

## **Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee**

**January 25, 2001**

**Hood River Expo Center  
Hood River, Oregon**

Members Bill Pattison, Carolyn Wood, Sally Donovan, Jerry Igo, Jeffrey  
Attending: Plummer, Jack Wiles, James Hamrick, Jef Kaiser (Substituting for  
Kay Van Sickel).

Staff Jeanette Kloos, Robert Hadlow, Pamela Hickenbottom, Bill  
Attending: Barnhart, Scott Liesinger, Larry Bush, Kevin Bracy, Pat Moran.

Others Diana Ross, Virginia Kelly and Jurgen Hess, Columbia River  
Attending: Gorge National Scenic Area Forest Service; Henry Kunowski,  
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; Brian Litt, Columbia  
River Gorge Commission; Bus Gibson, Mazamas; Bob  
Willoughby and Richard McCulley, City of Cascade Locks; Larry  
Cotton, Friends of Vista House; Carroll Davis; Lewis L, McArthur.

Bill Pattison, chair, called the meeting to order.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were approved.

### **VISUAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE CRGNSA**

Jeanette Kloos opened the discussion of visual and cultural resources in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area by reading excerpts from the *Management Plan* (see attachment) including the definition of "visually subordinate". Jeanette then invited Jurgen Hess to give examples.

Jurgen Hess said that Bea House and the stairway at Toothrock do not meet the visual subordination requirements. The stairway at Toothrock dominates the view and it does not blend in with the landscape. Conversely, the mid-tunnel catchment at the Mosier Twin Tunnels does meet this requirement, after the application of three coats of Permeon®. The two-rail, white guardrails on the Historic Columbia River Highway contrast highly with the landscape; the guardrail is consistent with the *Management Plan*, however, because there is a special exemption for restoration of historic sites. This is not allowed on non-historic properties.

Jurgen Hess said that there is subjectivity in the determination of visual subordination, but professionals in the field are taught how to apply the guidelines (including landscape architects).

The Graphic Signing System is not visually subordinate, but it is allowed by the *Management Plan*. This is a balancing of the value of the signs and the visual resources.

Jack Wiles asked why the restoration of historic sites is considered an "exception." The Historic Columbia River Highway is both a valuable historic resource and visual resource. Why not celebrate this fact, rather than requiring an exception to maintain or enhance the historic, visual qualities of the HCRH? The white guardrail is part of our cultural heritage.

James Hamrick noted that the HCRH is now a National Historic Landmark. He asked if someone wanted to rebuild an old roadhouse, would this be allowed under the "exemption"? Jurgen Hess said that the "exemption" is only for existing structures that are on the National Register of Historic Places. A building that does not currently exist could not be rebuilt under these criteria.

Jeanette read from page 6 of the attachment: "Key Viewing Area Guideline 12. Rehabilitation of or modifications to existing significant historic structures shall be exempted from visual subordination requirements for lands seen from key viewing areas. To be eligible for such exemption, the structure must be included in or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places or be in the process of applying for a determination of significance pursuant to such regulations. Rehabilitation or modification to structures meeting this guideline shall be consistent with National Park Service regulations for such structures."

Jurgen Hess described the wastewater treatment plant at Multnomah Falls as an example that meets the visual subordination requirements. The USDA Forest Service used elements of historic structures, including rock work, iron bars and massing, but did not try to copy any existing building. Landscaping and coloration of the concrete were also used to meet the visual subordination requirements. The West Trailhead is another good example. Vista House could not be built today, because it would not meet visual subordination requirements.

## **CRGNSA *Management Plan* Revision Strategy**

Brian Litt presented the draft *Management Plan* Revision Strategy (attached). This is an opportunity to change the *Management Plan*. The Gorge Commission is embarking on a process that will take about 2 1/2 years. Does the strategy have enough public involvement? Too much? What topics or issues need to be addressed in the revision process? The schedule includes a workshop meeting in late April. Issues to be discussed will be prioritized.

Three monitoring reports are complete (scenic resources, agricultural and forest lands), Two reports are pending (recreation and natural resources) and should be completed by July.

Carolyn Wood asked if small boundary changes would be included in this process. Brian Litt indicated that there is already a process in the *Management Plan* to address boundary changes. No boundary revision application has been received from Wasco County.

Jurgen Hess said that he has received some comments that people might bring up the exemption from visual subordination for historic features (i.e. the white guardrail) as something that needed to be changed.

Brian Litt requested comments on the proposed process within the next two weeks. On February 13, the Commission will meet to adopt the strategy. Jeffery Plummer asked what the HCRH should concentrate on. Brian Litt there are four major parts of the *Management Plan*: preservation and enhancement of scenic, natural, cultural and recreation resources; land use (density of future development); enhancements (what project should be included in the recreation development plan, for example) and administration. He suggested that the HCRH AC concentration on the resources and the recreation development plan. The *Management Plan* is on the Multnomah County web site at [http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/lup/CRGNSAPlan/Home/NSAMP\\_Home.html](http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/lup/CRGNSAPlan/Home/NSAMP_Home.html).

**MONUMENT POLICY DRAFT**

Robert Hadlow presented the revised Monument Policy (attached) to the HCRH AC. This version incorporated comments received during and after the last meeting, including a fund for maintenance. Robert again requested review and comments.

Jeanette Kloos asked the committee if it believed that the recently placed plaques on the new structures and the proposed placement of the National Historic Landmark plaques would be consistent with all of this policy, including meeting all of the criterion for placement. Carolyn Woods said that the plaques on the new structures help create history. The consensus of the committee was that the plaques in question would meet the criteria.

Jerry Igo asked if we could remove plaques that do not meet the criteria. He mentioned the Robert Ellis plaque at Rowena Crest (he does not know anyone who knows why this plaque is located here) or the Rose Lenske plaque near the site of the old Multnomah Lodge, under Mist Falls.

James asked about how to address donors who wish to place memorial plaques simply to memorialize their deceased spouses. These requests require tactfulness and sensitivity.

Henry Kunowski asked if this policy should be incorporated into the (future) HCRH Design Guidelines discussed previously? We do not want future memorials to lack aesthetic virtue or to be commercial, such as monuments with neon signs. If a public agency were struggling to maintain a property, would you let a donor give a lot of money for maintenance and then allow a plaque for recognition?

Jack Wiles noted that State Parks has established a naming policy.

James Hamrick asked if we needed to include the CRGNSA development review requirement. Sally Donovan said it is difficult to require a donor to complete the CRGNSA review and 106 process. Since this process is required for anything that is considered a "new structure" by the respective county and the counties have not been asked whether or not they would require a review for a bronze plaque, this section should be removed and replaced by something like "complete any required local land-use process."

The AC discussed whether this police should go to the Oregon Transportation Commission and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission for approval. Jack Wiles asked if we are creating a process that is unneeded. Jef Kaiser suggested that the policy be changed to a Guideline, adopted by just the HCRH AC. This would allow the HCRH AC to test it out for a while and see if it is workable. After discussion, this was the consensus of the AC. Robert Hadlow will revise the document based on this discussion and send it out to AC members prior to the next meeting. At the next meeting, the HCRH AC would vote on adopting the Guidelines.

Jerry Igo thanked Robert Hadlow for all the time he has put into this policy. It used an appropriate tone.

## **DRAFT STIP**

Jeanette Kloos sent information on the draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for 2002-2005 to the HCRH AC. The Draft does not include many projects in the Columbia River Gorge or along the Historic Columbia River Highway. It only includes projects currently funded for construction. The projects discussed at the last meeting do not have construction funding. Jeanette will send information about the STIP meetings and opportunity for public comments.

James Hamrick asked about Forest Highway and Public Lands Highway funds. Jeanette Kloos said that applications for these funding sources would be due this spring, with decisions in spring and fall respectively. Warrendale to Moffett Creek is the next priority project and it will be submitted for both potential funding sources. It can be phased into two parts; the amount for each phase was estimated last year, but should probably be re-estimated based on the current design.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

### ***VISITOR STATION INTERPRETIVE PLAN***

The advance plans and specification review should begin soon. This project is funded through the completion of the plans; no construction funding has been secured.

### ***STARVATION CREEK TO VIENTO***

Funding from the High Priority Project monies was added so that the whole project could be awarded. The preconstruction conference will be held January 26.

### ***HCRH INTERPRETIVE SITES AND SIGNS***

In December, Jeanette requested that representatives from the three cities participate on the project team. The project will design parking, and interpretive signs as mitigation for the widening of the HCRH that has occurred on the Forest Lane section in Cascade Locks and that is planned for the Cascade Avenue section in Hood River.

### ***WARRENDALE TO MOFFETT***

Design started. Environmental study to start.

### ***TOOTHROCK TRAILHEAD ACCESS ROAD***

Virginia Kelly described the project to widen the access road to two lanes and pave it (see attachment). Some minor realignment is proposed. The preliminary cost estimate indicated that funds were available to address the intersection of the trailhead access road and the ramps from I-84. The signing at this intersection is confusing. Virginia distributed the attached plan that proposes to eliminate shoulder parking, relocate the access to Trail 400 to the Wahclella Trailhead, improve signing and improve landscaping. All of the property is state land. Currently, no one enforces parking in the intersection. A site visit was scheduled to review options to improve this area.

Bus Gibson said that there should be a sign for the trail for the viewpoint for Wauna Point. Jerry Igo agreed; this is a destination listed in a trail guidebook.

*Vista House Restoration:* Henry Kunowski reported that construction document comments have been received. The current schedule has construction complete by October 15. Vista House will be closed most of the summer. State Parks has had a good partnership with ODOT. So far, the project is on time and on budget.

Jerry Igo asked if there will be space available for tour buses and chartered buses? Bus parking spaces will be available.

## **ACTIVITY STATUS REPORTS**

Bus Gibson said that ODOT needs to do a better job on roadside gutters. Gutters should be maintained semi-annually.

Bill Barnhart reported that District 2C has been doing a lot of brush cutting and cleaning culverts and gutters, getting a head start with the dry weather. The white wooden rails are being painted. This summer ODOT will have two paving projects on I-84: Marine Drive to Corbett and Cascade Locks to Hood River.

Jack Wiles told the HCRH AC about the Recreation Coalition tour the previous week, which included congressional aids. The proposed projects seemed to be positively received. Currently changing the one-way access road to a two-way road at Viento and the West Mayer camping and day use projects are not funded.

Jerry Igo said that there are a lot of unresolved questions on the Rock Creek recreational project, which did receive funding. The only access seems to be driving through the creek bed, which has impacts on fish and habitat.

Diana Ross mentioned that she had discussed English ivy with Robin Dobbins. He said that the county regulatory program would need \$50,000.00 to work towards controlling noxious weeds.

Jack Wiles distributed a list of people who purchased the Safeway historic postcards and made the additional \$5.00 donation (attached). He noted that some names are missing. Let Jack know if you know of any missing names. There are currently 220 names on the list.

At the last meeting, Kevin Bracy asked if a jar of gravel would be better than topsoil to use in the GEOWEB wall. Michael Igo planted 10 Idaho fescue seeds. With some water; eight of them grew. Therefore, Jerry Igo said that this would be good for growing plants in the GEOWEB wall.

## **DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS**

Six additional development reviews were received yesterday (see attached chart). Only one is on the HCRH. Cascade Locks has a proposal for sidewalks on the south side of WaNaPa between the school and Forest Lane. Cascade Locks also proposes landscaping the community's eastern and western portals.

## **MEMBERS ISSUES**

Carolyn Wood asked about the translations of the HCRH Brochure into German, Spanish and Japanese. They are complete and are being distributed.

Jerry Igo mentioned that the Japanese knotweed and giant knotweed pointed out during the site tour of the Tanner Creek to Moffett Creek project needs to be brought to the attention of the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

Sally Donovan suggested a work session on cultural and visual resources. James Hamrick, Jeanette Kloos and Sally will discuss how to proceed.

Last week, Jeanette attended the Oregon Scenic Byway Workshop. National Scenic Byway Grant proposals are due May 1<sup>st</sup>. They need to be prioritized at the next HCRH AC meeting.

**NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION**

Tuesday, March 20, 2001, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles.