

**Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee Meeting  
MINUTES  
December 9, 2014  
Hood River County Commission Chambers  
Hood River, OR**

<b>Members Attending:</b>	Wayne Stewart Bill Pattison Marc Berry Ernie Drapela Judy Davis Barbara Briggs Kristin Dahl (Travel Oregon)
<b>HCRH AC Staff:</b>	Kristen Stallman Sandra Koike
<b>Others Attending:</b>	Mark Stevenson (OPRD) Steve Kruger (OPRD) Susan Hanson (ODOT) Vicki Seymour Francie Royce Stan Hinatsu (USFS) Christine Plourde (USFS) Jeanette Kloos (FHCRH) Gary Brannan (FHCRH) Dave Skilton (FHCRH) Richard Alfieri Brad DeHart (ODOT) Bonnie Clark Aaron Litt Michael Friend (King of Roads) John Hardham (King of Roads) Scott Cook Jessica Horning (ODOT) Pam Johnson (ODOT) Bob Hadlow (ODOT) George Fekaris (FHWA)

**Call to Order:**

Wayne Stewart called the December 2014 Advisory Committee meeting to order with seven Advisory Committee members present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The following changes were requested to be made to the September 2014 meeting minutes:

- Page 11 – Add Women’s Forum to the end of line....

**Opportunity for Public Comment:**

No Comments.

**New Advisory Committee Member Updates:**

- We haven't heard from the Governor regarding Marc Berry's replacement. We should be hearing soon. A framed certificate of appreciation was presented to Marc Berry.
- Kristin Dahl, Director of Destination Development with Travel Oregon will be replacing Scott West.

ODOT Region 1 has a new manager. Rian Winshiemer recently replaced Jason Tell.

**King of Roads Premier:**

Michael Friend and John Hardham of Laughing Deva Productions showed the preview of their King of Roads video. A feature length film will be created in time for the 2016 Historic Highway 100 year anniversary celebration. Currently, the team is fundraising \$100,000 to produce the film. This preview is available for viewing on the Friends of the Historic Highway website, on YouTube, and Vimeo.

**Friends of the Historic Columbia River Highway – Scenic Bikeway Proposal:**

Historic Highway Advisory Committee motioned to write a letter of support for the OPRD Scenic Bikeway designation of the Historic Highway from Troutdale to Cascade Locks. The advantages of having the Scenic Bikeway designation are publicity/promotion of the trail and Travel Oregon will work with local communities and businesses along the route.

**Video Project Overview:**

Kristen Stallman is working on creating a series of short, 1.5 - 2 minute videos as part of the public involvement plan to explain the designs of the new sections of the Historic Highway State Trail. These videos will be available (around June 2015) for viewing on a new and improved website. The video topics include: 1) Historic Highway Trail Overview, 2) Wyeth to Lindsey Creek, 3) Lindsey Creek to Starvation Creek, 4) Starvation Creek to Hood River, 5) Mitchell Point Tunnel, and 6) Values of the Historic Highway State Trail to the local communities.

**Gorge Hub Update:**

The Gorge Hub design workshop with the eastside communities of The Dalles, Mosier, and Hood River on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> had a great turnout and input from various stakeholders and members of the community. The westside workshop for Wood Village, Troutdale, and Cascade Locks was held on Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. The next steps are for the consultant to create conceptual drawings with the input from the communities. These drawings will be reviewed by the Historic Highway Advisory committee and the Gorge Hub Working Group before being finalized. Once the drawings are complete, the drawings will be included a Gorge Hub Design Toolkit document that the cities can use to gather funding to build the hubs. A parallel project underway is the Gorge Hub logo and map style guide that will be created by Michael Reed.

#### **Year End Review:**

Wayne Stewart and Kristen Stallman provided a slideshow presentation that highlighted all the accomplishments of this past year.

#### **Active Transportation Needs Inventory:**

Jessica Horning, ODOT's active transportation coordinator is developing an Active Transportation Needs Inventory to assess gaps in the existing system and strategically identify future projects that provide the greatest benefits for all users. The geographical area for this pilot project is ODOT Region 1 which includes Washington County, Multnomah County, Clackamas County, and Hood River County. At this time, Jessica is looking for representation from Hood River on the Technical and Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

#### **Agency Updates:**

- Friends of the Historic Highway - Jeanette provided a number of recent and future activities (see FHCRH handout).
- ODOT Maintenance – Hood River looks rail painting project with a price tag of \$5,000 is a priority project. This may be something that the Friends of the Historic Highway may want to fund
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept. (West End = from Cascade Locks to the west)
  - Mark Stevenson shared that the Lewis and Clark State Park's new trail that connects to the Historic Highway has 96% complete plans. The trail had to go under the railroad which meant being constructed below the normal high water mark. The trail will be constructed to handle the water. The trail will be complete in 1.5 weeks.
  - Dorothy Brown Weber an interpretive ranger from Silver Falls State Park and is now working in the Gorge. She is very knowledgeable and a great resource.

- Regarding the Scenic Bikeway designation for the Historic Highway, there are concerns regarding competing signage and with bikes on the roadway. Cars are not comfortable with bikes on the roadway.
- Registration for campgrounds online is moving forward.
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept. (East End = from Cascade Locks to the east)
  - Steve Kruger explained that the only staff on the east end are 3 rangers and himself.
  - Rock falls near tunnels have been mostly cleared and more work remains finish clearing.
  - Major graffiti on interpretive panels were found at Rowena Crest. OPRD will be replacing the panels.
- Travel Oregon – Kristin Dahl shared that the last of the 7 Wonders campaign is underway. Kristin would like to explain the 7 Wonders Campaign in more detail at the next Historic Highway Advisory Committee meeting.
- Judy Davis informed the group that the Gorge Commission meeting is on the second Tuesday of the month, so future Historic Highway Advisory Committee meetings should avoid this date.
- US Forest Service
  - Christine Plourde discussed the trail washout along the Historic Highway State Trail at Triple Falls (Oneonta).
  - BPA will be replacing transmission lines between Bonneville Dam and Cascade Locks. Forest Service will be reviewing the plans.
  - The old Rotary wheel fountain will be reinstalled at Wahkeena Falls.
- Federal Highway Administration
  - George Fekaris shared that the Federal Lands Access program will be inviting folks to submit requests for funding. This opportunity includes both construction and planning projects. This application cycle will be for construction projects for 2017, 2018, and 2019. Planning projects may happen sooner than these dates.
  - Congressional action approved MAP 21 funding to be extended through May 30<sup>th</sup> 2015.

**Committee Round Table:**

- Ernie requested a viewshed management update from OPRD. The viewsheds are being maintained each year to keep vegetation growth at a manageable height. The budget for vegetation management is \$15,000.
- Bill Pattison reminded the group to keep Bob Hadlow's presentation in mind for those Advisory Committee members who are receiving requests for presentations. Bill also requested more field trips given there are new faces on the committee. It would be a good idea to bring along guests on the tour who can educate the committee about the Historic Highway.

**Planning the Next Meeting Date:**

The committee agreed to meet again on Tuesday, March 24th in Troutdale.