

**Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee  
December 4, 2003  
Columbia Gorge Discovery Center  
The Dalles, Oregon**

Members Attending:	Bill Pattison, Carolyn Wood, Jerry Igo, June Carlson, Kevin Price, Ernie Drapela, James Hamrick, Wayne Stewart, Mandy Cole.
Staff Present:	Jeanette Kloos.
Others Attending:	Teresa Brasfield, Sam Wilkins, Brad DeHart, ODOT; Don Virgovic, USDA Forest Service; Gay Jervey and MacKenzie Winchel, Mosier Alliance; Sheriffa Wright, City of Cascade Locks; Diane McClay, OPRD; Art Carroll; Mike Stovall, ODOT Retired; Dave Sell.

Bill Pattison, chair, called the meeting to order. The Advisory Committee approved the minutes of the September 11 meeting with one correction – the date.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dave Sell presented information about the Beaver Creek Bridge in Troutdale, just east of the HCRH historic district. Multnomah County has received OTIA funds to replace the bridge. Several citizens requested that the county study other options, including restoration of the bridge. Five alternatives were presented at a public meeting earlier in the week: Do Nothing (includes scour repair), Rehabilitation (widen to 48 feet and include bike lanes on the bridge), Restore (separate bike/pedestrian bridge), New vehicular structure to the north and use existing bridge for bikes/pedestrians, Replace existing bridge. Replacement was described as the preferred alternative. The OTIA funding request description specified Replacement.

Dave Sell quoted the Alternatives Feasibility Technical report: “AINW has recently recommended in the Section 106 Documentation Form that the bridge is eligible for listing in the NRHP as a contribution resource to the HCRH, a designated National Historic Landmark and a National Register District. AINW also recommended that it was eligible for listing in the NRHP as a contributing resource to a potential Columbia River Highway multiple property submission documentation.” [This appears to refer to extant portions of the original route from Astoria to the Sandy River that are not in the HCRH Historic District.]

Dave Sell said that 9 of the 10 people at the public meeting preferred the Restoration alternative. The County has indicated that they cannot change from Replacement to Restoration due to funding restrictions. Jeanette Kloos and June Carlson clarified that the project description cannot be

changed without the approval of the OTOD Bridge and OTIA committees. June said that the sufficiency rating is an important part of the decision making process.

Dave Sell quoted the May 17, 1983, OTC policy: “Whenever maintenance or preservation work is required, the work will, to the extent practical, be aimed at restoring the original appearance of this highway in keeping with its scenic and historic nature. “ He said local citizens may want to nominate the bridge to the National Register of Historic Places. Dwight Smith’s “Historic Highway Bridges of Oregon” book concluded that the bridge is eligible for the National Register. [ The keeper of the National Register formally determined it eligible in 1985.]

As the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, James Hamrick noted that he has a regulatory role to play in this issue, outside of his membership on the HCRH AC.

Ernie Drapela said that he believes the existing bridge is a speed constraint and part of the experience of the HCRH. Since he and Wayne Stewart are the Multnomah County representatives on the HCRH AC, he asked if he should contact Multnomah County.

Dave Sell said that there was a Troutdale City Council meeting scheduled for December 8.

Wayne Stewart noted that this is the first information that the HCRH AC has received on this issue. He suggested a motion that the HCRH AC send a letter to both the City of Troutdale and Multnomah County, expressing interest in the subject and note that the AC wants to discuss it further. In addition, the letter should request that the HCRH AC be placed on a public notification list. This motion was unanimously approved. It was also suggested that the next meeting be scheduled for Glenn Otto Park, adjacent to the Beaver Creek Bridge, and that the next meeting include a field review of the bridge and a presentation by Multnomah County.

Dave Sell also provided information about the HCRH Gutter Project. \$250,000 has been added to this project for wall restoration (two walls – near Oneonta and near Shepperds Dell). The total project is now \$1.45 million. An additional \$150,000 is still being sought. FHWA will proceed with a wall inventory and study of 35 walls, to be included in a Project Investigation Report, in the March-May 2004 time frame.

### **MOSIER KIOSK**

MacKenzie Winchel, Mosier Alliance, provided information about a proposed kiosk at the intersection of the HCRH and Rock Creek Road (attached). The sign proposal includes a map of Mosier businesses and

amenities. Mosier would like to be able to update the sign easily, to add things such as restrooms, once they are constructed. The location proposed is on the east side of the HCRH. Two options for kiosk design are shown.

Sam Wilkins said that the sign would not need to be off ODOT right-of-way (30-feet from centerline), but it would need to include information only, no advertisements for businesses. If names of individual businesses were included, it would be considered “off-site advertising”, which is strictly regulated.

Mandy Cole said that she supports the concept of connecting visitors to businesses; however, regulatory restraints need to be met.

Wayne Stewart said that the location looks difficult. Cars would not be able to stop there. He wondered if there was another suitable location closer to downtown. Mandy said that, generally, it is good to have information close to restrooms. MacKenzie said that bikers do not usually go to the Senator Mark O. Hatfield East Trailhead to use the restrooms. Kevin Price agreed that the trailhead was not a good location for this sign. Diane McClay said that there are people that want a longer ride, but they do not know what “reward” there will be for going farther.

Jeanette Kloos noted that while reviewing this location, two bikers asked where Mosier was. Once they were told that it was east, and they could get an ice cream cone there, they continued into Mosier. Jerry Igo noted that the most frequently asked question at the East Trailhead is “where do I go now?” Diane McClay said that there are signs, but they are easily overlooked.

Sam Wilkins said that a basic highway sign indicating restrooms to the right and Mosier to the left could be installed by ODOT. Kevin Price said that, if Sam Wilkins could develop the specifications, OPRD could get the sign made through the Parks and Prisons program and ODOT could install. June Carlson suggested that this highway sign be located so that it would not conflict with the proposed kiosk.

Gay Jervey said she was willing to explore other location closer to Mosier, such as the wastewater treatment plant or within the urban area.

Gay also discussed the grant proposals for the sculpture. The artist, Jeff Stewart, was planning to be in Mosier December 6 and 7, at the Fairy dell Store. Gay recommended visits to the totem in Dufer, since photographs do not do it justice. Jerry Igo said that the Gorge Discovery Center has two example of Jeff Stewart’s work – the sturgeon and the wall.

## **UNDERWATER FISH CAMERA AT EAGLE CREEK**

Don Virgovic, USDA Forest Service, Nature Watch program, presented a proposal to install an underwater camera at the Eagle Creek Bridge, with a live feed to the Oregon Zoo over the internet. A 4-inch camera would be attached to the footings of the bridge. There is power at this location for an existing pump and a telephone pole just to the right with Sprint service. The Bridge is on National Forest land.

Jerry Igo said that what the camera would see would be magnificent.

Mandy Cole asked if there could be information about the HCRH at the Zoo, near the display. Don said they wanted to be careful about the location information, to reduce the possibility of vandalism. The purpose of the program is to tell people about natural places to see salmon, so some information about the location would be included.

Carolyn Wood asked if the Gorge Discovery Center could also have a live feed. Don said that he was working to include Bonneville Dam in the program; he would need to determine the cost, which depends a lot on whether or not the location already has a T2 line.

Mandy Cole said that there is another connection with the Zoo – the first Oregon Birding Trail. Don said that the Zoo averages 67 school buses a day. They hope to provide buttons for kids with the web site, so they can visit the website later.

James Hamrick moved that the HCRH AC approve the proposal to attach a submerged fish camera on the Eagle Creek Bridge. This motion was unanimously approved.

Jerry Igo noted that he uses a “splash cam” with white LED lights, which can see objects 40-feet away.

## **HCRH MASTER PLAN**

Jeanette Kloos presented some proposed changes to the HCRH Master Plan, to update outdated references. She noted that Lewis L. McArthur had sent the attached letter, requesting additions related to the \$500,000 donation for Hood River to Mosier. Jeanette noted that addition of the Access Policy would answer some of the questions. The recently adopted policy on Monuments should also be added.

Ernie Drapela said that he sees the revisions proposed as correcting errors and omissions, not changes in policy. Carolyn Wood agreed that some items needed to be updated.

Wayne Stewart said that most information is available, but scattered; it

would be good to bring it together in one place and reorganize it. He suggested some specific additions, including an expansion of the history of the HCRH, a discussion of goals (what are we trying to accomplish), an executive summary, a map for each section, a new section of design guidelines (including the family of railing designs), and note use of 1924 as the benchmark for visual resources. He suggested that the document could be split into two, with the appendices as a separate volume.

Ernie Drapela asked that the term “bulb-outs” be explained. He also suggested that the sentence “Send information on desire for bicycle licensing to DMV and Bicycle Advisory Committee, asking for their response” be eliminated as inappropriate.

Mandy Cole suggested that it would be good to have all of the recommendations in one location.

June Carlson suggested adding an accomplishment section, a discussion of what remains to be done and what issues still need to be resolved.

Kevin Price said that the OPRD Gorge Master Plan is used as a roadmap of projects for the future and does not include much history.

June Carlson asked if this should be a Corridor Plan. However, ODOT may not have the resources to do this at this time. Some items are included in the Byway Corridor Plan; should these be in an appendix?

James Hamrick asked if the document should receive formal adoption by the Oregon Transportation Commission and Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ernie Drapela moved that the issues raised be deferred to staff, to bring a recommendation on further action back to the HCRH AC. This motion passed unanimously.

#### **15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HCRH AC**

James Hamrick provided the attached memo describing proposals for the 15th Anniversary. The proposal includes recognition during the Preserving the Historic Road in America conference in April, at the reception at Vista House. James will ask if State Parks Trust will participate. He expects remarks to be brief and hopes they include single or joint resolutions from the Transportation and Parks commissions. He will attempt to get media coverage. He would like to get something commemorative.

Carolyn Wood said the ideas sound great. One idea was shirts with the HCRH keystone logo and the dates of service for each HCRH AC

member.

The Advisory Committee unanimously told the subcommittee to proceed with the proposals. James said they will continue working on the details.

### **KEN OLESEN COMMENT LETTER**

Ken Olesen sent the attached letter to the HCRH AC. Jeanette Kloos asked what kind of response should be spent. Ernie Drapela said he thought the letter was preposterous and should have a minimal response. Similar to the discussion of monuments, the HCRH is the important thing, not events that happen along it.

Carolyn Wood said that many of the proposals have been done, such as walks by the Friends of the Gorge and Volkswalks and the Columbia Classic.

The HCRH AC unanimously directed that a response letter be sent that is informative (you can find more information at the HCRH web site; many of your ideas have been implemented; contact names, etc.).

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

*Warrendale to Moffett Creek* – The next step is geotechnical drilling. Still seeking construction funding.

*Toothrock Trailhead Access Road*--Complete.

*HCRH Interpretive Sites and Signs* – Will begin working on Intergovernmental Agreements with Cascade Locks, Gorge Discovery Center and Columbia Gorge Hotel. May be able to advance funding from 2006 to 2005 construction.

*Vista House Restoration* – James Hamrick reported that the downstairs replastering is proceeding, providing a smooth and clean look. Utility work is proceeding. Upstairs the paint has been removed and water damage is being repaired. The rock is a butterscotch color. James almost recommended removing a large clock, but he discovered that it had a 1918 date on it, so it will be restored. All the needed funds for the interior restoration are now available. There has been some vandalism (breaking of skyview blocks) and a new surveillance system will be developed. Phase 3 will include interpretation within the building. A “soft” reopening will be Memorial Day weekend, with a grand reopening celebration in July.

*Millennium Legacy Trail Art Project* – Art has been installed. Diane McClay said that the art (particularly the pine cones) is drawing people to the overlook and more people are using the trail; this was definitely an enhancement of the area.

*Casino* – No news.

*City Programmatic Agreements* – The Hood River Programmatic Agreement was sent out for final review in October. The City of Hood River is ready to sign, but no response has been received from Hood River County. The agreements for Mosier and Cascade Locks should be out for review soon.

*Virtual Tour* – Jeanette Kloos requested additional information from potential sites to be included in the Virtual Tour. Mandy Cole suggested Genevieve Scholl, Hood River Chamber of Commerce be contacted.

*Rowena Pit Restoration* – Jack Wiles is working on a Request for Proposals for a consultant to design the restoration.

*Preserving the Historic Road in America Conference* – Save the Date (April 22-25) cards were distributed. Registration should be available in December

*Gutters* – see previous information from Dave Sell.

*Oneonta* – The first scoping trip for this project was organized by the Forest Service. The project will investigate parking east of the bluff and reopening the Oneonta Tunnel.

*Eagle Creek exit ramp* – bike – This project is proposed to restripe the Eagle Creek Bridge to strengthen the connection between the stairway and the Eagle Creek section of the HCRH State Trail.

*Country Club Road to ORE 35* – Project is complete. Bill Pattison said that the railing looks good.

*Hood River Super Wal-Mart* – Bill Pattison reported that the Hood River Planning Commission had rejected the proposal because the surface water issues had not yet been resolved.

## **ACTIVITY STATUS UPDATES**

### *ODOT*

Sam Wilkins said that Bill Barnhart reported that there was not a lot going on in District 2C, except a few falling rocks. The Herman Creek fire has raised some issues. Interstate 84 is no longer considered a fire break. There are federal funds available for fuels reduction to reduce fire hazards. ODOT hopes to be able to do some thinning. We do not want car fires to jump to the forest. Diane McClay said that the Multnomah County Center at Wyeth wants work, to be able to keep the center open.

James Hamrick asked if the catchment had been checked recently. Sam Wilkins said that there are some 1000-pound rocks up there; it is checked every spring. Diane McClay said that there are lots of basketball size rocks to the north of the catchment. She asked if there was a pictorial history of the rock falls. Sam said that he would develop this.

### *Forest Service*

No report.

*OPRD*

Diane McClay provided the attached traffic numbers for the HCRH State Trail. There appears to be an increase in knowledge of the HCRH. There were significant numbers of people from the Lindblad tours (both walkers and bikers) using the Trail in both the spring (200) and fall (520) of 2003. Diane has noticed a change in the users – there are more cyclists than walkers now and fewer dogs (the leash requirement is being enforced now). There are more long distance bike riders and more baby joggers/carriages. There are also significant numbers of skateboarders.

West of the County Line Overlook, there are significant signs of rockfall, damaging the pavement.

There was a “tagging” incident, but they used water based paint, so it was washed away.

The campgrounds are closed until March (Viento until Memorial Day). The Memaloose showers are now totally solar heated.

Bill Pattison asked if there were many injuries on the HCRH State Trail. Diane said that there are a lot of enforcement contacts and an increase in near misses (about 10). There has been one fatality; a cross-country bicyclist from Boston had a heart attack on the trail.

**DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS**

See attached chart; no significant issues.

**MEMBERS ISSUES**

Ernie Drapela reported that he was invited to speak at the Portland Women’s Forum luncheon meeting. They requested that the National Historic Landmark plaque be installed before May 8 (their annual tour). An OPRD proposal for additional parking and a restroom was discussed as a needed improvement. The Forum would like the ferns restored in the landscaping. They also want survey flags outlining the original donation parcel. The Forum said they hope the Gutters are restored; they are an important part of the history of the HCRH.

Ernie Drapela said that he taught a hospitality and tourism class at Mt. Hood Community College. The class is developing a marketing piece.

Ernie Drapela attended a Volunteers in the Gorge meeting. This dedicated group of volunteers helps the Oregon State Policy.

Mandy Cole reported that HB2267 was passed, creating a 1% room tax for tourism and marketing. December 11 there will be a listening session

in Cascade Locks to help determine how the money will be used (3:30 – 5 at the Best Western Columbia River Inn). Julie Curtis is now working with Brand Oregon; historic promotion is a part of this effort.

James Hamrick said that he liked the new, larger HCRH signs.

Jerry Igo said that the Giant knotweed and Japanese knotweed are hybridizing. Hood River county weed control treated the core area at Tanner Creek under a Forest Service contract; however, they used a non-approved method and it was not effective. Jerry said that Tim Butler apologizes that the multi-agency meeting has not been scheduled, but hopes it will be before Christmas. The infestation at Tanner Creek is 7 acres now. Knotweed is the #1 weed focus in Oregon.

Jerry Igo said that Eagle Creek is having the best salmon runs in memory, due to good ocean conditions. He used the phrase “you could walk across on their backs.”

Bill Pattison reported that he attended the Oregon Transportation Commission meeting in Hood River. He received an ovation for the report on the HCRH. Bob Willoughby (Cascade Locks manager) criticized ODOT for “trying to run his city”. Bill Pattison suggested that the meeting after next should be in Cascade Locks. The Hood River heritage commission team is meeting in a Comprehensive Planning effort.

Diane McClay said that the Northwest Region Ford club will be having a tour of the HCRH in August 2004. She will try to have car owners offer rides. A 1929 Yellowstone bus may be included. This tour should provide national attention and promotion for the HCRH, with about 200 people participating.

**NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE**

The next meeting will be February 11 at Glenn Otto Park, Troutdale (if possible) .