

# Kilkich Area Plan Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** January 26, 2026

**Time:** 4:00–7:00 PM PST

**Location:** Ko-Kwel Hotel & Casino, North Bend, OR

## Attendees

### Project Team

- Kate Strathdee
- Marissa Meek
- Matt Jensen

### Steering Committee Members

- Robin Harkins
- Kyle ViksneHill
- Debbie Dennis
- Bridgett Wheeler
- Mark Johnston
- Judy Farm
- Caryn Mickelson
- Jen Procter -Andrews
- Fauna Hill

### Project Consultants

- Steve Faust (3J)
- John Lazur (ODOT)
- Nick Gross (Kittelson)
- Ken Pirie (Walker Macy)
- Cameron Blakely (Walker Macy)
- Hui Rodomsky (DLCD)

## 1. Welcome, Invocation, and Introductions

The meeting was opened by **Vice Chair Jen Procter A-Andrews**, who offered an invocation to begin the session grounded in Ko-Kwel lessons and history. The meeting then started with introductions from project staff, consultants, and steering committee members. Each participant shared their role in the project and what they hoped to contribute to the Kilkich Area Plan (KAP).

### Meeting Goals

Participants discussed what they hoped to accomplish, including:

- Establishing a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities
- Gaining clarity on what the Kilkich Area Plan encompasses
- Understanding the purpose of future Steering Committee meetings
- Discussing priorities and approaches to completing project tasks
- Building excitement and momentum for the work ahead

- Learning more about Tribal values and opportunities for agency partnership (particularly with ODOT)
- Identifying how transportation decisions can align with community values
- Creating space to listen and learn from one another

## **2. ROAR Review**

The group reviewed ROAR (Roles, Outcomes, Agenda, Rules) to set shared expectations for the meeting and for future collaboration.

- Roles: Clarified responsibilities of the project team, consultants, and Steering Committee.
- Outcomes: Identified desired knowledge and direction to achieve by meeting end.
- Agenda: Reviewed the meeting structure, topics, and activities.
- Rules: Agreed to respectful communication, open dialogue, and collaboration.

## **3. Project Context Overview**

The project team presented an overview of the Kilkich Area Plan, explaining how it builds on two foundational documents:

### Empire Comprehensive Plan

- Land use designations (already implemented)
- Utility improvements
- Roadway design concepts
- Applied zoning and related costs
- Phasing concepts for implementation

### Ko-Kwel Nation 2039

Key strategic pillars incorporated into KAP include:

- Tribal sovereignty
- Traditional ecological and cultural practices
- Housing and community development

### Desired Outcomes of the Kilkich Area Plan

The plan is expected to produce:

- Alignment with Ko-Kwel Nation 2039 strategic goals
- A subdivision plan
- A transportation system plan
- Infrastructure, facility, and physical improvements plans
- A prioritized list of improvement projects
- Updates to the overarching Comprehensive Plan

### KAP Development Scenario Themes

The plan will emphasize:

- Diverse and culturally appropriate housing opportunities
- Transportation accessibility and mobility options
- Infrastructure improvements and long-term- planning

### Project Schedule

- January–June 2026: Transportation & Housing Analysis
- July–September 2026: Development and evaluation of land use and infrastructure alternatives
- September–November 2026: Implementation strategy development
- December 2026: Final plan adoption
  - Includes updates to Tribal Code Land Use Ordinance 315
  - 5 Steering Committee meetings throughout 2026
  - Three Tribal Council touchpoints: meetings, gatherings, or workshops
    - Specific dates will be shared as they are finalized

### **4. Steering Committee Activity: Goals & Reflections**

Committee members participated in individual and group exercises to reflect on:

- Team goals
- Personal goals
- Project purpose
- Definitions of project success

### Group Trends Identified

Themes that emerged during debrief:

- Understanding what is in scope vs. out of scope for the North and South Parcels
- Recognizing that Tribal Members return to the community not only for housing but for education, opportunity, and cultural connection
- Desire for a strong Kilkich Area Plan that can guide future area planning efforts
- Identifying barriers and challenges early in the process

### **5. Dot Exercise and Review**

During the dot placement exercise, Steering Committee members used colored dots to indicate their level of support or concern for specific topics and locations:

**Red Dot** – “Do Not Like”

Indicates strong concern, discomfort, or a desire not to prioritize or pursue the idea as presented.

**Yellow Dot** – “Like, But Need More Information”

Signals cautious interest. The concept may have potential, but members need additional context, data, or clarification before supporting it.

**Green Dot** – “Yes, Love It”

Shows clear support and enthusiasm.

- BACAPA Property (many red dots):  
Strong interest in recommending future use *if* the Tribe were to regain stewardship of the property.
- Libby Road Area (some red dots):  
Importance placed on determining the best way to secure and manage the area long-term-term.
- Agricultural Development (yellow dots):  
Some confusion exists about current and potential future uses for agricultural land.  
This topic will be incorporated into the Kilkich Area Plan analysis.
- Neighboring Properties (red dots):  
The group had questions about potential neighboring parcel acquisition for continued land stewardship and sovereignty.

#### Key takeaways:

- In earlier plans, many Forest and Open Space designations were unclear. They were often assigned simply because no other designation was chosen. As surrounding areas develop and access and utilities improve, these spaces may be better suited to align with neighboring zones.

### **6. Alignment with Consultant Work**

The project team reviewed how Steering Committee input, including values, concerns, and priorities, aligns with ongoing consultant analysis, especially regarding housing, transportation, and infrastructure.

### **7. Next Steps**

- The Steering Committee will meet next in late March.
- The project management and consultant teams will begin developing technical memos and summarizing findings from the January meeting.
- Members discussed the balance between in person- meetings, email updates, and opportunities for feedback.
- The project team emphasized the importance of:
  - Continued buy in-
  - Honest input
  - Patience and grace throughout the planning process

### **8. Final Thoughts from Steering Committee Members**

Committee members shared closing reflections:

- Robin Harkins: Encouraged openness about past efforts and recognition that growth may require change.
- Debbie Dennis: Expressed gratitude for being part of the process, even after initially feeling overwhelmed.
- Bridgett Wheeler: Shared enthusiasm for contributing to long-term- legacy projects.

- Mark Johnston: Thanked the group and wished everyone a good evening.
- Judy Farm: Expressed a clearer understanding of the Kilkich Area Plan.
- Fauna Hill: Shared a thank you from her team.
- Jen Proctor-Andrews: Shared appreciation for being included in the work and mentioned that she saw former plans on her mother's shelves. She looks forward to her son seeing this plan on their shelf and knowing his family played a role in planning for him and his future. Jen promised there would be few grammatical errors in the final version.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM with thanks to all participants for their time, input, and commitment to the Kilkich Area Plan.