phone for the 2022 Grand Raffle Drawing. You can call our toll-free number (844)-PLP-1990 which is (844) 757-1990 or Mail a Check by July 1st (to the address below)* and specify the number of ticket books you wish to have mailed to you.

Have a Blessed Happy New Year!
Your PLP Board of Directors

The original. No compromise. Standing 31 years strong for Multiple Use on Public Land "RIGHTS"!

****Look on their website for contact information***