

MINUTES  
Historic Columbia River Highway  
Advisory Committee  
March 2, 2000  
Hood River Expo Center  
Hood River, Oregon

Members Present: James Hamrick, John Lundell, Jeffery Plummer, Kevin Price, Kay Van Sickel, and Carolyn Wood.

Staff Present: Jeanette Kloos, Robert Hadlow, Charlie Sciscione, Gail Smith, Sam Wilkins, Frank Nelson and Scott Liesinger.

Public Present: Diana Ross, USFS; Tim Wood, OPRD; Nancy Niedernhofer, SHPO; Jeanine Howe, CGACC; Nancy Russell, Friends of the Columbia Gorge; and Jerry Igo, Native Plant Society.

*Field trip 10:00 - 12:00  
Participants viewed the West Trailhead Visitor Contact Station, the Hanel Quarry parking area and hillside picnic area and the catchment.*

James Hamrick, acting chair, called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Minutes were approved as written.

James Hamrick introduced Nancy Niedernhofer who is the new National Register coordinator within the State Historic Preservation office.

**HCRH CELEBRATION - SAFEWAY \$100,000 PRESENTING SPONSOR  
CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Julie Curtis, Jack Wiles and Jeanette Kloos met with Metropolitan Group on Tuesday and worked on the budget for the event.

Safeway will be the presenting sponsor and has donated \$100,000 for the celebration. James Hamrick stated that Safeway would be selling postcards for \$5.00 with \$1.00 going to education. Charlie Sciscione noted that no commercial logos can be used on banners over a state highway.

There will be a parade of antique cars from Hood River to The Dalles on July 22 and the Hood River to Mosier grand opening will be celebrated on July 23 with a run/walk/bike event through the Mosier Twin Tunnels.

A Celebration Committee will be organized that will be made up of people from each of the communities involved in the event. This committee will plan other activities that will be part of this event.

Some other events going on are the annual Friends of the Columbia Gorge hiking weekend, Columbia Classic, Gorge Games, and Cycle Oregon. Jeanette Kloos will lead a walking tour from Cascade Locks to Eagle Creek on June 17 and Bill Pattison will lead a bike trip from Hood River to Mosier on June 18, both as part of the FOCG weekend. The Gorge Games are planned to take place in June but it has not been

decided whether they will use the Mosier Twin Tunnels as part of their event. Cycle Oregon will have over 2,000 entries and will be riding on the HCRH from the Gorge Discovery Center to Hood River. The Columbia Classic, a run/walk event, is still planned for July. A Volkswalk is planned sometime after July 23.

### **NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY PRIORITIZATION**

Jeanette asked the AC to help with the prioritization of proposals. A public meeting regarding this topic was held and only 4 people attended. The applications need to be in by May 1 and the grants will be awarded sometime in the fall. The largest grant given last year was \$4,000,000. A 20 percent match is required for each grant.

The AC had previously brainstormed suggestions (see attached chart). The Columbia River Gorge Visitors Association would like to have a full time staff member for Washington and Oregon. Diana Ross, stated that Art Carroll, USFS, is willing to provide a match for implementing additional proposals from the Corridor Visual Inventory. One of these proposals is replacing the chain link fence between the parking area and the UPRR at Multnomah Falls.

The HCRH AC approved the prioritization as noted on the chart. Implementation of the Visitor Contact Station Interpretive Plan is the first priority. The HCRH Interpretive Sites and Signs is the second priority. Implementing additional proposals from the Corridor Visual Inventory is the third priority.

### **BRIDGES: SHEPPARD'S DELL, ONEONTA**

#### **Sheppard's Dell:**

Scott Liesinger passed out the plans for strengthening the crossbeams of Sheppard's Dell Bridge. Each member of the crossbeams are 16" x14" wide. The load ratings are lacking sheer strength. FHWA has requested that the bridge be closed, posted and repaired. The contract plans call to wrap each cross beam with fiber reinforced polymer (similar to fiberglass) and then put a finish on the cross beams so they match the existing surface. Jeffery Plummer asked if the fiber wrap would protect the structure. Scott said that the fiber wrap would probably outlast the concrete. A question was asked about the color changing as it ages and weathers. This will not weather the same as the concrete. Charlie Sciscione stated that Horsetail Bridge is not visible from a trail. While Sheppard's Dell is visible from the trail, the work is underneath, in the shadows and through the spandrel wall. It should not be very noticeable. A load test was done November 22, 1999 and the preliminary results will be available March 7. If this test shows that the bridge can handle more stress than the composite model, the fiber wrap work may not be necessary. But to assure that the weight limit is lifted before this tourist season, work is proceeding on the fiber wrap contract in case the load test shows that the bridge is not adequate.

Scott expects to have the funding, testing and contract ready by the end of the month.

#### **Oneonta:**

Charlie Sciscione, Mark Hirota and Scott talked to FHWA and they said that the 1914 Oneonta Bridge needs to be closed, posted or repaired. A meeting will be held to discuss these options. A barrier may need to be placed to close the bridge. The funding for repairing Oneonta Bridge is not looking promising. Temporary barricades may be needed until funding is found to repair the bridge.

### **HCRH BRIDGE PROGRAM**

Frank Nelson, Salem, ODOT Bridge Preservation Unit, stated that he has developed a program for maintaining and preserving the bridges on the Oregon Coast Highway and has now been asked to work with other historic bridges, including those on the HCRH (see attached). Because of the absence of a salt air environment in the Gorge, the deterioration mechanisms are slower than on the coast. Frank envisions the program to be a multi-step and multi-year process.

Over the next year and a half, Frank would like to set up a 20-year plan to inventory, prioritize needs, and find funding for repairs of the HCRH bridges. Kay Van Sickel and James Hamrick would like to be included in the prioritization of this list. Kay stated that because of the budget cuts we need to prioritize. Under the bridge program, all bridges walls and viaducts would be covered for maintenance, restoration and other needs.

Frank stated that no action would be taken on the HCRH without presenting the plans to the AC.

### **STARVATION CREEK RESTROOMS**

Tim Wood, OPRD, reported that OPRD is working on reopening Starvation Creek as a trailhead but not as a rest area (see attached information). Funding from Ainsworth will be used for restoration and rehabilitation of the existing restrooms, including expansion of the drain field into the current truck parking area. OPRD plans to have a restroom open by September 2000. OPRD is working on behavior modification at this site, to reduce use as a rest area. In the past, during peak times approximately 4,000 people stopped at this site. Expected use as a trailhead would be about 400. Truck parking will be eliminated and the restroom signs have been removed. The restroom will be upgraded to be ADA accessible. The septic tank will be enlarged to hold 3000 gallons. A UV water treatment system will be added.

The work will be done in two phases. Phase 1: (summer) Signing will be changed to show area is for recreational use only. Signs will show no trucks and no restrooms. The parking area will be re-worked, landscaped and upgraded for ADA accessibility. Phase 2: Plans and permits will be applied for by May 1 for the water and septic system improvements. The project will proceed by July 1 and finished by September. Funding for the project will be diverted from Ainsworth and other savings.

John Lundell said it should be interesting to see how well the transition from rest area to trailhead works. Kevin Price said that he will need to start a public education campaign to let people know that it will not be what it once was (rest area) but will be reopened for recreational use.

Kay Van Sickel and Charlie Sciscione will discuss adding rest area signs east and west of Starvation Creek indicating how far it is to the next rest area (Memaloose). Sam Wilkins stated that the signs for Koburg regarding no truck parking seem to be working.

Nancy Russell asked about Wyeth being used as a rest area; is it on a future list of projects? Kay Van Sickel said that rest areas are not high on the Oregon Transportation Commission priority list. Overall, ODOT has budget cuts of \$45 million per year. Until the transportation funding situation changes dramatically, there is little likelihood of development work on any new rest areas occurring.

### **VISITOR CONTACT STATION INTERPRETIVE PLAN: APPROVAL OF MOCK-UPS**

After discussion with the interagency project team involved in the Interpretive Plan, it was decided the emphasis at the Visitor Contact Station should be the Mosier Twin Tunnels. Some information will be provided outside the building on the petrified wood and the native plants in the area. Discouraging climbing on the cliffs in the area should also be emphasized for safety.

Jeanette Kloos presented the concept designs prepared by Sea Reach Ltd. and requested HCRH AC approved. After looking at the plans, James Hamrick stated that the designs were nice but they should complement the architecture of the building more. He also believed that the building made you feel "warm and fuzzy" but the plans seem to have a hard edge and are "cold". He requested color mock-ups. Jeffery Plummer stated that the concepts had an art deco look. The final look will change depending on the materials that are used. The HCRH AC approved the concept plans but requested additional information on the colors and materials proposed.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

### **HOOD RIVER - MOSIER**

#### **PHASE 2**

This project is moving right along. During the field trip Kevin Bracy had asked about sandblasting the catchment columns so the texture all matches. The AC gave Kevin permission to make that decision.

Cellular concrete has been poured at the catchment site. Pea gravel and the top fascia panels will be added. Carolyn Wood asked about the late fee charges if project is not completed on time. The fees are in place but the projects are currently on schedule.

#### **VISITOR CONTACT STATION**

The visitor's contact station is framed. The roofing material is ordered. The heating system is in place. The plants for the landscaping are ordered as well as insulation for the building. The rockwall and stone paving are completed.

#### **HOOD RIVER TO MOSIER (PARKS)**

The overflow parking is under construction at Hanel Quarry.

#### **HOOD RIVER TO MOSIER (ROADS)**

James Hamrick noted that the tunnel lining is completed. The mid-catchment has been sprayed with Permeon and the color looks good. The guardrail is finished and the rock walls are done. The paving will begin in June, however, the bald eagles in the area will delay a portion of the paving until after the young fledge.

The Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail, including the Hood River to Mosier, Tanner Creek to Eagle Creek, and Eagle Creek to Cascade Locks sections, has won a Federal Highway Administration Design for Transportation 2000 Honor Award. This is the third major award that HCRH rehabilitation projects have won. There were 260 applications for the awards (several different categories) and eleven were selected.

### **MOFFETT - TANNER CREEK, UNIT 2**

The pre-construction schedule should be completed by July 23 except for the landscaping. This includes eight interpretive signs and Permeon on the stairway near Eagle Creek.

James Hamrick reported that he had talked to a bicyclist using the stairway at Eagle Creek. The cyclist stated that the stairwell was not easy to use for bicycles, especially if the bikes were laden with packs or panniers. The trough was too far under the handrail, requiring cyclists to lean their bikes over as they used the stairway. Charlie Sciscione said that he would talk to Darlene Maddux about alternatives.

Diane McClay is investigating salvaging a small section of the petrified wood from this project to use at the West Trailhead.

### **HCRH INTERPRETIVE SITES AND SIGNS**

A field trip is planned so that a new cost estimates can be developed and a better description written for the project. This work will now be completed through a flexible services contract work order, rather than a separate contract.

Kevin Price stated that one of the signs at the Portland Women's Forum has a rust spot. Kevin suggested that someone inspect the signs regularly to ensure that they are good quality and will last a long time.

### **NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION**

On February 10, copies of the National Historic Landmark nomination was sent to Oregon's Congressional delegation and county/city commissioners in the Gorge for review. On April 10, the National Park System's Landmarks Committee will meet in Washington, DC, and review nominations and recommend to the NPS Advisory Board which properties should be landmarked.

Robert Hadlow also reported that the HCRH exhibit is ending its stay at the World Forestry Center, in Portland. The display will open at the Gorge Discovery Center, in The Dalles, in two weeks.

The Center for Columbia River History asked Robert to give a presentation on the HCRH's construction on April 1 at the Discovery Center. Colleen Schafroth, curator at Maryhill Museum, will talk on Sam Hill and Pacific Northwest roads. The talks will be repeated on May 11 at the Fort Vancouver Regional Library, in Vancouver, WA.

Nancy Russell wanted to clarify some information on John B. Yeon on videotape at the World Forestry Center that was in error. John B. Yeon was a lumberman and "roadmaster" of the HCRH's construction. His son, John Yeon, was an architect. The video seems to confuse the information. Robert stated that he would look into the matter.

### **WARRENDALE -MOFFETT CREEK**

The design work for this project has begun.

Jeanette Kloos led a project team field trip a week ago and found very little left of the HCRH, however, they did find a stone culvert over Metasequoia Creek.

### **NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY CONFERENCE**

Jeanette reported the Scenic Byway 2001 Conference will be in Oregon sometime in August. The conference will begin in Bend and then move on to Portland. The HCRH and the Columbia River Gorge will be the featured tour of the conference.

### **ACTIVITY STATUS REPORTS:**

#### **ODOT**

Charlie Sciscione, District 2C Manager, reported that he had been to Oneonta to check on the logjam that Bus Gibson reported on at the last meeting. Art Carroll, UDFS, took the lead on this problem but asked for Charlie's input. Charlie asked for a technical response. Dave Bryson, Frank Nelson, Larry Bush, Bill Barnhart and Charlie went out to the site. The logs are jammed up in a narrow part of the canyon. As it currently exits it is not a hazard to the structure, because water is not ponding behind the logs. It is basically still an issue to be resolved, but at this time it was decided that the logs are so jammed that they are not going anywhere.

Clean up of the HCRH continues.

A culvert pipe broke up at Larch Mt. causing a sinkhole and the crews are working on that. They will raise the guardrail this summer.

Sam Wilkins, District 9, reported that they are keeping an eye on a wooden structure that has gone up at the West End of Chenoweth Creek Bridge. They have tried to meet with the person who built the structure but he is averse to authority and communication is difficult. Jerry Igo knows the person and will speak with him. The area has been posted and the property needs to be removed.

There have been continuing small rockfalls in the Rowena Loops. On I-84 there have been three large rockfalls from the Rowena bluff, with material falling across all four lanes. This is monitored daily. There have been no major injuries to date. This may become a future rockfall mitigation project area.

The project at Mayer State Park and I-84 is moving along. Additional publicity and explanation of this project in local papers is needed.

Jeanette also stated that there would be an overlay on I-84 between Sundial and Hood River. The bid opening for this project will be April 2001.

### **OPRD**

Kevin Price reported that the Mayer Causeway project is moving along quickly. They will be starting demolition of the bridge over the railroad tracks soon.

Ainsworth, Viento and Memaloose State Park campgrounds will be opening March 17. Vista House will be opening April 15. The first Saturday in June, June 3, will be "free" park day. All parks will be open free of charge for that day only.

Kevin also reported that the OPRD and the Oregon State Police are starting a "Watch Program". This will be a volunteer group of citizens that will be placed at various State parks. These citizens will record and take information on suspicious persons. This program hopes to help control vandalism and break-ins.

James Hamrick reported that there were 70 applications for the TEA-21 Statewide Enhancement program. Vista House is on the top of this list. James Hamrick thanked Nancy Russell and others that called to encourage the Oregon Transportation Commission to approve the funding for Vista House.

Kevin Price reported that the Forest Service project at the Angel's Rest Trailhead is underway.

### **USDA- FOREST SERVICE**

Diana Ross will check with Art Carroll on the logjam at Oneonta and get back to Charlie.

### **DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS:**

Jeanette received two full pages of development reviews but none affected the HCRH. (See attachment).

John Lundell asked about the property boundary adjustments in the orchard east of Mosier. John stated that the plans look like the HCRH goes through these properties.

Jeanette received a fax about availability of a Visual Assessment Kit. This might be of interest to Mosier.

### **MEMBERS ISSUES:**

Jeffery Plummer asked why the drainfield failed at Starvation Creek. Tim stated that it just couldn't handle the amount of use.

John Lundell asked about cutting the cottonwoods along I-84 for better viewing of the gorge and Shepperd's Dell. ODOT is investigating additional vegetation management proposals.

James Hamrick has received word that ATT Communications Corporation "monopole" cellular phone transformer tower that would be visible from Crown Point will not be happening. They also wanted access from I-84. They have withdrawn their request. The project is dead.

The term for the County appointees on the AC ends June 30, 2000. John Lundell stated that he would be retiring from his seat on the AC. Jeanette asked that other members let her know if they plan to leave.

**IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO READ THE MINUTES ON THE WEBSITE OR RECEIVE AN E-MAIL VERSION, INSTEAD OF RECEIVING THEM BY MAIL, PLEASE CONTACT JEANETTE (503-731-8234) OR GAIL SMITH (503-731-8261).**

**THE WEBSITE IS <http://www.odot.state.or.us/hcrh>**

**NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:**

**Tuesday, April 18, 2000**

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

**Field trip at 10:00 - Meet at Best Western Columbia River Inn, Cascade Locks**

**Meeting at 1:00 - Best Western Columbia River Inn, Sternwheeler Room, Cascade Locks**

**Attachments:**

National Scenic Byway Chart

Bridge Proposal

Starvation Creek Rest Area Information

Development Review Chart

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