

MINUTES

Historic Columbia River Highway
Advisory Committee
April 24, 1995
Region 1 Office, 123 NW Flanders
Location Conference Room - Second Floor

Members Present: Richard Blaine, Dave Jensen, John Lundell, Lewis L. McArthur, Jack Wiles, Sharon Timko, Julie Curtis and Carolyn Wood.

Staff Present: Jeanette Kloos, Dwight Smith, Nancy Reed, Dale Deatherage, and Gail Smith.

Public Present: Brian Litt, Columbia River Gorge Commission; Dave Sell, US Forest Service; Richard Ross and Jack Mills, Historic Preservation League of Oregon; Nancy Russell, Friends of the Columbia Gorge; Mike Hickey, David Evans and Associates; Bus Gibson, and Jeff Plummer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Due to the lost sign in sheet at the last meeting, the following corrections of names have been made by John Lundell. ? Broer, Fred Fahrni, Don Wisner, and Delbert Doane. The minutes were approved as corrected.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Ross expressed his appreciation and concern for the Hood River to Mosier project. Richard sent a letter of thanks to Senator Mark Hatfield stating that we need to continue to restore the HCRH for pedestrian and bicycle purposes as proposed in the 1986 Scenic Act. The project is not completely unique as there are many such trail projects across the country. Richard brought a book "Trails for 21st Century" and shared some brochures on Snoqualmie Pass, Pan Pan Tunnel and the Boilston Tunnel near Kinnastoc that also have rockfall problems and are similar to the Twin Tunnels project.

Jeanette, did not confirm spelling...

Lewis McArthur will be in Washington, D.C. next week to visit with Senator Mark Hatfield's staff. Jeanette reported that Mark VanWater (Hatfield's staff for Appropriations) went on a tour just recently of the HCRH and was quite impressed with what has been done and plans for the future.

OVERVIEW OF CONNECTION PROJECTS

Jeanette displayed the maps from the 1987 study showing the HCRH connections, the progress that has been made and the work that remains to be done. The Highway from the Sandy River to Frontage Road at John Yeon Park is open to the motor vehicle traffic. The portion from Warrendale to Moffett Creek Bridge is partially funded by ISTEA with construction scheduled for 1997. Tanner Creek to Moffett Creek is fully funded and will go to construction in 1997. The restoration work from Tanner Creek to Eagle Creek is going well, with a bid opening for the remaining construction scheduled for July. Eagle Creek to Cascade Locks, an FHWA project

will have a 1997 construction year. Cascade Locks to Wyeth has been paved by Hood River County. There are major, future projects between Wyeth and Starvation Creek. Starvation Creek to Viento Park is a second priority that needs grading and paving and to provide wheelchair access. Viento Park to Mitchell Point and on to Hood River are a lower priority and need more discussion and development. Richard Ross asked if the HAER team might be able to study the situation. The HAER team will document features but no provide preliminary engineering services.

The Highway is open through Hood River up to the gate. Bid opening for work on the highway from Mosier to the Twin Tunnels opens April 27. The property at Mosier has been acquired or there is a permit of entry. Request for consultants are out and should be back by May 1, 1995 for the catchment design.

The HCRH from Mosier to The Dalles is open to motor vehicle traffic. The project to replace the guardrail from Mosier to Chenoweth and Larch Mountain to Dodson is scheduled to go to bid in May. Overlay work will be done from Troutdale to Latourell Falls with bid opening schedule for May 11, 1995.

Bus Gibson asked if there will be a new bridge at Mitchell Point as suggested in the 1987 study. The 1987 study suggested a hiking trail over the "saddle". Now the legislative has given us direction that it should be a bicycle facility. No design work has been done on this section.

HOOD RIVER TO MOSIER CONNECTION PROJECT

PHASE 1

Julie Curtis asked about the bid process. Lewis stated that the bid process is all very strictly controlled by regulations and no outside intervention allowed. The lowest bid is taken, but the bidder must conform to all requirements. All companies are bonded and have proper credentials.

Bus asked who made the decision whether to accept or not accept the bid if the project goes over budget. The responsibility for this project would be the Region 4 Manager, Dale Allen.

Nancy Russell asked if there was any new information on the rockfall data for the project. The last report was in January. Restoration of the cliffwalk is planned, but, after restoration, it will be closed to public access with fencing. Richard Ross asked if there may be special consideration for public access to the cliffwalk, because it is a special feature and he believes it should be open.

The cliffwalk will need to be evaluated for safety. Dwight suggested systematic data gathering to decide whether it is safe or unsafe. Jack Wiles will check on this.

PHASE 2

A Request for Proposals has been sent to potential consultants and proposals are due back to OPRD by May 1, 1995. The design is scheduled to be completed by September 30, with a construction bid to follow shortly after that.

HCRH FAMILY OF RAILING DESIGNS

Committee members Dwight Smith, James Hamrick, Bob Kaspari, Lewis McArthur, Joe Paiva, Jeanette Kloos and Sam Grossberg have met with the consultant McMath Dortignacq Architects and have three or four designs for each category (attached). They will receive final revised designs on Thursday.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED GORGE COMMISSION PLAN AMENDMENT

Brian Litt, Columbia River Gorge Commission staff, was asked to explain further the proposed amendment to the Management Plan that would reflect provisions in the administrative rules which allow the Executive Director to approve certain developments if denying the use would create a "taking". There have been two incidents in the last two years where this amendment would have been applicable. The Rocky Prairie sub-division was plotted before the NSA Act and the area is a deer and elk winter range. The Department of Fish and Wildlife concluded that the subdivision would adversely effect the range. The Gorge Commission remanded the denial of a house on a 15 acre parcel back to the Executive Director, stating that a house should be allowed. The second situation was a request for a single family home on property zoned large scale agriculture near Mosier. The soil on the parcel was unsuitable for an orchard, the property owner had divided a 50 acre parcel into two 25 acre pieces during the Interim period. Since the Management Plan only allows houses on lots created before the NSA act, technically the proposed house was inconsistent. Again a house was eventually approved. With the new

amendment the Executive Director would review the application, deny the use and then the landowner would appeal and the Gorge Commission would decide if there was no economic use. If so, it would be sent back to the Executive Director with directions to approve a use.

Sharon Timko questioned why one amendment should be looked at ahead of others and felt that the Gorge Commission should wait until general review of the Management Plan next year. This ammendment is to broad ,she thought, and could be misused. Sharon suggested the HCRH make a recommendation not to support the amendment at this time. John Lundell asked if this would be an open door to past decisions. Jack Wiles asked if conditions might change during the update process that would make this amendment unnecessary. Brian clarified that previous determinations that uses were inconsistant would not be affected by this ammendment. Nancy Russell was concerned that the commission was trying to avoid court battles and she felt the courts would be least biased. Since nothing will happen within 90 days, Lewis suggested everyone read very carefully the proposed amendment and the HCRH AC will discuss further at the next meeting.

PROJECT UPDATE

TANNER CREEK TO EAGLE CREEK

During the review of the Advance Plans, the Forest Service told ODOT that the proposed rockfall mitigation mesh at the Eagle Creek exit would probably be determined to be inconsistent with the Management Plan, based on recent experience with similar mesh treatments in Washington. Therefore, the project is in the process of being revised to move the bike and pedestrian path outside of the rockfall zone. This will involve realigning the exit ramp and building a wall between the ramp and the access road along Eagle Creek. This revision and the need to incorporate the HCRH Family of Railing designs will cause the bid opening date to be delayed from May to July.

FOREST HIGHWAY PROJECTS

Dave Sell introduced Mike Hickey, from David Evans & Associates, who is the consultant for the thematic site signs. All agreements have been signed. Washington and Oregon signs will be the same design. Mike handed out examples of the designs (attached). All signs will be the same color and format. The signs are made out of redwood and have a life expectancy of 25-30 years. They will be set with a concrete post with a choice of three mounting styles (flag, single post and double post). The designs will be sent out various agencies for comments and suggestions. It was suggested that SHPO be contacted to clear the locations along the HCRH. Jack asked if the signs would show the various activities provided at each park; no. Jeanette commented that these signs do not replace signs required by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

The paperwork for the vegetation management program is moving. At this there is no progress to report on the parking lot at Yeon or the junction at Bridal Veil. Eagle Creek to Cascade Locks is being developed by FHWA.

OVERLAY PROJECTS - TRAFFIC CONTROL PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM

The mandatory pre-bid meeting for this project is April 25, 1995. Teresa Kasner, Vista House, and Rick Buck, Multnomah Falls are being informed about the traffic control of this project. Sandy River to Larch Mountain will have normal construction traffic controls (one way with pilot cars). Larch Mt. to Alex Barr Road will be closed for one week out of three (last week of July or one of the first two weeks in August). The public will be informed by using 2 or 3 variable signs along the highway. The bus companies need to be alerted, as well as all welcome centers and State tourism offices. The HCRH will be open on week ends and holidays, with no construction occurring then. All work will stop at noon on Fridays. The work should be completed by September.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS

Sharon reported the 35 signs with text are just about completed and will soon be off to ODOT. Dwight Smith, Kevin Price and Jeanette Kloos met and determined that Shepperd's Dell should be eliminated and Vista House needs additional information on potential effects.

I-84 SAFETY REST AREA

Jeanette distributed a newsletter regarding the I-84 rest area study and a summary of comments she has received on the project (summary attached). Almost all of the comments received are in support of a rest area. Wyeth seems to be the best site at this time. The site is north of I-84 and south of the railroad tracks. Nancy Russell asked if the site would become a recreational area on the river side of the railroad. This is the long term plan, as outlined in the Management Plan. There is a Project Steering Committee and a Citizen's Advisory helping to develop this project. There will be a visual resource report prepared once a preliminary site selection has occurred. Jack Wiles was hopeful that Starvation Creek Rest Area may be closed out as a rest area and be used for recreation use. The Starvation Creek rest area has problems with their wastewater treatment because of the current heavy use.

ACTIVITY STATUS REPORTS

HIGHWAY

Jeanette reported the tour recently of HCRH with Mark VanWater. The tour visited Tanner creek to Eagle Creek and the west end of the Mosier Tunnels. Senator Hatfield has stated there will be more money available next year and this means that the two year developmental projects will have to be done in one year in order to receive the money. Jeanette said this can be done.

The Gorge Commission and Forest Service are meeting to discuss the Chenoweth Interchange. Jonathan Doherty also went on the tour with Jeanette and was quite impressed.

The wooden guardrail on the driveable section of the HCRH will be installed in mid May.

District 9 had no report.

PARKS

Jack Wiles has returned to his previous position with State Parks. Richard Walkoski is working on a new computerized campground reservation system, when completed you will be able to use credit cards to make reservations.

Jack reported he is working with Dave sell on the Interpretive and highway signing for the park system.

Jack would like some direction in the maintenance of the area where the sawn is between Vista House and Latoreall. The area seems to be a spot where people like to drive through the grassy area and leave their wheel prints. Jack suggested letting the area grow back to a natural state any order to discourage this.

GORGE COMMISSION

Reported earlier.

FOREST SERVICE

Reported earlier.

FRIENDS OF THE HIGHWAY

No report.

OTHER ISSUES

HAER PROJECT

Jeanette reported that the check has been mailed to get the project underway. The team will be coming May 30, 1995. The team will be doing documentation on the HCRH through mid August.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

A review of a carport on Chamberlain Road and a farm on Pierman were sent in, but neither project would effect the HCRH.

George Lewis, Cascade Locks, will inform the AC if there is any street widening due to the Cascade Locks sewer project. SHPO has sent formal comments on this project and has agreed there is no adverse effect on the HCRH.

A review of the Corbett water line on Smith Road.

Comments need to be sent by Tuesday, April 25, relating to the billboard by the Meredith Motel in Hood River.

MEMBERS ISSUES

Lewis reported that the Senate, when they approved Senate Bill 160 did not include the HCRH in the list of scenic highways for the Forest Practices Act. It was an error that it was not included in the original bill. The AC decided to adopt a resolution stating that the HCRH be designated “scenic” and added to the list of highways in the bill. This resolution will be sent to the Speaker of the House and the Senate. Julie suggested a personal call to the House Committee and the Committee Staff person

Lewis McArthur requested that something be done to take care of Ted Davenport and his request for a driveway.

Jeanette will inform the AC of the April 27th bid results.

Julie Curtis shared the cover of the new 1995 Travel Guide with the committee. The cover is the Punch Bowl on HCRH.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, June 6 at Cascade Locks.