

Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee

January 31, 2002
Wood Village City Hall
Wood Village, Oregon

Members Attending:	Bill Pattison, Carolyn Wood, Sally Donovan, James Hamrick, Charlie Sciscione, Wayne Stewart, Jeffrey Plummer, Mandy Cole, Jack Wiles, Jerry Igo.
Staff Present:	Jeanette Kloos, Robert Hadlow, June Carlson, Sam Wilkins.
Others Attending:	Diana Ross and Jurgen Hess, CRGNSA Forest Service; Nancy Russell, Friends of the Columbia Gorge; Kevin Price, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; Marie Miller, Friends of Vista House; Carroll Davis, Hood River Valley Residents Committee and Hood River Citizens for Responsible Growth; Bus Gibson, Mazamas; Kenn Lantz.

Bill Pattison, chair, called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the October 31 meeting were approved as mailed.

SCENIC BYWAY CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Jeanette Kloos reviewed the changes to the Oregon Scenic Byway Corridor Management plan, as outlined in the attached January 17 letter. Jack Wiles asked if viaducts would be included in the HCRH Bridge Program. Jeanette said they would and directed the Committee's attention to the proposal for a research project for loadings on the bridges (attached). Jack also asked about the need for a GeoTech study on abatement of landslides. Charlie Sciscione said that the study of the Dodson Warrendale area after the 1996 debris flow was exhaustive, but no implementable solutions, beyond purchase of properties, resulted. Jack asked about the Larch Mountain Slide. Charlie said that it is being monitored, but, again, there is no easy solution.

Charlie Sciscione said that he plans to add a paving project to the 2004 gutter restoration project. Paving would start at Alex Barr Road and extend as far east as funds allow. Approximately \$600,000 of low volume road program funds are expected to be available. This will need to be a grind and inlay project, so that the exposure of the rock walls remains unchanged.

The proposed changes were unanimously approved.

Jeanette Kloos distributed the attached text from the HCRH National Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan. This will be discussed at the

next meeting. After the next meeting, the updated Plan will be copied and distributed. Wayne Stewart asked that the "draft" language be removed from the Plan.

SCENIC RESOURCES

Diana Ross presented information that was previously presented to the Columbia River Gorge Commission, in preparation for the CRGNSA Management Plan update discussions. She reviewed the terminology used in the Plan and stressed that the current system was a policy choice, to implement the requirements of the Act to preserve and enhance scenic resources. Currently, the Plan uses the Forest Service Visual Management System that was developed in 1974. This has now been updated, with different terminology. Should the Management Plan language remain (since many people are now familiar with it) or change to the new terminology?

On the continuum of Visual Quality Objectives from Wilderness to Maximum Modification, the CRGNSA Management Plan uses only Retention and Partial Retention (same as visual subordination). In both of these categories, the landscape must be more dominant than new development. Diana showed the Committee how form, line, color, texture and reflectivity combine to make something subordinate or dominant and harmonious or not harmonious.

Diana acknowledged that there is a problem with making objects in the foreground of transportation facilities visually subordinate. She used Glenwood Canyon, on Interstate 70, in Colorado, as an example where this had been achieved. Charlie Sciscione asked if the standard would be changed from visually subordinate to harmonious for foreground features of transportation facilities. Nancy Russell suggested that different standards be proposed for essential transportation facilities, but that these new standards should not be applicable for houses.

June Carlson asked if the contrast between the barrier and the roadway had been an issue for Glenwood Canyon (it is an issue that has been raised within ODOT for barrier on Interstate 84). Diana said that the issue had not come up in Glenwood Canyon; the barriers are colored to blend with the surrounding rock.

Both Charlie Sciscione and Diana Ross emphasized the need for an overall I-84 corridor visual plan. Addressing issues and making changes on a project-by-project basis will not result in a consistent treatment throughout the Gorge unless there is an overall plan that has been agreed upon.

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
MEDALLION**

Jurgen Hess presented information about the ASLA medallion including why it was presented to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, previous presentations to the HCRH AC and the current proposal, which reflected the input of the Committee at the previous meetings in 1999 (see five attachments). The proposal was for a location on top of the masonry wall at the north end of Portland Women's Forum. Jeffrey Plummer asked if the shape would be similar to a lectern; Jurgen agreed. James Hamrick asked if the proposal had always been on top of the wall; Jurgen said it had. Jurgen said that the slanted format would better allow water to drain than a flush mount.

It was noted that the 1999 discussion had begun the development of the plaque policy. Jerry Igo noted that the policy differentiates between a two-dimensional plaque and the three-dimensional memorial.

After considerable discussion, Jack Wiles suggested that the medallion and plaque be placed in a lowered niche, rather than a raised form. Jurgen noted that this might be more difficult to construct.

The original motion to approve the proposal was withdrawn and a new motion was made to approve the installation of the ASLA medallion and accompanying explanatory porcelain enamel sign in a niche below the top of the wall and at a proper angle in the same location as the original proposal. This proposal was approved unanimously. A drawing of this proposal was completed by Jeffrey Plummer (attached).

Jurgen Hess accepted this consensus solution, but noted that the process bothered him. He recommended that the future process should include a subcommittee review, but decisions, once made, should not be revisited.

HOOD RIVER CASINO UPDATE

Jeanette Kloos said that the Governor's Office had received another extension of time to comment on the proposed fee-to-trust transfer, because the NEPA document had not been received.

Jurgen Hess said that the Forest Service has had discussions with the Bureau of Indian Affairs about the transfer, since the CRGNSA Forest Service must decide whether the transfer is consistent with the CRGNSA Act. In addition, Jurgen described road construction that he found off the main logging road on the former Christian Futures property. This is an apparent violation of the Management Plan. Hood River County Planning reviewed the action and found that it was "OK". Both the Friends of the Columbia Gorge and the Columbia River Gorge Commission disputed this determination. If the road was there before, it is considerably different now and the use is not for logging. The issue has now gone back to the

Hood River County Planning office for review.

Buss Gibson inquired about the status of the HCRH AC letter to the Director regarding the Hood River casino proposal. The AC has received a response from the Director indicating that the concerns have been forwarded to the Governors office (see attached letter).

Nancy Russell was concerned that whether or not the casino is ever constructed on the Hood River site, the fee-to-trust transfer of land will potentially cause problems for the HCRH for years to come.

PROJECT UPDATES

Warrendale to Moffett Creek

Jeanette Kloos informed the HCRH AC that the Warrendale to Moffett Creek project is continuing in Preliminary Engineering. Documents required for the CRGNSA development review with Multnomah County are in preparation, with the Cultural Resources and Wetlands reports complete.

Lewis L. McArthur proposed an alternative, interim connection at McCord Creek using a hiking trail from the John Yeon parking area (see attached letter). Carroll Davis said that the trail from the parking area to Elowah Falls was difficult for bikes and would need to be significantly modified.

Since most of the HCRH AC members had not visited the site (and others had not visited for 15 years), it was agreed to table this discussion until the next meeting. All members were encouraged to visit the site before the next meeting. A field review at the beginning of the next meeting will be scheduled, weather permitting.

Starvation Creek to Viento

Construction is basically complete. There will be a plant establishment period. As shown in Diana Ross' presentation, additional plants have been requested at the beginning of the ramp. ODOT is looking to see if funds are available to purchase the plants; Jack Wiles volunteered his staff to install the plants.

HCRH Interpretive Sites and Signs

Additional funds have been obligated for Preliminary Engineering. Jeanette Kloos will meet with the consultant next week. If plans are developed enough, a project team meeting will be scheduled.

Toothrock Trailhead Access Road

See attached update of Forest Service projects. This project is expected to be constructed during the summer of 2003.

West Oneonta and John Yeon Trailheads

These projects are now under contract (same contractor as Vista House). Construction scheduled to be complete by Memorial Day weekend.

Vista House

Kevin Price reported that a contact station is now open and staffed by OPRD. It was hoped to be opened earlier, but wind ripped off the roof of the trailer. In five days over 600 people have visited and donated over \$100. After spring break the Friends of Vista House will take over operation of the building.

Gutter Restoration

Dave Sell, Western Federal Lands Highway Division, Federal Highway Administration, reports that surveying is underway on this project.

Millennium Legacy Trail Art Project

Fourteen proposals were evaluated. The top three were requested to prepare refined proposals for presentation in March.

Byway Poster

Jeanette Kloos circulated a poster of the HCRH Byway, as prepared by StoryCo., using information from the HCRH Brochure. Several typos were noted. The HCRH AC generally approved of the poster, asking if copies would be made available for sale to the public.

Catchment Inspection

Sam Wilkins and other members of his staff inspected the Rockfall Catchment. Photos were circulated to the Committee. Sam noted that he did not see many rocks when he first reached the Catchment, but then began noting rocks that had buried themselves in the pea gravel. The Catchment is working as designed.

Mosier Mounds Nomination to National Register of Historic Places

The Nomination of the Mosier Mounds to the National Register of Historic Places has been postponed to the May meeting of the Oregon Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation.

James B. Castles Award

The Center for Columbia River History awarded the James B. Castles Award to Jeanette Kloos and Robert Hadlow for work on the Historic Columbia River Highway, including the nomination of the HCRH as a National Historic Landmark, the Historic American Engineering Record display and the HCRH Interpretive Panels. Jeanette and Robert could not accept the \$1,000 honorarium and requested that it be donated to the Oregon State Parks Trust, to be used on the HCRH as determined by the HCRH AC.

National Preservation Awards--National Trust for Historic Preservation

Robert Hadlow led a discussion of the National Trust for Historic Preservation award program. The HCRH AC recommended that ODOT prepare a nomination for ODOT, OPRD, FS and HCRH AC for work on

the HCRH for a National Trust Honor Award.

ACTIVITY STATUS REPORTS

ODOT

Charlie Sciscione, while not present at this time, left photos of the Dodson Debris Flow, which were circulated to the Committee. There were several remarks about how good the area looked after the clean up.

Sam Wilkins circulated photos of a rockfall between Dry Creek and Hog Creek. Most rocks were removed, but three were too large to move and were pushed over the side. Sam asked Committee members to look at these rocks and see if it would be OK to leave them there. Jerry Igo said he had seen them and thought they were fine (and remarked about how large they were!).

OPRD

Jack Wiles said that he had been approached by the City of Cascade Locks to develop an interpretive sign that would explain the mural on the abutment of the Bridge of the Gods. It would include an outline of the shapes in the mural with explanations of what they represent. He was proposing a weather resistant medium, similar to that used on the Safeway names sign. He will bring a mock-up to the next meeting. Jeanette Kloos noted that the interpretive sign proposed for this site as part of the HCRH Interpretive Sites and Signs project would include the same information, so the temporary sign would only need to last until 2006.

OPRD Director Michael Carrier has worked with the Forest Service to develop a pilot program for the Columbia River Gorge where both agencies would recognize the other's day use fee permits. Details are being worked out. There would be no exchange of funds between the agencies.

Work on planning for the 3-5 times-per-year antique car events is in progress. Jack hopes to create a balance between community events and club sponsored events.

Kevin Price noted that the yearly day use permits are now good from date of purchase, rather than being on a calendar year basis. Both one and two year passes are available. The Rooster Rock office is scheduled to be opened by March 1 in the rebuilt building. Kevin is working on planning a Civil War reenactment at Rooster Rock and a "dog days of summer" pet agility event. There is a new permanent director at Friends of Vista House.

Jack Wiles circulated copies of a recent Oregonian article about Robert Hadlow's book on Conde B. McCullough (attached).

USDA Forest Service

The Multnomah Falls ADA project will is underway (see Oregonian article, attached).

DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

Jeanette Kloos reported on the application for the "super Wal-Mart" proposed for Country Club Road in Hood River. The Hood River County Planning letter noted 57 items that need to be addressed before the application is complete. The developer has 180 days to submit additional material. Carroll Davis noted that the Hood River City Planning Commission had a hearing last night on incorporating this area into the City; they recommended incorporation. The Footprint Ordinance (limiting new buildings to no more that 50,000 square feet) has now been adopted buy Hood River County Commission.

MEMBERS ISSUES

Jerry Igo said that spring is coming and plants, including weeds, will be growing soon. He discussed with Charlie Sciscione actions needed to control the giant knotweed at Tanner Creek. He also noted that a survey is needed of potential noxious weed problems.

Jack Wiles asked about the current situation at Ruthton Point--the gate and signs warning the public to keep out. He asked if Highway maintenance could be asked to remove the fence and signs. Jeanette Kloos noted that ODOT right-of-way people had determined that there had not been any abandonment and retention order for this property and ownership is still ODOT. However, the adjacent property owner disagrees. Legal action appears to be needed.

Jeffrey Plummer asked if the missing interpretive sign at Rowena Crest would be replaced. Jack Wiles said that OPRD is working on this. The original manufacturer has gone out of business, causing problems with trying to enforce the warrantee.

Mandy Cole asked if "fire monies" could be available for some HCRH projects if they are on Forest Service lands. Mandy and Jeanette will investigate this.

NEXT MEETING

The next HCRH AC meeting will be March 20 at Bonneville Dam or Cascade Locks.