

MINUTES
Historic Columbia River Highway
Advisory Committee
May 6, 1999
Best Western—Hood River Inn
Hood River, Oregon

Members Present: Bill Pattison, James Hamrick, John Lundell, Julie Curtis, Jeffery Plummer, Carolyn Wood, Janice Newton, Sally Donovan and Jack Wiles.

Staff Present: Jeanette Kloos, Robert Hadlow, Kevin Bracy, Sam Wilkins, and Gail Smith.

Public Present: Gay Jervey, and Jan Leininger, Mosier; Jerry Igo, Native Plant Society; Tom Turck, US Forest Service; Diane McClay, and Matt Reynolds, OPRD; Hassan Aman, PGE.

Bill Pattison called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Carolyn Wood had a correction to the minutes from the March 30 meeting. The minutes stated that “The committee has been approached before, by citizens of Mosier, about adding guardrails at the end of the hill to keep cars from sliding off the road and into the river”. Carolyn stated that the reference to the river should be replaced by “over the bank”. Minutes stand approved as corrected.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Gay Jersey shared flyers with the AC that the Partnership Recreation Coalition had printed as a promotion of the recreation development proposal package. These flyers will be distributed at various sites.

HOOD RIVER TO MOSIER:

Kevin Bracy updated the AC about progress on several projects.

Management of the West Trailhead facility has been officially taken over by the Oregon Park and Recreation Department. The fee machine is installed and working. When the telephone is complete and hooked up the roadway gate will be closed and the facility opened for use. A request has been made for an on-site host. Kevin Price needs to approve the people who have responded to that request. A metal building, on the hill overlooking the trailhead is owned by the City of Hood River. The building is in poor condition and is an eyesore. Bill Pattison will check with the city to see if the building can be removed.

Vernal Pools are working well. The irrigation system is installed and working. Watering is being done twice a week until the vegetation is established. Milestone Nursery has been very helpful with the vegetation and the planting. Hood River County weed control has done some spraying to help control the invasive sweet clover.

West Tunnel Catchment construction has re-started. JAL Construction is working on the connection of the corbels to the catchment. Completion date is December 2, 1999. Four corbels were poured last week.

Portal Restoration of the west portal of the west tunnel will be re-built to its full height and 1930's dimensions to eliminate the gap between the portal and catchment. This portal and the east portal of the east tunnel will be sandblasted and grout slurry will be applied to the whole structure.

Facia Panels will be installed on the north edge of the catchment structure. One panel will be bolted to the deck of the catchment and the weight of the gravel will hold the other three panels in place. All the panels are pre-cast by Morse Brothers. The panels have holes that will need to be covered because animals and birds could make their homes in them. Different panel styles were shown; the panels are modular so they can easily be repaired if damaged. A ramp will be built sometime between August and September to get the panels to the top of structure. Jerry Igo asked how large a rock the catchment can hold. Kevin stated that the catchment was designed to handle a rock that weighed 5,000 pounds falling 200 feet. Jack Wiles asked what would happen if the rock falls off to the side. The railroad has a 15-foot berm that would prevent rocks or panels from reaching the tracks. Matt Reynolds, OPRD, asked about the pea gravel retaining water. Kevin stated that there is a 2% grade on the deck causing the water to flow toward the cliff. There are drains at each column that will handle the water flow.

Kevin Bracy and Darla Cole Bowen designed an informative flyer about the catchment and other projects between Hood River and Mosier. Jeanette distributed to the AC a rough draft and asked for comments back on changes that would improve the flyer. Kevin Price was impressed with the flyer but stated that he would like to see the flyer focus more on the engineering and geology of the catchment since it is such a unique structure. Carolyn mentioned that some people were opposed to all the money that was spent for safety. John Lundell remembered a quote he thought was appropriate "Quality remains after the price is forgotten." As suggested, the back page of the flyer will be changed from the HCRH State Trail map to text describing the need for the catchment and its innovative design.

Janice stated that there are two distinct audiences to reach, (1) people who live along the HCRH and (2) people who do not know about it in Portland, all of Oregon and Washington. OPRD Ranger, Diane McClay, has met people on the trail from Washington (Seattle), the Trust for Public Lands, the Audubon Society and the Native Plant Society. Diane stated that the trail has a lot of visitors. The audience is growing.

OPRD is contacting the media to promote their trails and campgrounds. Diane McClay informed the AC about maps being printed that will highlight the HCRH and other OPRD trails. The map will be available beginning in June. Information on how to find the trailheads, fee stations and other information are included in the map. As trail sections of the gorge open, the map will be updated. Carolyn Wood suggested that newspapers in the gorge be sent the maps to help with information dissemination.

VISITOR CONTACT STATION is being advertised with a bid opening scheduled on May 27.

A letter has been sent to Jurgen Hess concerning disagreements over paint colors chosen for the exterior of the Visitor Contact Station. He favors dark, muted tones. The AC believes that because the natural landscape east of Hood River is much lighter in tone than the landscape near Cascade Locks, lighter paint tones are appropriate for the Visitor Contact Station. Jurgen has responded and a meeting is scheduled for June 24. Jack and James asked to be involved. Jerry Igo agreed with Jurgen Hess on the color, because the Gorge Commission has requested that private owners must use dark colors on their homes and that rule should apply to all. Julie stated that the idea is for everything to blend in. Diane suggested contacting Home Town Paint in Hood River. They have helped homeowners select paint colors that meet the visual subordination test. They have

produced mock-ups of buildings to show how they can blend in with the surrounding area. Kevin suggested looking at the Gorge Discovery Center to compare coloring.

The Hood River-Mosier (Roads) advance plans are out with a deadline for comments by May 7. A bid opening of June 24 is planned. The guardrails, timber lining and masonry guardrail walls will be done by December of 1999. Paving will occur next summer.

State Parks expects to close on the Young property in about a month. The parking lot will not open until two years after acquisition. This will give Young time to find and move to a new location.

DEDICATORY EVENTS:

Jeanette met with Gay Jervey, Jack Wiles, Julie Curtis, Friends of Multnomah Falls and Forest Service to discuss the event. Jeffery Plummer and Janice Newton are on a sub-committee with Julie to plan activities and to decide on the goals they want to achieve for the event. An October time frame has been selected for the event. Jack stated that it is a very ambitious goal and perhaps various agencies and staff might volunteer to obtain the goals. Julie has sent out the RFP and asked for proposals to be back by June 8. Julie stated that \$12,000 has been committed; additional funds will need to be solicited by the event planner. She would like to have the event planner on board by the end of June. The Tourism Commission is a bit more flexible with their budget than other state agencies. In addition, the new biennium begins in July and more funding could be available then.

Kevin Bracy suggested a weekend date, because, if there is still ongoing work, the crews will be gone. The Dalles Day is scheduled for October 16 as well as the Hood River Harvest Festival. Janice suggested that we coordinate with other cities by sending out notices. Gay Jervey stated that Mosier would have celebrations planned on the weekend of the event. The Mosier tunnel walks are very popular. Gay also introduced Jan Leininger from Mosier who is interested in participating. Carolyn added that if we were just inviting the media, then the weekday would be okay, but if we want the public to attend, then we should make it a weekend event.

Julie suggested that we might entertain the idea of having two separate events, one for the media and one for the public.

Jeanette asked for volunteers to help in the planning the details. Julie Curtis, Jeffery Plummer and Gay Jervey all volunteered to help.

PGE/UNDERGROUND UTILITIES, DABNEY TO SPRINGDALE

Hassan Aman, PGE, requested HCRH AC recommendations on a proposal to underground electrical lines between Dabney State Park and Bell Road in Springdale. (See attached information). Underground lines will provide better service, since weather related outages will be eliminated.

This project will require vaults along the HCRH, spaced about every 600 feet. Mr. Aman discussed two vault types. The fiberglass vaults would extend above the ground and require bollards to prevent vehicles from hitting them, as described in the attachment. Mr. Aman also proposed concrete vaults that would be nearly flush with the ground. At this time cable TV lines are on the poles; PGE would normally turn over ownership of the poles to the remaining users. The Cable TV Company was asked if they wanted to join PGE when the conduit was installed, but they declined.

The HCRH AC unanimously recommended ODOT approval of the concrete vault. If the concrete vault will not work, the AC asked that Mr. Aman return to the next meeting to discuss colors for the fiberglass vaults. The AC strongly recommended removal of the poles.

PROJECT UPDATES:

HOOD RIVER TO MOSIER

Jeanette reported that the ODOT project development team will review preliminary plans for the "Roads" portion of the work this week.

MOFFETT TO TANNER CREEK – UNITS 1 & 2

Unit 1: Additional work on the geo-web wall has caused a cost overrun on this project. The plants have been purchased, but not put in the ground. The railing has also been purchased, but not installed. Money will be borrowed from the Unit 2 project. The plantings and railing should be completed by the end of May.

Unit 2: This unit is in the design stages and bids will open in November. The ODOT team will investigate options to keep the petrified stump visible. The area around the gate needs to be changed because people are driving around the gate. There will be a meeting to discuss options the end of May.

Kevin Bracy complimented Jeanette on the hard work she does trying to get financing for projects along the HCRH.

Bill Pattison asked about the temporary black fencing west of Tanner Creek, north of I-84. The contractor placed the fencing there as part of a preventive safety measure for Unit 1. It will be replaced with permanent fencing as part of Unit 2.

Diane McClay praised the efforts of SOLV in their cleanup of the area. They removed all kinds of large debris, including engine parts. Ken Dennis led in this effort.

EAGLE CREEK - CASCADE LOCKS

The contractor is working on the last details. Paving is done through the tunnel. FHWA has not set a date for the final inspection or a grand opening. Diane stated that most of the major elements will be done by May 22, 1999, small clean up will need to be done. The old right of way fence will be removed. Gary Wrightman is doing a visitor count.

Jack Wiles reported seeing a article written by Jackie Scott in The Oregonian dated April 30 mentioning the project and other interesting places to visit in the Gorge.

Sam Wilkins stated that in some slide areas the soil is just like soup when it gives way. Would aggressive planting help eliminate slides in the area? Diane stated that it might help some areas but not all.

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

Robert Hadlow has had no news from the committee. The committee did not have a spring meeting and the next meeting is not scheduled until fall. Robert stated that he is still unsure of how much of the HCRH will be included in the nomination.

TOOTHROCK TUNNEL LIGHTING

A contractor is on board and will start work in July. Cascade Locks Power has installed the underground conduit. The contract for the project states that one lane of traffic will remain open while construction is being done, no work from Friday afternoon through Sunday night and holidays. The tunnel will be cleaned and painted.

Jeffery asked about moving the plaques inside the tunnel. (There is one placed on each end of the tunnel).

STARVATION CREEK TO VIENTO

Funds are now obligated for Preliminary Engineering on this project. Jeanette will work on getting a design team.

ANGEL'S REST TRAILHEAD

The Forest Service is working on the plans and field review for later this month for Angel's Rest Trailhead and overflow parking.

HCRH INTERPRETIVE SITES AND SIGNS

Project development will begin this summer. The RFP proposal for the interpretive brochure will be going out over the Internet. The deadline is May 10.

ACTIVITY STATUS REPORTS:

ODOT

Sam Wilkins received information that on June 6 a Columbia River Gorge Marathon has been planned, but no permits have been requested. Red Lizard (Scott Miller) is the organizer for the marathon. He plans to use the HCRH and Mayer State Park. Other events are planned for the same day. A bike race from the Discovery Center has a permit. Sam had spoken to Kevin Price, OPRD; and he was not informed of the event and is writing the sponsors informing them that they have no permits and are liable.

WSDOT has informed ODOT that they will be closing the Biggs Rapid Bridge across the Columbia River for 28 days to re-deck the bridge. Businesses at Biggs and Goldendale are concerned and have requested that the work be done instead during their slow times in March and April. The closest river crossings are at The Dalles and at Umatilla. Another meeting is being planned in about 2 ½ - 3 weeks concerning this problem.

District 9 will construct the ADA (handicapped) parking at the Mosier end of the HCRH State Trail. The paving will be done by the end of the month.

Dan Boldt of Wasco County has found a possible alternative for the "shooting range pit". Wasco County has a pit northwest of The Dalles on Seven Mile Hill. They will put up berms for the rifle range. Contact is Dotty DeVaney.

OPRD

Jack Wiles requested participation of the Advisory Committee in a kickoff brainstorming session for the Visitor Contact Station Interpretive Plan. This plan will include inside and outside the building. The plan will be sent to the HCRH AC for review.

Dave Wright expected to close this month on the Young property.

James Hamrick described the current status of the OPRD budget. The current bill sequesters \$114 Million for distribution by the Emergency Board after additional details on the projects is provided. The Attorney General's office questions the constitutionality of this. The budget was passed out of the Senate on a partyline vote. The Governor has said that he will not veto this bill.

USDA- FOREST SERVICE

Tom Turck reported that the Eagle Creek Campground Suspension Bridge will be replaced soon "in kind" (same design as the original).

Temporary handicap ramps will be used at Multnomah Falls until permanent ones can be built.

The barn west of Rowena at Tom McCall overlook had a feature article in The Oregonian. Jack asked if the barn was used for anything. Tom stated that the Forest Service has ownership and they have screened and locked the area. They may decide later to park a fire truck inside.

The sewer project at Multnomah Falls should be completed by late August according to Tom Massey, US Forest Service.

Jack Wiles asked Tom Turck about the plans for the trailhead at Tanner Creek. Are they going to build in the flood plain, create a new trailhead or encourage people to use the Toothrock Trailhead? A formal review will be held to make that determination. Tom will check into the matter.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS:

Jeanette has received a large number of development reviews this month, twelve from Wasco County alone. Most are not on the HCRH. Jeanette sent the four reviews that affect the highway to Bill, Janice, Carolyn and John for comments. One review will need a permit response from ODOT. Two requests are for a sign variance in Cascade Locks. There are no regulations for on-premise signs. ODOT has suggested that since the signs will be located on the HCRH that vintage signs be considered.

MEMBERS ISSUES:

Carolyn Wood announced that on May 21 the Discovery Center is hosting a Rodeo and Tumbleweed Ball with music by Jef Scott. May 22 will be Family Day.

James Hamrick asked about the HCRH AC nomination for the Columbia River History's Center James B. Castles Award (included in the package of information circulated to the AC). Washington State University, Portland State University and the Washington State Historical Society sponsor the Center for Columbia River History. Committee's, organizations and individuals can be nominated for the award. Winners receive \$1,000.

John Lundell received a call from Nancy Russell regarding displays of plaques and commemorative medallions. Nancy would like to see some type of policy written up regarding the display of these items. Julie stated that recognition is nice and we should find an answer to this question for future recognition. The Forest Service and OPRD do not have a policy either. Bill suggested that we not forget this question and possibly form a committee to draft a policy at a later time. Carolyn suggested that the AC do some research before the next meeting on this item.

John also reported that the "Fish" Screen on the Chenoweth Interchange, over I-84, in The Dalles, will be dedicated May 7 at 10:30. John also wanted to thank Kevin Price and OPRD for the Wyeth clean up.

John asked for an update on the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs casino proposals. Jeanette stated that The Oregonian reported that Governor Kitzhaber is opposed to using any newly purchased property for a casino. Cascade Locks is still interested in having a casino on Government Rock, but the tribes will need the Governor's approval. Bill Pattison said that he had heard from Hood River County that use of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Land near the West Trailhead is not "dead" as a potential casino location.

Julie reported that there would be a tour of the Gorge on June 7 as part of the Oregon Heritage Conference, at the Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles. She invited everyone to attend.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:
Thursday, July 1, 1999
Mosier Terrace Senior Center & Field Review

Attachment:
PGE memo

winword:Min99May