

**MINUTES**  
**Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee**  
**March 20, 2002**  
**Bonneville Dam Auditorium**  
**Bonneville, Oregon**

Members Attending: Bill Pattison, Carolyn Wood, Nancy Niedernhofer, Charlie Sciscione, Wayne Stewart, Mandy Cole, Kevin Price, Jerry Igo.

Staff Attending: Jeanette Kloos, Robert Hadlow, Brad DeHart, Tracy Harris.

Others Attending: Nancy Russell, Friends of the Columbia Gorge; Carroll Davis, Hood River Valley Residents Committee and Hood River Citizens for Responsible Growth; Gay Jervey and Jan Leininger, Mosier; MacKenzie Winckel, Mosier/Americorps.

Before the formal meeting began, the HCRH AC reviewed proposals at McCord Creek in the field. It was determined that there are no reasonable alternatives for a short-term connection using the Elowah Falls Trail on the south side of Interstate 84. A new proposal included use of the existing gravel access road from the Warrendale Frontage Road to McCord Creek, a small, removable, seasonal bridge over the creek, use of an existing "bench" on the east bank, and a stairway or ladder to reach the freeway level. This proposal would be pursued if partial construction funding for the Warrendale to Moffett Creek section was secured and a pedestrian connection was determine to be a useful, short-term option until the remainder of the funding was secured.

Bill Pattison, chair, called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the January 31 meeting were approved as mailed.

**Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan Update**

Jeanette Kloos reviewed the proposed changes to the National Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan, as outlined in the attached February 28 letter.

Wayne Stewart asked the purpose of this document. (The document was prepared to gain National Scenic Byway designation.) He asked if the revision should be more forward looking, explaining more where the HCRH is going and how we are going to get there. He would also like to see the information rearranged to get the information about the HCRH and its importance up front, rather than towards the end of the document.

The National Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan is not a stand-alone document, since it heavily references the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan, which was included as an attachment in the nomination package. Also, the Historic Columbia River Highway Master Plan includes the “visions” for the different sections of the highway. Should these be incorporated into one document? How is this document used? Since the designation, it has been used mainly for funding applications. Any project proposed for National Scenic Byway funding needs to be included in the Corridor Management Plan. Applications for other sources of funding also use references to the funding charts as support for the applications.

The HCRH AC had an extended discussion of the so-called “shooting range pit” near The Dalles. This project is included under the Scenic Views category as one where we need to seek funding. A year ago, ODOT Region 4 proposed this project for National Scenic Byway funding. The proposal needed additional work and the application for funding was not completed. The issues still exist. Jerry Igo said that he tried to take a tour bus full of people to see the Desert Parsley at this location. There were so many shots fired that he was intimidated and had the people re-board the buses. Jerry stated that “this is not a suitable place to shoot. It is time to close the area to shooting.” Carolyn Wood discussed the need for the area to be cleaned up. Even though it has been cleaned up on a monthly basis, the trash is still visible from the HCRH. Brad DeHart said that the Oregon Hunters Association has requested to become the “Adopt a Highway” volunteers for litter pick up in this area.

Carolyn Wood said that it would be good to find an alternative site for the shooting. She heard that the Harvey Pit on Seven-mile Hill was now in Forest Service ownership. Nancy Russell said that this area is the future site of a hiking route up Seven-mile Hill and therefore not a good place for shooting. Carolyn Wood said that there is a shooting range in the basement of the senior center. Nancy Niedernhofer suggested asking the Oregon Military Department where the National Guard practices.

The HCRH AC recommended that Region 4 continuing working on this issue. A proposal to restore the pit area would be a good candidate for National Scenic Byway funds next year, if agreement can be reached on a concept. Jerry Igo reminded us that there is some urgency to this, as the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial will soon be increasing visitation to this area and usage of the HCRH.

### **Public Comment**

Nancy Russell asked about the Oregon State Parks Trust account for the Historic Columbia River Highway. This is mostly the money from Safeway, which is to be

used for the display at the Bridge of the Gods and for “educational” use, and the Castles Award funds (\$1,000). Nancy asked if these funds could be used for interpretive displays at Vista House. Jeanette asked Kevin Price to bring information to the next meeting on the display at the Bridge of the Gods (current status, amount spent or to be spent) and what uses OPRD was expecting for the Safeway funds. It would be good to leverage these funds as matching funds for grant applications.

Gay Jervey discussed the current status of the Mosier Waterfront project. Through a lot of volunteer help, including Americorps help, there has been much progress, particularly on trail development. Gay invited the HCRH AC to the March 30 celebration, which will include a parade at 3 P.M. and partners, including the HCRH AC, will be honored at 5 P.M.. The event is free, with donations accepted.

Gay Jervey also brought the Rainbow Proposal (attached). She asked the HCRH AC to review the proposal and consider a recommendation at the next meeting.

### **National Scenic Byway Project Prioritization**

The same two proposed projects from last year are proposed for this year. We have not heard which projects will be funded this year. The HCRH AC agreed that the priorities should remain the same as last year, with the Rowena Crest and Rowena Pit Restoration the top priority and the Chenoweth Creek Bridge Restoration second. If the Rowena Crest proposal is funded this year, the Chenoweth Creek Bridge would be the highest priority. It was noted that we should be looking forward and determining future projects for each potential funding source and developing them in a timely manner, so that they are sufficiently developed to request funding during the funding cycles. With the upcoming reauthorization of TEA-21, all types of funding are uncertain. National Scenic Byway funds were partially earmarked this year. Future funds may or may not be on the competitive basis as in the past. Nancy Russell suggested that the HCRH AC members who are able to lobby should consider making contact with congressional members and/or their staff.

### **Vista House Plaque**

Due to a date mix-up, no one had information to present on the proposed plaque at Vista House. This will be included on the next agenda. Kevin Price said that OPRD and Friends of Vista House are considering a “hall of donation” downstairs at Vista House.

### **National Trust for Historic Preservation Honor Award Application**

Two versions of the application text were discussed (see attached).

Mandy Cole said that the application should emphasize the partnership and how it could be a model for others. Nancy Niedernhofer said that the application should focus on the partnership, not the project. What makes the partnership unique? Why is it a good model? That the partnership includes both state AND federal agencies. Also the resource is unique (a National Historic Landmark)-- one of the few of its resource type. The makeup of the HCRH AC is unique, with public (community) members on the AC. Federal and state legislation made the partnership possible. Nancy Russell said that the role of the donation through the Friends of the Columbia Gorge should not be overlooked, bringing non-agencies into the partnership. Robert Hadlow will ask NTHP for clarification of the "five co-nominee" requirement. Can this be the HCRH AC and five others or just five total?

Jeanette Kloos and Robert Hadlow will meld the two optional texts together, with the guidance from the AC, somehow keeping the 750-word maximum in mind. Gay Jervey said that Mosier will provide a letter (maybe three) of recommendation for inclusion in the application.

### **Project Updates**

#### *Warrendale to Moffett Creek*

Jeanette Kloos informed the HCRH AC that the Warrendale to Moffett Creek project is continuing in Preliminary Engineering. Documents required for the CRGNSA development review with Multnomah County are in preparation, with the Cultural Resources and Wetlands reports complete. See results of field review (above).

#### *Starvation Creek to Viento*

Construction is basically complete. There will be a plant establishment period. ODOT is looking to see if funds are available to purchase the plants; Jack Wiles volunteered his staff to install the plants.

#### *HCRH Interpretive Sites and Signs*

A project team meeting has been scheduled for April 3. Concept plans and text profiles (attached) will be discussed. Comments on these documents were requested.

#### *Toothrock Trailhead Access Road*

See attached update of Forest Service projects. This project is expected to be constructed during the summer of 2003.

#### *West Oneonta and John Yeon Trailheads*

These projects are now under contract (same contractor as Vista House). Construction scheduled to be complete by Memorial Day weekend.

*Gutter Restoration*

Dave Sell, Western Federal Lands Highway Division, Federal Highway Administration, reports that surveying is underway on this project.

*Millennium Legacy Trail Art Project*

The artist was selected in March. A fall installation is expected.

*Byway Poster*

Jeanette Kloos reported that the byway poster is complete and should be installed at the Multnomah Falls kiosk (and two others) now or in the near future.

*Mosier Mounds Nomination to National Register of Historic Places*

The Nomination of the Mosier Mounds to the National Register of Historic Places has been postponed to the May meeting of the Oregon Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation. Nancy Niedernhofer reported that the ownership issues have been resolved.

*Casino*

No environmental document has been received by the State of Oregon on the fee to trust transfer. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs are expected to vote in mid-April on whether the casino should be on or off reservation. The Grand Ronde tribe has come out in opposition to any casino in the Gorge. The Friends of the Columbia Gorge continue to oppose the fee to trust transfer and have been talking to the second in command at the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

*Super Wal-Mart*

There have been no new submissions reviewed by ODOT on the Super Wal-Mart proposal in Hood River. The developer has 180 days to submit a complete application.

*New DAS Rules*

Jeanette Kloos described the new Department of Administrative Services' rules on meals and refreshments at meetings (attached). For any meeting where lunch is served, there needs to be at least 50% non-state-agency people present and there needs to be actual work during the lunch period. The Advisory Committee members decided that they would either bring or buy their own lunches (depending on whether a convenient restaurant is available).

*Country Club Road to Highway 35*

ODOT is beginning project development on an overlay project on the HCRH between Country Club Road and Highway 35 in Hood River. Issues raised so far include: drainage and sidewalk infill including ADA ramps. Traffic control during construction needs a lot of community involvement. Charlie Sciscione said that

this is now standard practice, unlike several years ago when people were “surprised” by road closures during construction.

### **Activity Status Reports**

#### **ODOT**

Charlie Sciscione said that Allan Morrissette, USDA Forest Service—CRGNSA, had suggested several improvements along the HCRH, including restriping the parking lot at Wahkeena and limbing up trees at Horsetail Falls.

Safety concerns and high volumes of vehicle using the parking lot have prompted the need to install NO TRUCKS signs at the Multnomah Falls Interchange.

LOW VOLUME Maintenance Dollars for Paving are expected to be available at the same time as the gutter project, allowing this work to be combined into one project.

No report from Sam Wilkins.

#### **OPRD**

Kevin Price said that work on Vista House is in winter shutdown until mid-April. The tiles for the roof need to be specially made. Work will include the balcony and the main level (skylights). The Friends of Vista House will have a contact station open full time beginning March 20. It will include interpretation and education, without a gift store, due to space limitations. The Friends of Vista House are looking for a permanent executive director.

Kevin Price reported that hazard trees had been removed from the three campgrounds, which will open Friday (March 22) through October 30. The Memaloose shower building will be converted to solar heating.

On April 30, there will be an astronomy night at Rooster Rock, with five planets visible.

Relatives of Guy Talbot have requested a Thematic Site Sign at the picnic area in Latourell. The first estimate was \$20,000; now it is \$6,000.

#### **USDA Forest Service**

Allan Morrissette sent the attached summary of current work.

### **Public Issues**

Nancy Russell said that the Oregon State Parks Trust is sponsoring luncheons to raise additional funds for Vista House.

Gay Jervey brought up several issues. Mosier is planning to install a 25-foot carved cedar post on the waterfront. It will be visible from the HCRH. They have raised \$6,000 of the \$14,000 needed for this and the artist has begun work. Gay suggested that the interpretive panel proposed for Mosier should include that the restoration of the HCRH has helped to revitalize Mosier; this would be an upbeat ending to the story. Gay requested a brown guide sign on I-84 indicating the historic resource (HCRH--Mosier Twin Tunnels) available at the Mosier exit. Brad DeHart will research this. Mosier is working to upgrade the sewage treatment plant adjacent to the HCRH near Rock Creek. The bubbler system will be changed and landscaping will be added.

### **Development Reviews**

Advisory Committee members agreed that they would like to continue to see all of the development reviews received, even though many of them do not affect the HCRH. None of the ones listed (attached) have issues.

### **Members Issues**

None.

### **Next Meeting Date and Location**

The next HCRH AC meeting will be June 18, probably at the Mosier Senior Center.

### **Attachments**

- National Corridor Management Plan Revision – February 28, 2002, letter
- Rainbow Proposal
- National Trust for Historic Preservation Honor Award Applications
- HCRH Interpretive Sites and Signs – Site Concepts and Profiles
- Forest Service Update
- Development Reviews