

HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY  
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES  
JULY 25, 1990

Members Attending: Lewis L. McArthur, Chairman; Dave Jensen; John Lundell; Carolyn Wood; Lorna Stickel; Wayne Cobine representing Highway; Bob True representing State Parks.

Members Absent: Julie Curtis; SHPO representative; Hood River Governor's appointee (vacant).

Staff Present: Jeanette Kloos, Ken Allmer, William Whitacre, Highway; Frank Arnold, State Parks.

Public Attending: Teresa Kasner, Friends of Vista House; Ed Robertson, Chinook Trail Association; Bob Ford, The Dalles Visitors Bureau; Rod Mace, Forest Service, National Scenic Area.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as written.

### **75th Anniversary Celebration**

Jeanette Kloos informed the CAC that Barbara Bailey is interested in pursuing the opera singer idea, and is willing to head this effort. The CAC asked that a letter be written to her, supporting the effort and asking her to attend the next meeting. Teresa Kasner reported that an opera singer has volunteered to sing at the 75th Anniversary of Multnomah Falls becoming a park. That celebration will be held on September 8, 1990.

Lewis L. McArthur reported that he is planning to meet with El Sheldon, Portland Visitors Bureau, and his daughter, to request their advice and assistance on the celebration planning. Carolyn Wood mentioned that we should not forget that Bob Ford and The Dalles Visitors Bureau could also help us with the celebration.

Jeanette Kloos reported that Dick Benner, Gorge Commission and Robert Hilbruner, Forest Service, National Scenic Area, are excited about the Celebration and have offered their agencies' assistance. Rod Mace said that the CAC should work with both the National Scenic Area and the Mt. Hood National Forest (specifically Terry Skorheim) on this project. The National Scenic Area wants to co-sponsor the event. Activities at Multnomah Falls or other Forest Service sites, should be coordinated with the Forest. Jeanette Kloos will write to both offices asking for their input.

After considerable discussion, the CAC agreed to the following outline for the celebration. There would be activities spread out over the whole Historic District on June 15 and 16, 1991. Antique car rallies will be scheduled for both of the sections of the Highway currently open to traffic; Jeanette Kloos will contact the clubs. Hikes will be scheduled for connection projects. We will investigate having a narrated bus tour, perhaps emphasizing bridges.

Locations and possible activities are listed below:

Rowena Crest - dedication of The Nature Conservancy project

Mayerdale - Original dedication included putting a ribbon on a cast iron elk?

Mosier Twin Tunnels East -

Mosier Twin Tunnels West - wheelchair use

Mitchell Point - Wygant Trail hike

Starvation Creek to Viento - hike and bike - especially if construction completed  
Ruckel Creek - hike  
Eagle Creek Overlook - meal by Job Corps?  
Toothrock - hike  
John Yeon SP to Moffett Creek - hike  
Multnomah Falls - work with Friends of Multnomah Falls  
Crown Point - recreate flag raising - decedents; new Governor?  
Corbett - NEMCA sponsor?  
Troutdale - ?

Rod Mace suggested that with adequate handout material, many of these hikes could be self-guiding with talks available at specific times. Wayne Cobine said that the Highway Division may be able to fund publication of information about the highway, but not information about the Celebration activities. Teresa Kasner said that for the Vista House celebration last year, a tour company donated a driver and bus for a shuttle to the event. She also said that there are 250 members of the Friends of Vista House, would be interested in helping with our event.

Lewis L. McArthur will contact Friends of the Columbia Gorge to ask for their help and to coordinate our event with their Gorge Hiking Weekend. Lorna Stickel will contact Richard Ross to see if he would like to organize a bike portion of the event.

The Historic Preservation League of Oregon is producing "consumer maps", in conjunction with Oregon State Parks. The map for Coos and Curry counties was passed around. Four others are currently funded; the Gorge area is not funded. Lewis L. McArthur will contact Erik Eisemann to see if the information currently in the Highway Tour Guide could be incorporated into this format.

"Oregon's Historic Columbia River Highway Western Section", a brochure produced by NEMCA with funding provided by Fred Meyer was distributed.

Corporate sponsors were discussed. Jeanette Kloos will pursue Ford Motor Company sponsorship.

It was noted that many permits are currently being given to film car advertisements on the HCRH. All permits should state that no physical changes should be made to the HCRH.

Jeanette Kloos explained that Oregon Public Broadcasting is discussing a special on the HCRH; no decision has been made. Carolyn Wood emphasized that this educational element must be a part of the celebration, as well as events. Oregon Historical Society has not yet been contacted; Lewis McArthur will contact them. Teresa Kasner said that the OHS display at Vista House has recently been restored. Maryhill Museum also needs to be contacted to see if their display can emphasize the HCRH in June, 1991.

John Lundell will work on the Rowena Crest activities and contact Berta Youtie of The Nature Conservancy. He will also explore activities at Mayerdale.

Frank Arnold will investigate hikes at Mitchell Point and Starvation Creek to Viento.

Dave Jensen will contact Bob Montgomery to determine when Sternwheeler Days will be in 1991, and to investigate what role Cascade Locks would like to play in our events.

### **Crown Point Turnouts**

Lewis L. McArthur said that he had discussed the turnouts with the State Historic Preservation Office and Dwight Smith. He believes that turnouts can be constructed that would look similar to the old rock walls to the average tourist but would be easily identifiable as new by the historians. One way this could be accomplished would be to build the walls on a concrete foundation that rose above ground level. The CAC voted unanimously to accept the turnout concept and recommended to ODOT that staff work toward funding such a project. The CAC would like to review more detailed design drawings in the future, as they are developed.

Teresa Kasner said that the turnouts are popular and receive a lot of use. She does not remember that any accidents have been related to their use.

### **Volunteer Projects**

The CAC prioritized projects that could be worked on by volunteers. The highest priority project was the Mosier Twin Tunnels. Since this project cannot be worked on until the property is in public ownership, it was placed in a category by itself. Lewis L. McArthur will contact Gail Achterman and Jane Cease to determine whether the Legislature would pass a resolution that it is state policy to regain ownership of all portion of the original right-of-way of the HCRH that are currently in private ownership, using whatever means are necessary.

Other projects, listed in order of priority were:

1. Toothrock Viaduct repair and the Toothrock Connection project
2. Ruckel Creek to Cascade Locks Connection (including tunnel under I-84)
3. Ruthton Point

Lewis L. McArthur has been discussing these project with retired OSHD employees. Walt Hart will be able to do some estimates and draft drawings of structures needed. John Howard has volunteered to do some field investigations.

The telephone poles on the Toothrock section should be removed in the near future by Cascade Locks.

The Work Release crew stationed at Wyeth will be asked if they would work on clearing and brushing between Tanner Creek and the freeway; Moffett Creek Bridge (excluding moss on the railing); the section just west of Cascade Locks; and the west end of Toothrock.

### **Management Plan Outline and Funding Issues**

The CAC reviewed the draft Management Plan (attached). All comment centered on the funding of the projects, beginning on page 26. Wayne Cobine provided the attached "Suggested Timing Guardrail Restoration Program". This indicates the level of funding that would be required to replace all of the guardrail along the HCRH with two-rail wooden rails within seven years. This, and the other funding proposals will be forwarded to the Oregon Transportation Commission, Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission, U.S. Forest Service and the Columbia River Gorge Commission. Agencies will be asked to confirm their intent to fund the projects on page 26 and asked to consider funding of projects on page 27. Projects related to the Visual Inventory and vegetation management on both the working sections and the connection projects are listed under Landscape Enhancement (note: costs are not yet determined). The turnouts on Crown Point Highway also need to be added to the list.

Volunteer time needs to be documented. All agencies need to be shown that this is a cooperative effort, with lots of public support.

## Activity Status Reports

Wayne Cobine has asked Clair Kuiper and Richard Fix to attend the next CAC meeting to give an update on work accomplished and work planned for next year. We know that some work will be occurring under the Crown Point Viaduct soon.

Ken Allmer said that work is in progress on the Dry Canyon and Mosier Creek bridges. Mosier Creek is expected to be completed in September. Lewis L. McArthur said that Richard Fix noted that the rebar needs to be painted before concrete is poured. Ken Allmer is working with Harry Woodward on the mileposts. The two regions will cooperate to fabricate the needed mileposts. Jeanette Kloos will send a copy of the 1924 log. Wayne Cobine noted that soon the old milepost will appear on the straight line charts, along with the modern mileposts.

John Lundell asked Ken Allmer to look into areas near Tooley Lake Road that are being used to dump trash. Ken Allmer thought this was probably on private property. Lorna Stickel said county policy should be reviewed; in Multnomah County the County can send a letter to the property owner asking them to clean up the trash. If it is not cleaned up, the road crew can clean it up and bill the owner.

Frank Arnold said that a new gate is being constructed soon for the road from Portland Women's Forum (Rooster Rock Road). This is another dumping problem. There are still two private parcels served by this road. It would be of great benefit to the park if the private parcels could be purchased. This would allow construction of the trail in this area. Lorna Stickel asked Rod Mace to investigate whether these parcels could be purchased by the Forest Service. A second gate at Portland Women's Forum entrance is also being proposed, to keep people out at night.

Rod Mace said that the first signing contract has been canceled. A new contract is being negotiated; the first meeting is expected to be soon. The "Draft Special Management Areas Goals, Policies, and Management Direction for Resource Protection and Land Uses" was distributed to CAC members. Review period is only two to three weeks. A draft Interpretive Plan is also being reviewed. One copy is available to the CAC and Lewis L. McArthur will review it first. Rod Mace noted that the Chenoweth Interchange is on the 6-year Highway Improvement Plan and the Forest Service wants to be involved with the development of the project.

Rod Mace brought a plan for the Corbett Fire House paving project. He proposed that there be no parking in front of the building; one entrance on the west side be provided with landscaping along the rest of the HCRH frontage; no change be made in front of the bay doors; and no parking be allowed directly off the HCRH. The CAC recommended that ODOT evaluate what is necessary to adequately access the facility and that the conclusion be communicated to the Corbett Fire District, the CAC and the Forest Service National Scenic Area as soon as possible. The CAC wants the HCRH to be delineated and access limited.

The proposed Transportation Policy for the SMA was discussed. The comments on the policy by Multnomah County will be sent to the CAC.

Brian Litt was unable to attend. His letter mentioned the trails workshop on July 30; Jeanette Kloos will attend. A meeting has been arranged to review the east side of the Mosier Twin Tunnels. Brian Litt will meet with Carolyn Wood and Dave Jensen on August 17 at 9 AM at the junction of the HCRH with Rock Creek Road. All CAC members were invited. Lewis L. McArthur indicated that he also planned to attend.

**Next Meeting**

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for September 21. The location has not been finalized, but probably will be in The Dalles.