

## Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee

September 9, 1999

### Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital Hood River, Oregon

Members Present: Bill Pattison, James Hamrick, John Lundell, Carolyn Wood, Sally Donovan, Kay Van Sickel and Kevin Price.

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

Public Present: Gay Jervy, and Jan Leininger, Mosier; Jerry Igo, Native Plant Society; Jurgen Hess and Dave Sell, USFS; Lisa Midlam and Diane McClay, OPRD; LeAnn Locher, Metropolitan Group; Marie Miller, Friends of Vista House; Doug Crow, Gorge Trust/Ameri Corps; and Nancy Russell, Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

*A field trip to the East Trailhead to review the Rockfall Catchment by members of the HCRH AC and other interested parties took place before the meeting.*

Bill Pattison called the meeting to order.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes were approved as written.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jurgen Hess, USFS, informed the AC that Dave Sell is leaving the Forest Service to work permanently for FHWA. Dave will be working on environmental reviews. Jurgen thanked Dave for all his hard work and accomplishments while he was with the Forest Service. Dave stated that he had enjoyed working with the HCRH AC. Dave also commented that he would continue to work with FHWA in helping to fund projects in the Gorge along the HCRH. Bill Pattison thanked Dave for his help and wished him well. Jurgen Hess informed the AC that Tom Turck has left the Forest Service and Dave Tilton will be the new Forest Service contact. Mike Kennia has transferred to Alaska. Kevin gave a special thank you to Dave Sell for all his work on the signing Dave helped place on the HCRH. Dave has even volunteered his family to work on projects along the HCRH.

Jurgen discussed the ALSA Centennial Medallion Program. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area was selected as one of five in Oregon to receive the medallion. Jurgen passed the medallion around to the committee. Jurgen presented a diagram of the proposed placement of the medallion at the Portland Women's Forum State Park. Jurgen would also like to have a brief text to go along with the plaque. Two mounting

alternatives for the plaque were suggested. One would be to place the medallion in the rock wall (wall mount) or secondly to place the plaque on a piece of basalt (See attached). The Forest Service will take care of the installation.

Kevin Price liked Option 1, which is located near the turn around. The area has a wide open view to the Vista House and most people park in the turn around. This would make the medallion more visible.

Carolyn also liked the idea of text being included with the plaque. John Lundell thought the design of the plaque was better than the original. Bill Pattison liked Option 1 also because of the parking situation.

Diane McClay, OPRD, commented to the AC how successful the Mosier Fall Festival was. The attendance has increased every year. In 1998, 1,000 people attended and over 2,000 attended this year. The Mosier Twin Tunnels, flowers, walks, solar energy displays and photos on display were some of the highlights of the festival. Diane stated that there was a lot of hard work and community involvement. Jan Leininger commented that Oregon State Parks staff made a big contribution to the overall success of the festival.

Gay Jervey presented Diane with a thank you gift from the citizens of Mosier who truly appreciate all her contributions.

Jerry Igo commented that the gas station in Mosier has closed and that means there is no longer in public restrooms available in Mosier. Gay Jervey stated that public restrooms are planned in the future.

### **EVENT PLANNING/Metropolitan Group**

Metropolitan Group has been selected as the event planner. Julie Curtis was unable to attend the meeting in person but participated via telephone. LeAnn Locher, Metropolitan Group Event Planner, met with interested parties. The steering committee has come up with an action plan; the goals to be met by the event, the tools in which to achieve the goals and the type of audience the steering committee wanted to reach. The committee needs to prioritize by deciding what they definitely want and how much money is available. If the idea is a low priority, it should be removed.

Goals:

1. To position the HCRH as a major resource of our region.
2. To celebrate the accomplishments of reconstruction of HCRH.

Message:

1. The HCRH is an important and unique asset to the entire Northwest.
2. We have restored a national treasure, the HCRH.
3. Oregonians care for and support the HCRH.
4. There is always something to see along the highway, all times of the year.
5. There is still more work to be done on the HCRH.

Bill asked about the time line. LeAnn stated that no commitments have been made. LeAnn stated the first step is for the AC to confirm the goals. Carolyn stated that when planning the 75th Diamond Jubilee celebration a list was made and perhaps that could be used for this event to get started. Nancy Russell stated the message conveyed by the event is important to the Northwest as an asset especially to the National Scenic Area. Diane commented that the event needs to increase awareness of the difference between the HCRH and State Trails. People need to know that the HCRH is open to motor vehicle traffic while the HCRH State trail is hiking and biking only (plus the occasional antique cars for Hood River-Mosier).

James asked when LeAnn needed comments. LeAnn stated the sooner the better. The deadline is one week from today, September 16. The committee needs to identify audiences: local communities, general public and media that need to be included in the event. John recommended Chambers Of Commerce's should be contacted during the next step. LeAnn mentioned extreme sports events such as; Gorge Games (they have sponsor for next year and may be a potential partner), Ironman competition and rock climbing.

LeAnn talked about building support for the event through personal tours, use of a website, and earned media with a summer celebration in July. To start off the event, an art festival could be held the middle of July, perhaps at the Gorge Discovery Center. LeAnn suggested focusing on one week of festivities; such as a parade on Saturday morning (motorized) from Troutdale to The Dalles, stopping in towns and cities along the way. Events could be planned in the communities along the way. Maybe plan a bike, run and walk with a dedication of the Senator Mark O. Hatfield West Trailhead on Sunday. Include a children's program such as the Columbia Ranger.

Gay Jervey commented that the date should be decided as soon as possible because people plan their schedules in advance. LeAnn suggested mid to late July, possibly July 23rd. The Dalles rodeo is the third weekend in July. Julie would like to have date recommendation with the next two days and by the end of next week have a strong date, possibly the third week in July. Julie suggested we look at current events planned in Oregon and Washington.

LeAnn would like to meet with Julie Curtis and Jeanette Kloos on October 1 to confirm the dates and priorities. (Note: July 21 to 29 selected.)

Kevin Price asked if we would subsidize communities that hold events. The successfulness of the sponsorship solicitor will determine funding for different parts of the celebration.

Carolyn noted that fireworks were included at The Dalles, however, they are illegal in The Dalles. LeAnn recommended that fireworks be dropped.

Julie will proceed to get a sense of sponsorship in the next month and identify the sponsors and reach out for their participation. The key checkpoints will be in December and February when we will determine how much money has been raised from sponsors and which activities will actually happen.

### **HCRH INTERPRETIVE BROCHURE**

Jeanette passed out a draft of the brochure. She requested comments be back to her by next week. Jeanette would like to have the brochure completed by mid-October in time for the Historic The Dalles Day and the Hood River Harvest Festival. The brochure will fold so that it fits into racks at various locations. Most of the photos will be from historic hand-painted glass slides. The brochure will include a map of the HCRH. John asked if captions would be included. Captions will be included on all pictures.

Some corrections needed:

Memaloose and McCall Preserve are mentioned in text but they are not included on the map. Dog River, text should be corrected regarding how the river was named. Historic district in The Dalles is on the National Register.

### **NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY CONFERENCE UPDATE**

Jeanette gave a short summary to the AC. Jeanette had a notebook full of information and will share it with the AC. Three items of interest from the conference include a marketing kit she will receive in about two months, a proposal earmarking \$25,000 per year for five years for each national scenic byway, starting in the year 2000 and an effort to bring the next conference (2001) to Portland.

WSDOT, USFS, ODOT, and US Fish & Wildlife will propose that the conference be held in the Portland area. The proposal is due October 15. Lodging, near an airport, non-franchise historic hotel that will hold 300 people with break out rooms and tours of the HCRH will be part of the proposal. The conference does not need to be on a scenic byway. Washington State has three scenic by-ways.

Charlie asked if Hood River County is still excluded from the scenic byway? The answer is yes.

Melody Johnson is actively working to convince the Hood River County Commission to change its position on Scenic Byways. Melody Johnson is proposing the Mt. Hood Loop as a Scenic Byway. She operates a bed-and-breakfast in Government Camp.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

### **Eagle Creek - Cascade Locks**

This project has been completed and turned over to OPRD. Kevin is working on a letter of acceptance.

Dave Sell stated that the Ruckel Creek Bridge railing has been restored.

The drinking fountain under the Bridge of the Gods has been repaired but has not been turned on.

### **National Historic Landmark Designation**

Bob Hadlow is doing a final wrap-up on the suggested corrections by Washington DC. Bob was given good direction regarding the boundaries. He is also clarifying some points and beefing up some of the passages. There has been some question in removing the word Historic and going with the Columbia River Highway as the name for the landmark district.

### **Toothrock Tunnel Lighting**

Toothrock Tunnel lighting project is under construction. The sides of the tunnel have been painted. The new lighting is being manufactured and should be installed in two weeks. The luminaires need to be replaced.

### **Starvation Creek to Viento**

The preliminary engineering contract has been signed. The project will start in late September. The design will improve both ends and will provide wheelchair accessibility.

### **HCRH Interpretive Sites and Signs**

This project has completed the request for proposal process and a consultant has been selected. A cost estimate is needed and then the contract can be negotiated.

Nancy Russell asked about the Bridal Veil sign being turned to the south. Kevin Price stated that the sign has been turned and it needs a concrete pad for handicap accessibility.

### **Moffit - Tanner Creek, Unit 2**

The advance plans are out and comments are needed back as soon as possible. There will be a meeting to review the plans in 1 1/2 weeks.

### **Hood River - Mosier**

The low-bidder for Hood River to Mosier Roads was rejected because the firm was not pre-qualified for the correct type of work. The second low-bidder, Mocon was awarded the contract. There was a pre-construction meeting August 24. The third new contract will be for the Hanel Quarry area with the bid opening scheduled for late October.

John Lundell asked if anything had been decided regarding the fishermen and the gate. At this time that problem has not resolved, except to add a ditch along the southern side of the path near the gate.

### **Millennium Trails Nomination**

There has been no action on this since the last meeting.

### **National Parks Service, Historic Designed Landscape Initiative**

Bob Hadlow commented that he completed an article on the HCRH that appears in the National Park Service's electronic magazine on the web, Currents. The site shows historic, designed, landscaped and rehabilitation plans for the Franklin Parkway and the HCRH.

### **Statewide Enhancement Applications**

Applications for the following sites on the HCRH have been applied for; interpretive sign and sites, Warrendale to Moffett Creek, the path under UPRR at Multnomah Falls, the Vista House was submitted by OPRD. Kay Van Sickel commented that there have been quite a few applications. James Hamrick is on the committee.

## **ACTIVITY STATUS REPORTS**

### **ODOT**

Charlie Sciscione, District 2C Manager, has applied for enhancement funding to use for the pathway from I-84 to Multnomah Falls.

Charlie also commented on the "Columbia Classic" moonlight run as being very successful, however, more planning will be needed for next year's event. The run also had good media coverage.

Brush cutting is being done at the Portland Women's Forum State Park. Kevin Price thanked Charlie for ODOT's help and the use of ODOT equipment.

Sam Wilkins, District 9, stated that signs at the E. Trailhead have been installed. James Hamerick was concerned with the height of the signs.

As weather permits Sam stated the district is doing shoulder work between Mosier and Rowena Rest Overlook.

Sam reported that there was a fire near the Discovery Center between I-84

and the HCRH. The fire was put out in a short time.

Bids will open September 24 for construction of Shogrun-Rowena, Phase 2 which includes a new entrance to West Mayer State Park. The project will start near the end of October and should be finished by March 15, 2000.

Nancy Russell asked how the district responds to calls regarding cutting of the trees along I-84. Nancy said that before the trees are cut the area should be viewed from the Washington side to get a different perspective of how the cutting will effect the view from other angles.

### **OPRD**

Kevin Price introduced Lisa Midland, the new OPRD team lead interpreter for the Gorge. Lisa told the AC she was transferring from the coast and had worked at Beverly Beach Park for 2 1/2 years and has been on the job only three days. She will be working closely with Diane.

Kevin reported that they are dealing with vandalism of the fences along the HCRH. People are ignoring the fences at various sites and climbing over them. The fence has been repaired multiple times.

Brush removal is being done at Portland Women's Forum State Park and the plaques have been cleaned. Carolyn commented on how much the plaques show on the Sam Hill Memorial rock now since they have been cleaned. The plaques at the Vista House are completed too. Kevin stated that the plaques are now on a maintenance management plan.

There has been a problem with the tribal members selling fish on OPRD property at Cascade Locks.

A survey taken at Ainsworth and Rooster Rock, by OPRD, regarding the mosquito problem this summer shows there has been a reduction of visitors at the parks because of the mosquitoes. Eighty to ninety per cent of those surveyed said that the mosquitoes reduced their pleasure and stay. All six Gorge Counties need to make mosquito control a joint team effort next year. Spraying the area with a helicopter is possible.

The trailer at the Mosier Twin Tunnel site was broken into and spray painted. Also, vandals are carving their names on the wood walls inside the tunnel.

John asked about the fees at Tanner Creek. James Hamrick noted that there is no fee at the Toothrock Trailhead. An audit of OPRD suggested that actual people are used to collect fees instead of machines and that OPRD should require fees at more locations. Kevin Price explained the

basis for the audit recommendation. The auditors took the car count from the counters and multiplied by \$3.00. This does not take into consideration annual permit holders. At Rooster Rock, it does not take into consideration people who decide to turn around, and are just asking how to get to Vista House, etc. At the West Trailhead some of the parks, people are parking outside the fee area, which is causing traffic problems because they are parking on the sides of the highway. Diane has been working on posting signs and has asked the Hood River Sheriff department to do more enforcement. Howard Huston is willing to allow the signs. The USFS has no signs installed at this time.

### **USDA - Forest Service**

Presentation made earlier. (See above)

### **DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS**

Jeanette has received a two-page list of development reviews this month; however, none of the reviews involve the HCRH.

### **MEMBERS ISSUES**

Sally Donovan asked about replacing the rock wall where the guardrail is missing near the steep embankment on the Hood River-Mosier project for safety. This work is included in the Hood River to Mosier (Roads) contract (completion scheduled in December for all except paving work).

James asked if another coating of permeon needed to be applied to the mid-tunnel catchment. Kevin Bracy stated that they would be watching the center section to see how it weathers. This will take about two weeks, and at that time they will determine if another coating is needed.

Kevin Price had two issues:

1. Animals are being picked up in the city by companies and are being dripped off at various sites along the Gorge. Seven raccoons were just recently dropped off near Rooster Rock. This creates a disease problem and results in many casualties, both because they city animals are not used to the country and from animals trying to cross I-84. Neither Forest Service nor OPRD recommend this practice.
2. The drain field at the Vista House is not working properly and the restrooms are now closed.

Bill Pattison received a letter regarding right of way in the Hood River loops. ODOT is working to determine whether ODOT or Hood River County own the area in between the loops.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION**

**Wednesday, November 10, 1999**

**The Dalles  
Discovery Center**