

MINUTES  
Historic Columbia River Highway  
Advisory Committee  
March 30, 1999  
Best Western – Columbia River Inn  
Cascade Locks, Oregon

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

Staff Present: Jeanette Kloos, Robert Hadlow, Kevin Bracy, Sam Wilkins, and Debra Dowse

Public Present: Gay Jervey, Jerry Igo, Natural Plant Society; Jean Senechal, ASLA Oregon Chapter; Jurgen Hess, Forest Service; Kevin Price, OPRD; Rick Bauman, Gorge Run; Pat Brothers, Patti Smith, NEMCCA; Anita Jordan, Leroy Smith, Multnomah County Rural Fire Protection District #14; JeanHepburn, Portland Women's Forum; Mike Stoval; and Bob Meinen, OPRD Director.

Carolyn Wood, called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes for January 27, 1999 were approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Gay Jersey announced that the project at the Mosier Pioneer Cemetery has almost completed Phase 1. All the graves should be identified and the bench will be installed with directions from the HCRH to the graveyard, by Memorial Day. Phase 2 will be replacing the fence and gateposts.

The subject was raised again about the road leading to the cemetery and its safety. 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. No official request has been received by ODOT, (It should be sent to Sam Wilkins, District 9, The Dalles). There have been no recorded accidents at this location. Two 50-foot sections of guardrail could be added, if it is proved to be a safety hazard. Sanding the side roads may also be a solution; a dirt berm across from the side roads might be another solution. The HCRHAC will consider this if and when ODOT has received a request and a recommendation on safety is available.

**CONSENSUS PROCESS, URBAN AREAS, OUTCOME OF MEETINGS:**

Jeanette reported that the meeting with Mosier went well and that the meeting with Cascade Locks is postponed until next week.

As a result of these meetings, ODOT is developing a project to add Interpretive Signs in each city along the HCRH with the history of their development (for example having a sign at the triangle (existing tables and shelter) in Mosier). Jeanette said that the details of this would be worked out for this in the next year or so.

#### **INITIAL PLANNING FOR DEDICATORY EVENTS:**

Julie Curtis stated that not much more progress has been made in the planning for the event or events. Possible dates for events have been proposed for June 5th (State Parks Day) or early fall, with late September or early October preferred by the subcommittee. Hopefully the Interpretive Sign Brochures will be finished by the time of the event, so maybe they could be presented at the same time.

There is still the idea of hiring an event planner. Julie Curtis said that Tourism is a bit more flexible with their budget. The new biennium begins in July and more funding could be available then, also. Tourism can carry over funds from one biennium to another.

Kevin Bracy suggested a weekend date, because, if there is still ongoing work, the crews will be gone.

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 will have to 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 process of planning. Julie Curtis, Jeff Plummer and Gay Jervey all volunteered to help.

#### **HOOD RIVER TO MOSIER, PHASE 2 AND PHASE 3C:**

Kevin Bracy showed slides of how the different projects are proceeding.

The West Trailhead parking lot is now striped. There is going to be an April 8th final inspection. There is an erosion problem on the left ditch, which will be solved via the next contract; the contractor needs to replace some plants. One of the problems with the landscaping was that one of the workers got carried away with the amount of water absorbing polymer and the plantings uprooted themselves; about 99% of the plants were okay.

The telephone poll on where they would place the portal gate was not unanimous, but the majority voted for the original plan. The portal is still up for discussion. Jeanette passed around before and after pictures of how the portals could look when finished.

Interpretive signs are finished and paid for. The contractor was 30 days late in completing the project and is being charged \$12,000 in damages.

The catchment project will be starting back up in early April and a schedule will be available then. The contractor has filed for an extension of 45 days. There was some rock fall in the area this winter, but there was no heavy freeze/thaw action this year and we don't know what it has been like up there in the past, so it's hard to gauge whether it was normal or not.

Jill Livingston applied the first two coats of Permeon at the Chenoweth Interchange; she will apply one or two more coats to get it to blend in with the surrounding area. It is a judgement call each time. A test section will be done on the mid-tunnel catchment in March. Jill says that the Permeon will not fade. Applying Permeon on the stairway at Eagle Creek is not included in the current contract, but the work may be added. Kevin asked if the shotcrete above the west portal should be treated?

The final plans are being reviewed for the Visitor Contact Station building. The septic system design is complete and the plans have been sent to DEQ for approval.

Dave Wright, OPRD, is working with Dale Young on acquiring his property. Once this is settled, design work will resume on the "Parks" project.

The "Roads" project will repair rock walls, replace guardrail, complete the timber lining and pave. We are working towards a June bid opening on this project. One issue is the small overlook on the west of the East Pit. We are not sure (have not found photos) of what was between the existing wall and the end of the current guardrail.

The HCRHAC unanimously approved Dr. Robert Hadlow's recommendation on rock selection for walls. (see attached memo)

Dr. Robert Hadlow presented information on concrete patching and his recommendations for the East Portal (attached). The HRCHAC unanimously approved patching and skim coating the flat wall portion of the East Portal and repairing the key ring "stones". The two inner portals should be left "as is". Kevin Bracy and Jeff Plummer will visit the West Portal to determine whether the original rock portal will be visible under the catchment roof. A decision on the West Portal repair was deferred until this information is available.

James Hamrick asked if time extensions are automatically approved. Kevin Bracy said there are three different levels of approval for extensions over 3 days. James emphasized that OPRD Director, Bob Meinen, wants it finished as soon as possible. Kevin Bracy said that ODOT and the contractor have the same goal and that the contract includes \$2,000/day in liquidation damages if the contractor is beyond the completion date (revised for approval extensions, if any).

### **ASLA MEDALLION PROGRAM – JEAN SENECHAL/JURGEN HESS**

The American Society of Landscape Architects has given the Columbia River Gorge an award for its landscape architecture. These awards are part of the 100th anniversary of the ASLA; the Gorge is only one of four sites, in Oregon, receiving this honor. Jurgen Hess proposed installing a plaque at the Vista House commemorating their achievement. The proposal is to install the plaque on a portion of the rock wall surrounding the parking lot or on a pedestal in the landscaped area at the entrance. Delivery of the medallion is expected in late June or July and would be unveiled at a public ceremony (see attachments).

John Lundall wanted to know if the Columbia River Gorge Commission has been made aware of this award. If this is placed at the Vista House, how is going to be worded so that visitors are aware that this award is for the Gorge as a whole?

James Hamrick had a concern about the clutter at the Vista House, with all the plaques already in existence there. To add a second sign explaining the medallion would only increase the problem.

He asked if the Secretary of Interior Standards for Historic Buildings has been reviewed to determine if addition of such a plaque was appropriate?

Carolyn Wood suggested adding a small bar below the medallion, that way it would not take up as much space, as having a second plaque with a description of the first plaque.

Jeanette asked if any other locations have been investigated. A good place might be the Portland Women's Forum State Park. There would not be as many distractions and it has a beautiful view of the Gorge.

Jurgen Hess liked this idea. The view of the Gorge is important and space is available. He thinks the concept of the award for the overall landscape of the Gorge would get lost if the plaque was located at Multnomah Falls or the Gorge Discovery Center.

Julie Curtis suggested the Visitor's Center, because associated materials could be added. Are we approving it or is it already in effect?

Jean Senechal said she would go back to the board of the ASLA and see what she can do about getting a medallion with a better description of what the award is for. The problem with that might be that they are a non-profit and the signs are all casted the same, so money is a factor. She will also see what the next step for the board will be. It has been a challenge to find a site. She will pursue a location at Portland Women's Forum State Park, including asking the Forum for approval.

#### **HCRH NIGHT RUN/WALK – RICK BAUMAN**

Rick Bauman is proposing a benefit walk/run this summer. It would start at Portland Women's Forum State Park and end at Multnomah Falls; the staging area would be at Rooster Rock. The run would begin at dusk and finish about midnight. One of the reasons that staging is proposed to be done at Rooster Rock is to help keep the disruptions to the community, with road closures and traffic, to a minimum. They would radio in the buses as needed to keep congestion down and hand out the numbers to the runners at Rooster Rock, so that the walkers and runners would not park along the route.

Charlie Sciscione added that ODOT has not issued a permit at this time, because they are still resolving safety concerns. Charlie pointed out that the race organizers would be responsible for liability insurance and signage. The manager for the district can pull the permit at any time, even after it has been issued, for any reason from weather, safety concerns or noncompliance. ODOT will go through and clean up the litter before the race, but afterwards the race organizers will be responsible for the clean up.

John Lundell wanted to know who the benefactor is for the run. Rick stated that this is still being decided, but there are a few different ones being considered. The plan is to charge each participant about \$12.

Pat Brothers wanted to know why the residents in the area were not notified of the event. Pat lives along the HCRH. This will be during peak fire season, he wants to know how the fire trucks will get through. Currently there is no fire response between Shepperd's Dell and Multnomah Falls. Another concern is that the staging will take longer than they plan and that the road will be closed for a longer stretch of time than anticipated, making the lack of access to their homes even more burdensome. Pat had a suggestion that some of the benefit money could come back to the

community, such as the Crown Point Country Historical Society or the North East Multnomah County Community Association.

Patty Smith, another HCRH resident, also asked why NEMCCA was not invited to the first meeting. Patty did email Rick with her concerns and is hoping that this event can be worked out right the first time, since this event is being planned as an annual event. One of her major concerns is that this is planned for a week night and her family needs to be up early the next morning. Patty's suggestion is to plan this for next year so the event can be better mapped out. Patty added that changing the route from Multnomah Falls to Dodson would make more sense and would shut the road down for a shorter period of time.

Leroy Smith, Corbett Volunteer Fire Department, is concerned about the lack of fire protection to the area, also. This is during peak fire season and it will leave residents without access to their property. The fire trucks come in from Corbett and this is already a long drive, without any additional delays. Another suggestion is for some of the benefit money being raised to go to the Vista House. Two additional county roads (Palmer Mill and Alex Barr) would need to be closed.

Rick made note of the communities concerns and would like them to know that he is going to try to address all of them. They have already done some trial time runs and have checked into lit barricades, etc. As the time gets closer, more concerns will be worked out. He is scheduled to meet with the North East Multnomah County Community Association at their annual meeting in April.

#### **OPRD FUNDING AND POLICY DISCUSSION – OPRD DIRECTOR ROBERT MEINEN**

Jeanette Kloos asked Bob Meinen to come and talk to the committee about the OPRD funding and to give everyone a better insight to Starvation Creek.

Bob Meinen addressed the committee about the lack of funds to reopen Starvation Creek. The budget is still up in the air, but Measure 66 was not the "extra" cash that people expected. Measure 66 dedicated a portion of lottery dollars for Parks and Salmon. The Governor's proposed budget move \$12 million of general fund monies out of the Parks budget and also reduce the debt service by \$3.2 million. There are several "enhancements" in the Governor's budget, including funds for the Heritage Commission, a local grant program for parks and increased safety staff. There was no decision at the Ways and Means Committee meeting this morning and the Parks budget may now be considered after the ODOT budget. At this point OPRD is backlogged about \$120 million.

There are no resources to rebuild Starvation Creek at this time. The problem with this site is that the geology of the area is solid rock and this causes serious environmental and funding issues (water quality, fish habitat, etc) around sewer and septic installation. This area was never designed to be a rest area. OPRD and ODOT need to work together and come up with a better place to put a rest area. If we reopen Starvation Creek, even as a trailhead, we will be back to business as usual and it cannot sustain the heavy use.

Sam Wilkins noted that the bill being discussed in the Legislature to raise the gas tax by \$.04 a gallon would not provide enough additional funds for new modernization projects. It would be spent on maintenance and preservation.

James Hamrick added that Starvation Creek was used in pro-Measure 66 advertising and people want to know if OPRD is going to open it. Bob Meinen said that the pro-measure 66 campaign was an independent operation, not controlled by OPRD.

Charlie Sciscione agreed that if was opened without restrooms and as only a trailhead, there would be surface environmental damage as well, such as graffiti, etc.

Kevin Price, OPRD, stated that closing the restrooms has caused environmental problems, in that people now relieve themselves outside.

Jeanette Kloos asked if a rest area could be tied in with the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, and then, possibly, we could get federal funding for a new rest area. We need to come up with ideas for another location for this function and how to fund it. Another idea could be to get private funding for the rest area, maybe from the new business going into Cascade Locks. One option would be to just take down the signs. Another option would be to charge a trailhead fee. Julie Curtis sees this as a tug-a-war between agencies and would like to see OPRD and ODOT work together. She asked what the next steps will be.

Bob Meinen replied that if there were additional funds from Measure 66, OPRD would like a 12-18 month time frame to plan how to spend that money. OPRD would like to examine some other options that would be viable with the existing growth to the area.

## **PROJECT UPDATES:**

### ***HOOD RIVER TO MOSIER***

Jeanette reported that there is a meeting later this week to go over the preliminary plans for the roadway portions of the work. The CRGNSA Forest Service has approved the colors for the Visitor Contact Station. Jeanette passed around color boards with the approved colors for the inside and outside of the building. Contractor will be giving larger color charts at a later date.

James Hamrick said that this is a critical location and that it needs to attract people, to draw them inside. James felt the dark colors would not look welcoming.

Jack Wiles agreed that the colors are too dark and a lighter color would be more acceptable. Jack wanted to know if it was possible to go in with swatches once the building was in place and make a decision then.

Julie Curtis suggested bringing this up to Jurgen Hess, as soon as possible, if we wanted changes.

Motion made and the committee approved the motion to send a letter to Jurgen Hess. Jeanette will draft the letter.

The parking lot is scheduled to be open soon after the final inspection next Thursday. It needs to be conveyed to Mr. Young that we need to know whether he will sell his property to be able to adjust designs for the Hanel Quarry parking accordingly. He has not yet found a new site.

### ***INTERPRETIVE BROCHURE***

Jeanette reported that a draft Request for Proposals has been sent to interested parties for review. Dave Sell suggested that the signs in Washington should be noted in the brochure. Since the brochure is tied to the HCRH Scenic Byway, the Washington sites would be referenced, but not noted in detail. The plan is to have the brochures finished by this fall. ODOT is working on a bike map with all three routes (I-84, SR 14 and HCRH).

### ***MOFFETT TO TANNER CREEK – UNITS 1 & 2***

The landscaping is scheduled to be completed in April. The railings still need to be installed and then Unit 1 will be complete. Unit two is in the design stages and bids will be accepted in September or October, with construction beginning next summer.

### ***EAGLE CREEK - CASCADE LOCKS***

There are 60 items that still need repair. Mike Ferris had been asked to take the lead on a grand opening event, however, he will not be able to do this, because they are short-staffed, due to budget cuts. Dave Sell will contact the city and port of Cascade Locks for suggestions on what to include in an event.

### ***NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION***

Robert Hadlow has had continued contact with Robie Lange, NHL program coordinator, in Washington D.C. The next meeting for the NHL will be this spring and, as of yet, has not been scheduled.

### ***TOOTHROCK TUNNEL LIGHTING***

The contract has been awarded and work will begin soon.

### ***STARVATION CREEK TO VIENTO***

The funding that was earmarked for this project is not currently available. The Public Lands Highway Discretionary Funds grant monies have been already allotted to other projects and the money is not there at the Federal level. This project and the HCRH sites and signs will be started with other funds.

### ***WARRENDALE TO MOFFETT CREEK***

The (above) funding situation has delayed this project. It is not known when work can begin on surveying and design.

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

Project development will begin this summer.

### ***RECREATION FUNDING RECOMMENDATION***

Should the HCRH Committee be endorsing the requested funding requests, since the proposals are not directly related to work on the HCRH? Julie Curtis said that she thinks that we are all partners and we should lend our name. Jeanette will draft a support letter.

### ***ACTIVITY STATUS REPORTS:***

#### ***ODOT***

Charlie Sciscione reported that the crews have been trimming back the tree branches on the canopy over the HCRH.

Sam Wilkins added that this month ODOT would be getting back to shoulder work on the HCRH between Mosier and Rowena. The LUBA appeal for access to Mosier Pit was decided in ODOT's favor, but is expected to be appealed by Mosier.

Sweeping materials are being given to the Native Plant Society for plantings in Mosier.

Regarding the "tenant" living next to the shooting range near the HCRH, there is nothing that can be done as long as he continues to live on private property and the owner of the land does not want him removed.

### **OPRD**

Jack Wiles reported that the West Mayer project is ready for east/west access connection. Two bridges will be taken out once the new access is created. Construction should begin in July.

Jack received positive news on the TEA-21 Enhancement grant for Vista House restoration. He was asked if the amount needed could be reduced and should hear back about the funding on April 6th. The upper balcony restoration will begin in July. Vista House opens April 15th.

OPRD did a patrol observation survey of the HCRH State Trail and how it was being used (see attachment). OPRD has given out a couple of citations to those who travel into the construction area. James Hamrick suggested that this information on usage be sent to the local governments and chambers of commerce.

### **USDA- FOREST SERVICE**

Tom Turck was not present. Tom had spoken to Jeanette to give her an update. The Rowena Barn has been reroofed. FEMA monies have been approved to buy homes in the Dodson-Warrendale geologic hazard area. One of these is the old Bonneville Train Station. Suggestions are needed for potential relocation sites. The building is rumored to contain a lot of the original furnishings.

### **DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS:**

The current development reviews have little or no impact on the HCRH.

### **MEMBERS ISSUES:**

Julie Curtis announced that the Salem Cultural Summit would be April 27th and 28th. There will, also, be a Heritage Conference in The Dalles on June 6th and 7th. Julie has nominated the HCRH committee for the Heritage award from Oregon Tourism Commission; we are one of four nominees.

Jack Wiles said that he would like to look into funds to replace the chain link fence at Rowena Crest.

James Hammick received a letter from Grace Crunican, director of ODOT, thanking him for his work on the committee and that he will be receiving a monthly newsletter from ODOT. He appreciated this gesture and the information.

Carolyn Wood announced that Maryhill Museum will be having a highway exhibit and a part of this exhibit will be a room dedicated to Sam Hill. The exhibit may be a celebration of 100 years of the Washington State "Good Roads and Transportation Association".

Bob Hadlow said that there will be a second Historic Roads Conference; it will be in New Jersey in the year 2000. Bob has been asked to speak at the conference.

**NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:**

**Thursday, May 6, 1999**

**Hood River Inn**

Attachments:

Hadlow wall memo

Hadlow concrete memo

ASLA Medallion handouts

Night run memo

HCRH State Trail Usage Summary

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