

Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee

April 18, 2000

**Best Western-Columbia River Inn
Cascade Locks, Oregon**

Members Present: Julie Curtis, John Lundell, Janice Newton, Bill Pattison, Jeffrey Plummer, Kay Van Sickel, Jack Wiles and Carolyn Wood.

Staff Present: Jeanette Kloos, Robert Hadlow, Kevin Bracy, Cherie Garvin-Jameison, Scott Liesinger, and Charlie Sciscione.

Public Present: Susan Jurasz and Peter Reedijk, Sea Reach Ltd.; Diana Ross, USDA Forest Service; Bill Campeau, Hood River News; Jerry Igo, Native Plant Society; Nancy N. Russell, Friends of the Columbia Gorge; Dawn Benson, Cascade Locks Tourism Commission; Marie Miller and Laurence Cotton, Friends of Vista House.

Field Trip 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Participants viewed Shepperd's Dell Bridge, Bridal Veil Junction (Angel's Rest Trailhead construction), Oneonta Bridge, and Moffett Creek to Tanner Creek.

Bill Pattison called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Minutes were approved as written.

HCRH CELEBRATION - CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jack Wiles reported that the Hood River to Mosier Dedication Ceremony will be Sunday morning, July 23 at 11:00 AM. Safeway Stores has donated \$100,000 to be the presenting sponsor for the celebration. A lot of interest should probably be seen once the media packets go out (the expected date is May 8th). The Celebration Advisory Committee met last week and will meet again May 17.

Jeanette Kloos discussed some of the ideas proposed by the various communities. For example, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are considering several ideas, including the possibility of a salmon bake.

Julie Curtis commented that the Metropolitan Group efforts and the Safeway sponsorship will bring tremendous community coverage. Julie discussed the Metropolitan Group fact sheet (attached). Julie said that the Celebration Advisory Committee will probably have information

regarding the postcards next month. She said that \$1.00 out of every \$5.00 of the postcard sales will go to an education program. This allows citizens to "buy into" (express support for) the HCRH program and funding future projects. Their names will be on a display board, and a portion of the money they donate will go into the education fund. Julie Curtis commented on the parade and the formal ceremony.

Discussion ensued regarding the parade of antique cars. The parade of antique cars on July 22 will be limited to about 100 cars. The parade will start at Troutdale and end at the Gorge Discovery Center.

TIME CAPSULE

Jack Wiles reported that Metropolitan Group will be doing the community outreach to request items for the time capsule.

Jack asked the HCRH AC whether they wanted to put materials from the celebration into the time capsule, but do a ceremonial burial on July 23 and then (1) put the materials into a visible time capsule, or (2) bury the time capsule.

Carolyn Wood said that a time capsule she saw in Astoria is buried, but there's a nearby notice with information on the time capsule and where it is buried.

The HCRH time capsule is planned to be opened in 50 years.

Jack Wiles proposed that the time capsule have a 10-inch diameter; the length is to be determined by the committee according to need.

Jerry Igo suggested that if the time capsule is opened in 50 years, it wouldn't be appropriate to insert a videotape. Carolyn Wood recommended putting in a newspaper with Celebration information, as well as ads and other items of life now that would be of interest 50 years from now. Jack Wiles said that some continuity is a good idea.

MOFFETT - TANNER CREEK, UNIT 2

Susan Jurasz and Peter Reedijk from Sea Reach Ltd. showed a design of one station of the interpretive information planned for the Visitor Contact Station (to be renamed). There will be four stations, each showing a different time period of the Mosier Twin Tunnels. The design demonstrated was of 1912-1920. Peter discussed the materials making up the composition of the four stations-using a variety of colors and color combinations, woods, and including black metal handrails to match the building hardware. The etched glass has pastel colors applied which glow faintly when the sun's rays shine through it. The goal is to layer the information so that as people enter the building they will be guided by the designs into more and more layers.

Susan said that she reviewed the Moffett-Tanner Creek Unit 2 interpretive panel packets that very day.

Nancy Russell recommended that the role of the USDA Forest Service be included in greater detail than in the preliminary information, in recognition of its other work on behalf of the Hood River to Mosier project, including the acquisition of the East Pit and Bryant Assemblage and restoration of the East Pit.

Nancy Russell said that Craig Collins has videotape describing the HCRH in 1980. This was prepared during the campaign to create the National Scenic Area. This could provide useful "before" footage for the future video about the Hood River to Mosier project.

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY PROPOSAL CHART

Jeanette Kloos distributed copies of the chart of proposed National Scenic Byway projects that was prioritized at the last meeting (attached). Regarding #1 (Implement Visitor Contact Station Interpretive Plan) and #2 (Interpretive sites and signs for Hood River, Cascade Locks and Mosier [mitigation for widening projects]): these projects are located within Hood River County. Since the Hood River County resolution prohibits byways within the county, the HCRH within Hood River County was not included in the designation. Construction projects must be immediately adjacent to the designated byway. Therefore, the first two priorities are not eligible for National Scenic Byway funds at this time. The Columbia River Gorge Visitors Association wants to submit a proposal.

The USDA Forest Service is working on #3: (Additional scenic enhancements--from the Corridor Visual Inventory). We do expect to submit that one. Diana Ross stated that Art Carroll, USFS, is willing to provide a match for implementing additional proposals from the Corridor Visual inventory.

May 1st is the deadline for turning in National Scenic Byway grant proposals.

From the list, the HCRH AC decided to prioritize the Corridor Visual Inventory implementation as #1 and Marketing #2. It added the Rowena Overlook fence and Rowena Pit restoration project to the proposals as #3, if there is an OPRD match.

#5 (Millennium Trail Art Bus) is not ready this year.

Jerry Igo suggested using a post fence on the Rowena Overlook fence project instead of the cyclone fence presently there.

BRIDGES: SHEPPERD'S DELL, ONEONTA

Shepperd's Dell:

Scott Liesinger of ODOT reported that ODOT performed a load test, and is moving ahead to strengthen the crossbeams. The Memorial Day date of completion may not be possible due to a stalled contract. ODOT might amend the contract so the strengthening work would be done before Memorial Day weekend (and the load restriction lifted), and remove the equipment and signs after that weekend.

Oneonta:

Scott said ODOT is proceeding with temporary closure using three bollards at each end of the bridge. This measure is temporary until ODOT can secure funding to do the work on the bridge.

The plan for Shepperd's Dell and Oneonta Bridges is to bring them up to standard so standard weight trucks can use them. Strengthening to a lesser load limit would require removing the bridges from the Federal list of bridges, which eliminates their eligibility for Federal (HBR) funding. The cost difference between strengthening to legal load limits and something less would be negligible. Therefore, ODOT will proceed with strengthening to allow legal load limits even though semi-tractor trailers are not allowed on this part of the HCRH.

It is planned to strengthen the Shepperd's Dell (and Oneonta, if funding can be obtained) Bridge by wrapping each cross beam with fiber-reinforced polymer (similar to fiberglass) and then putting a finish on the cross beams so they match the existing surface. This will maintain their historic integrity.

Scott gave the HCRH AC a "heads up" that the asphalt thickness on the West Multnomah Falls Viaduct may be too heavy and require a load limit. Removing the asphalt by grinding is a relatively easy "fix" to this situation.

PROJECT UPDATES

HOOD RIVER - MOSIER

Phase 2

Kevin Bracy reported that JAL Construction has nearly completed placing pea gravel on the structure.

June 6th is the completion date for sand blasting, fence and gate installation, portal repair, and cleaning the Catchment Structure.

Parks

JP Construction has completed the majority of the earthwork. The work to install the utilities will continue through April.

Jerry Igo said that the grass needs to be local, native seed, not from the Willamette Valley. Kevin Bracy agreed that the grass needs to be local, native grass seed, and that where it comes from is a pending issue.

Roads

Kevin reported it is necessary to ensure that the paving equipment doesn't bother the bald eagle or peregrine falcon. Monitoring has indicated that the trucks delivering the pea gravel did not disturb them. So, it is possible that all of the paving could be completed in June, if this issue is resolved.

Hood River to Mosier "Visitor Contact Station"

The building is nearly completed. The punchlist review is scheduled for April 19th.

Julie Curtis made a formal request of the HCRH AC to change the name from "Visitor Contact Station" to something else. She said that she will come up with some names.

Funding Priorities

Kevin Bracy said that this Thursday (April 20th), he and Jeanette Kloos will attend a meeting regarding priorities for leftover monies and activities.

Discussion centered on the following priorities:

- Construct Overlook Ellipse, designed by Bibi Gaston, east of Mosier Twin Tunnels (\$75,000).
- Build elements of the parking lot in the Hanel Quarry area:
- Caretaker's Pad - \$5,000. The caretaker would provide the mobile home. State Parks would provide utilities.
- Asphalt, base rock, curbs, and drainage - \$150,000+.
- Prefabricated Restroom - \$40,000(?) This would be an additional restroom facility, as restrooms are to be available within the Visitors' Station.

Nancy Russell suggested a fence to screen the view of the Caretaker's Pad.

After discussion, the HCRH AC moved and approved the following prioritization:

Priority 1: Construct the Caretaker's Pad (\$5,000) with a visual screen.

Priority 2: Construct Overlook Ellipse east of Mosier Twin Tunnels (\$75,000).

Priority 3: Implementing the Interpretive Plan for the building.

Remainder: Leave the asphalt, base rock, curbs, drainage (\$150,000+) and prefabricated restroom (\$40,000) for another project with funding from a later source.

Jerry Igo recommended taking out the mesh on the rail fence at the Overlook Ellipse and adding another (third) rail.

MOFFETT CREEK - TANNER CREEK, UNIT 2

Jeanette Kloos reported that interpretive signs are approved to go to the manufacturer.

There has been a long-standing discussion with the adjacent property owner at Ruthton Point. ODOT's Right of Way people confirmed that it was never abandoned. ODOT's District 2C office recommended that, while this is still an issue, the contractor should not go in and remove the gate and signs placed there by the adjacent property owner.

HCRH AC moved and approved that they follow the District 2C recommendation that the signs will be stored in a safe place until the issue of ownership is resolved and the trail connection project begins.

The Rooster Rock interpretive sign will be stored until the restroom is constructed.

STARVATION CREEK TO VIENTO

Jeanette Kloos said that she has nothing to report at this time until the resource reports are received.

HCRH INTERPRETIVE SITES AND SIGNS

Jeanette Kloos said that she has received a cost estimate. They are working towards getting a contract for project development within the next couple of months.

MILLENNIUM TRAILS ART PROJECT

Jeanette Kloos said that funds need to be matched one-to-one (see attached memo). The project must be developed with a cultural agency (such as the Dalles Art Center, Columbia River Arts Association, etc.). Federal funds can be used to match this. (An attendee commented that match can be in-kind also.) She will start contacting art agencies.

Jeanette said that the Millennium Trails sign should arrive within the next three weeks. Also, the HCRH AC should be getting 100 free lapel pins

and 100 brochures. Additional pins will cost \$1.00 each; the HCRH AC decided not to order additional pins at this time.

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

Robert Hadlow reported that the National Park System's Landmarks Committee met last month in Washington, D.C. It reviewed our National Historic Landmark nomination for portions of the HCRH. It also reviewed 18 other nominations on properties from throughout the country. The Committee gave an enthusiastic and unanimous recommendation that the HCRH be granted NHL status. Next our nomination went to the National Park System Advisory Board for approval. It is hoped that the Advisory Board will send the nomination to Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt for his signature. This will take from a few weeks to a few months. Robert also reported that the recent Preserving Historic Road in America Conference, in Morristown, NJ, went well and had very good attendance. In part because of ODOT's work on the NHL nomination for the HCRH, the National Park Service's NHL program hopes to begin developing a national context study for historic roads from around the country, with the hope of determining which of those also possess national significance.

PLAQUE INVENTORY/PLAQUE POLICY

Robert Hadlow reported that he and Matthew Larsen, an ODOT intern, used a resource grade GPS receiver to inventory plaques. In addition to determining latitude and longitude coordinates for each plaque location, they created a database listing type, name, size, orientation, and condition for each plaque. This information will help Robert draft a plaque policy for the HCRH.

2001 NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY CONFERENCE

Jeanette Kloos reported that the 2001 National Scenic Byway Conference will be held in August at the Portland Hilton. The conference will start in Bend then move on to Portland. There will be a full day of tours of the HCRH and the Columbia River Gorge on Tuesday, each tour bus featuring a different topic from the others. The NSB Resource Center is doing most of the planning. The US Fish and Wildlife is volunteering their people to do the graphics. It is expected there will be 400 people at the conference.

WARRENDALE TO MOFFETT CREEK

Jeanette Kloos reported that planning is in the early stages, and she is getting cost estimates. It will probably be several months before the HCRH AC has designs to look at. During the field review a HCRH stone culvert was found at an unnamed creek between McCord Creek and Moffett Creek. "Metasequoia Creek," has been proposed as the name for the stream, because they found metasequoia trees there.

ACTIVITY STATUS REPORTS

ODOT-Charlie Sciscione reported the following:

- Multnomah Channel is going to be dredged to a lower water level.

- Oneonta: Bollards will be put in next month.
- The guardrail at the Larch Mountain slide will be raised.
- There are still trees down from the winter. They will get prison crews this summer to work on the site. There has been some concrete gutter repair.
- Bridal Veil Bridge asphalt was removed to lighten the dead load.
- Multnomah Falls West Viaduct may also have too much A/C-may have to grind that too. Grinding is cheap-roughly \$1.00 per square foot.
- Future catchment structure maintenance will be a partnership between ODOT (Charlie Sciscione) and OPRD (Jack Wiles).
- Jerry Igo asked if ODOT could help control weeds and Charlie responded that it was possible.

OPRD

Jack Wiles reported that they are getting ready to renovate Vista House. Construction will start summer of 2001. They may have temporary structures on site for Friends of the Vista House. It would take all of the summer to complete the construction. The total cost will be about \$700,000 [\$465,000 TEA-21 Enhancement funds plus matching funds]. Jack introduced Larry Cotton, the new Executive Director of Friends of Vista House.

USDA - Forest Service

Diana Ross reported that the sewage at the Eagle Creek Overlook campground is going to be redone. There will be a tree planting party next weekend at Sandy River Delta. Angels Rest Trailhead is under construction. Jeanette asked Diana to find out when it is scheduled for completion.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

No HCRH issues on development reviews received since the last meeting.

MEMBERS ISSUES

Jeanette Kloos said that she invited Cycle Oregon to this HCRH AC meeting, but they were unable to attend. She will invite them to the next HCRH AC meeting.

The Columbia Classic (the moonlight run-and-walk) will be held in July. The shuttle buses will be done differently this year. It was suggested that they also be invited to the next meeting to describe the proposal. Also,

Gorge Games should be invited if they plan to use any part of the HCRH.

Jeffrey Plummer related an issue raised by two cyclists he spoke with. Cyclists heading eastbound at Eagle Creek lose visual contact with the route. He suggested painting markings on the road. In addition, the cyclists disliked taking their heavy Schwinn bikes up and down the stairs.

Charlie Sciscione was aware of the problems. He has contacted Darlene Maddux, ODOT's Region 1 bikeways representative. Darlene told Charlie that she will investigate and make recommendations on the stairway.

Charlie said that when ODOT traffic investigators looked at the area, they put together a plan to add a white wooden historic rail, signs, and a bike lane. They plan to do this work the work during this spring or summer.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

Thursday, June 1, 2000

Meeting at 10:00 - Senator Mark O. Hatfield West Trail Head building