

**Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee  
June 5, 2003  
Bonneville Dam Administrative Building  
Bonneville, Oregon**

Members Attending:	Bill Pattison, Carolyn Wood, Jerry Igo, Kay Van Sickle, Jack Wiles, Ernie Drapela, James Hamrick, Mandy Cole, Sally Donovan.
Staff Present:	Jeanette Kloos, Robert Hadlow.
Others Attending:	Charlie Sciscione, Sam Wilkins, ODOT; MacKenzie Winchel, Mecca Jean Jackson, Kimberly Kadas, Isaac Daniel, Matt Burbach and other AmeriCorps members; Gay Jervey, Mosier Alliance; Eric Walker, Hood River County Planning Department; Brian Bainnson, Quatrefoil, Inc.; Nancy Russell, Friends of the Columbia Gorge; Scott Franklin and another representative for Wal-Mart and PacLand.

Bill Pattison, chair, called the meeting to order. The Advisory Committee approved the minutes of the March 18 meeting as mailed.

**HOOD RIVER WAL-MART SUPERCENTER REVISED PROPOSAL**

Scott Franklin, PacLand, representing Wal-Mart, presented a new proposal for access from the Historic Columbia River Highway to the proposed Hood River Wal-Mart SuperCenter. The proposed building will be located at the corner of Country Club Road and Frankton Road. The intersection of the Historic Columbia River Highway (HCRH) and Country Club Road is proposed to be eliminated, with Country Club Road being realigned to the south and east, connecting up with the TSP location for a new street, referred to as Fairview Drive (in the area of the current driveway to Stonehenge Restaurant). The HCRH from approximately the east end of the existing sidewalk to the property line of the Texaco station would be widened to 44 feet, with curbs, sidewalks, street trees and “antique” style street lights, as required by the Hood River City TSP.. The new intersection would have only 3 legs and be signalized. At the mobile home park, there is a steep slope; a 4-foot tall retaining wall may be needed there. If so, the tree-wells will be narrowed to 3-feet. Drilling to determine the geology of the slope will be needed before the decision on whether this can be a rock cut or if a retaining wall will be needed.

Bill Pattison voiced concern with the retaining wall. He asked if the HCRH Advisory Committee could review the design if a retaining wall is needed. Scott Franklin agreed that this would be possible.

Sally Donovan asked about the interpretive area that was included in the

previous proposal. Scott Franklin said that the proposal includes removal of the existing pavement at the current intersection of Country Club Road and the HCRH and planting the area with native plants. However, no interpretive area is proposed. The \$50,000 contribution to a fund for mitigation is still included. Fairview will be constructed to the County standard width of 48 feet, including a turn lane and bike lanes. Local resident Christine Nowell said that without the interpretive area at the abandoned Country Club Road intersection, the gateway into Hood River would be in limbo indefinitely. She said that more mitigation should be required.

James Hamrick asked about when they would know if the rock is good enough to stand without a wall. Scott said that, ultimately, this will be during construction, but some detailed geotechnical work will be done between the time the project is approved and construction.

Kay Van Sickel asked about what landscaping is planned. Scott Franklin said that the disturbed area outside the right-of-way will be hydroseeded; the street section takes up all of the right-of-way and includes street trees required by the City.

Ernie Drapela said he regretted that the Committee was not at the site to better understand the proposal. The issue is integrity of the HCRH. He proposed delaying action until members could visit the site. Bill Pattison proposed a field review. Scott Franklin said that the hearing is July 23-24 and he hopes the HCRH AC will approve the proposal at this meeting. He said that the street section on the HCRH is dictated by the City Transportation Systems Plan.

Sally Donovan said that the previous HCRH AC recommendation included extending the street section to Interstate 84. Should the \$50,000 be revisited? Scott Franklin noted that the current proposal improves more linear feet of the HCRH than the previous proposal. Future development would be required to complete the street section on HCRH fronting their parcels. Carolyn Wood asked the likelihood of development; Scott Franklin said it is high.

James Hamrick moved and Carolyn Wood seconded a motion to approve the proposal as submitted, with the exception of the retaining walls, which would be brought back to the HCRH AC for review. After discussion, this motion passed with 6 yes, 1 no, and Sally Donovan and Jerry Igo abstaining. A second motion clarified that the proposal includes the \$50,000 for a mitigation fund and removal of the abandoned portion Country Club Road, and planting this area with native plants. This passed with 5 yes, 2 no, and Sally Donovan and Jerry Igo abstaining. Bill Pattison explained his “no” vote on the original motion, because he wants

to see more detail. He believes that the front door of Hood River should look good.

## **MEMORIALS AND LATOURELL**

Jack Wiles introduced Brian Bainnson, who presented concepts for improvement of the upper overlook and plaza areas in Latourell Falls Developed Area (sketches and cost estimates attached). First, Brian explained that the parking area could be restriped from angle to 90-degree parking stalls, to allow the same amount of parking, plus a larger plaza at the entrance. The existing plaza area includes a wood rail, interpretive sign, asphalt paving and a view of the waterfall. Option 1 would utilize the additional area from the restriped parking lot to create an oval area surrounded by a rock wall, similar in design to the historic rubble masonry parapet walls. Option 2 could be built without the change in the entrance road. The upper overlook is part way up a steep trail, with a 1956 rock wall and a view of the waterfall. Climbing visitors have damaged the surrounding slopes. Option 1 is an oval, to mimic observatories on the HCRH. Option 2 is more asymmetrical, slightly larger and less traditional.

Bill Pattison asked if the trail to the upper overlook could be made compliant with ADA standards. A switchback would be required, removing most of the existing vegetation; so this is not proposed. Jack Wiles said that an additional interpretive sign could be added at the upper overlook.

Jerry Igo said that it would be easier to see the waterfall if the vegetation could be trimmed back to its 1950s extent.

James Hamrick said that these proposals are similar to the work at Angel's Rest Trailhead; they add value. Mandy Cole said that the proposals would be an aesthetic improvement and would show that we care about the area.

Brian Bainnson responded to a question about drainage, saying that drainage would be improved significantly with the upper overlook design. Arches in the rock wall could improve drainage even more.

Mandy Cole moved that the HCRH AC show that it favors Alternative A for both the upper overlook and plaza sites. This motion passed unanimously.

Later in the meeting Jack Wiles presented some guiding principles for future Memorials (attached). Jack suggested that the existing Monument Guidelines should be taken to both ODOT and OPRD for official approval/adoption. The Principles would act as a preamble or explanation for the Guidelines or could be incorporated into the Guidelines. The

HCRH AC unanimously voted to adopt the guiding principles, with two changes: that principle #5 be moved to be the first principle and that the work “guiding” be added before “principles”.

The Advisory Committee also discussed specific locations. Ernie Drapela asked if the pavers at the Twin Tunnels Visitor Station could become like the bricks at the entrance to the Gorge Discovery Center. He also asked about changes to Lewis and Clark State Park; could an opportunity for name recognition be available there. Jack Wiles said that would be possible. The landscaping is proposed to be redesigned. It could be a “sacrifice” park. The existing rock wall could become a wall of giving after the sign is moved.

Jack Wiles said that he had a call from the Dabney family about wanting to have more recognition of their gift of Dabney State Park. He had recently learned that the family were Oregon pioneers and their estate and garden were well known. Potential recognition options could include information on the OPRD web site or an interpretive sign or exhibit.

#### **MOSIER UPDATES**

MacKenzie Winchel presented information on the proposal for a totem in Mosier. A location between the tracks and the HCRH in downtown Mosier, immediately east of the Growers property has been selected for its site. The totem will be about 30 feet tall and carving is well underway. The area proposed is currently owned by Union Pacific Railroad, with a 20 year lease to Mosier. Mosier would like to purchase 5,000 square feet for the totem, community gathering place, with interpretive signing and seating, and mosaic tiles by Mosier children making a “river.”

Jack Wiles asked what the “story” of the totem will be. It is the natural life of the area, from sturgeon and salmon, up to an eagle on top. Jerry Igo said that the artist is respected by the Yakama and Warm Springs tribes and the tribes have been asked to review the proposals.

Ernie Drapela asked if there will be a rest stop and shade. MacKenzie said that there is parking to the north, but no current shade. This will provide the link between the downtown and waterfront park. Other future proposals include a restroom. Jack Wiles asked if the totem will be illuminated. MacKenzie said that illumination was possible; also, addition of a water feature is possible.

The HCRH AC unanimously voted to send a letter of support for establishing the totem and acquiring 5,000 square feet of property for this purpose.

Jeanette Kloos gave a brief update on the Mosier Transportation Systems

Management grant and the proposal for a second grant. The HCRH AC unanimously voted to send a letter of support for the second grant application. In addition, James Hamrick, Bill Pattison and Carolyn Wood will work with ODOT and Mosier to develop a Programmatic Agreement incorporating the street section developed in the TGM study.

### **HCRH AC 15 ANNIVERSARY**

James Hamrick said that the legislation that created the HCRH AC was significant. There have been many successes and much has been accomplished in the last fifteen years. The HCRH AC should “toot our own horn” to remind people of these accomplishments. The Committee members had a lively brainstorming discussion of possible venues and ways to celebrate this milestone. An event at the Mosier Twin Tunnels, similar to the 2000 Celebration or something related to the Vista House reopening, is possible. All previous members of the AC should be invited, including ODOT Director Bruce Warner. A history could be published. A media event at the most significant viewpoint could be organized – looking back and forward into the future. People who have spent their time should be honored and the public should be educated on what has been accomplished. Nancy Russell said that a Friends of the Gorge bus tour sold out quickly. People such as Lew McArthur should be honored. The OPB video “Paradise Road” could be updated, since much has changed since the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1991. The event could be included with the Preserving the Historic Road in America Conference, in Portland, in April 2004. The governing commissions (Oregon Transportation Commission and Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission) could do something to recognize the work of this citizen advisory committee. A wine label could be created or t-shirt created – listing all the awards (marketing opportunities). Polo shirts with a logo could be made for all the current and previous members and other people significant to the HCRH. A motion passed unanimously for Mandy, James and Bob to continue discussions and come back with no more than 5 proposals at the next meeting.

### **I-84 ROCKFALL MILE POST 81**

Robert Hadlow presented information about the project proposed near Interstate 84 mile post 81 (see attached information). The shoulder of the HCRH has been undermined by a crumbling rock slope that creates rockfall onto Interstate 84 below. The project proposes to build a wall at the Interstate 84 level, which will support the HCRH above. Half of the HCRH pavement will need to be removed and rebuilt; guardrail will be removed and re-established. Traffic will be one-way with flaggers while the HCRH work is underway.

### **VISTA HOUSE SIGNING**

Jeanette Kloos presented information from Fred Sawyer, ODOT Traffic,

concerning the request for additional signing for Vista House (attached). Vista House cannot be added to the diagrammatic signs, because only two destinations are allowed and two are already on the signs. A logo shape was also rejected. It will be possible to add Vista House signs for the Corbett exit; this will be added to the current Corbett to Multnomah Falls construction contract. A sign will also be added at exit 35. The signs at the top of Corbett Hill Road will also be changed, but an exact proposal is still being developed.

Jerry Igo reported that the bus operators appear to already be implementing the suggestion that tour buses only travel the HCRH from west to east in the Multnomah County section.

### **VISTA HOUSE INTERIOR RESTORATION**

Jack Wiles reported that the recent Vista House benefit auction grossed \$80,000, which should result in a \$30,000-40,000 donation. The M.J. Murdock Foundation has issued a challenge grant for \$250,000. \$800,000 more is needed. OPRD is committed to reopening Vista House in the spring of 2004. There were nine contractors at the pre-bid meeting for the interior work. Construction should begin in July. Jack also presented information on the proposed interpretive information for the lower level of Vista House.

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

*Country Club Road to Highway 35* – Paving was complete by June 1. Striping, signing and the railing will be completed later this summer. Bill Pattison said that the project really cleaned up the area and that people think it is great.

*Warrendale to Moffett Creek* – Jeanette Kloos is now the project leader. An artist rendition of the railing design was circulated. The next step is geotechnical drilling. Still seeking construction funding.

*Interpretive Sites and Signs* – The attached pre-preliminary plan drawings of the parking areas were circulated.

*Toothrock Trailhead Access Road*--Development review complete; construction July - October 2003.

*Vista House*- Exterior restoration is complete. \$1.3 million is available for interior restoration and fundraising continues.

*Millennium Legacy Trail Art Project* – Jack and James said that they had been notified that the artist will begin soon, with installation expected in August.

*Casino* -- Nothing new to report.

*Mosier TGM* – Discussed above.

*Cascade Locks TGM* – Consultant is proposing different street light,

which will need to be reviewed and approved by the HCRH AC, ODOT and SHPO (see attachment).

*Historic Roads Conference* – The fourth biennial Preserving the Historic Road in America Conference will be in Portland April 22-25, 2004. The HCRH will be featured in a field trip.

*Draft STIP Criteria* – The attached draft STIP criteria was circulated. It was noted that there is a ranking role for Area Commissions on Transportation; however, there is no ACT for eastern Multnomah County or Hood River County.

*National Scenic Byway Conference* – Jeanette Kloos reported that she attended the National Scenic Byway Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Two HCRH posters that were presented at the Conference were displayed. Additional copies will be made for FHWA, OPRD and the Gorge Discovery Center.

## **ACTIVITY STATUS UPDATES**

### *ODOT*

Charlie Sciscione reported that Kay Van Sickel sent a letter to the Forest Service regarding knotweed control in the Gorge. The Forest Service has applied for a grant. Hood River County is applying for an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant. ODOT provides \$9,000/year to Hood River County Weed Control; this will be used to target knotweed. Charlie said that he has been told that August is the best time to treat knotweed. The eradication efforts on the HCRH State Trail near Tanner Creek appear to be successful. Jerry Igo cautioned that the situation needs to be closely monitored for 3-5 years. Also he brought in a cutting of the giant knotweed near Tanner Creek, which is already 18-20 feet tall. The ¼ acre infestation has now grown to 7 acres, down to the Columbia River,

Jerry Igo received a letter from Tim Butler, manager of noxious weeds for Oregon Department of Agriculture, stating that he was appalled by the condition of weeds in the Gorge. He feels that agencies have failed in their responsibilities. He will try to coordinate the agencies, beginning with a meeting of land managers, including BPA, Corps of Engineers, UPRR, OPRD, ODOT, Forest Service, etc..

Charlie Sciscione noted that ODOT has been begging the Forest Service to allow spraying along roads. Currently the FS is requiring a specific biological assessment and NEPA document for any spraying.

Charlie Sciscione reported that a suicide had occurred at Shepperds Dell (jumped off the bridge). Dan Gibson, long time section manager at Cascade Locks is retiring after 30 years with ODOT. The after-the-fact permit for the Dodson Debris Flow has been received from Multnomah County. Contouring of the material near the Sandy River/Lewis and Clark

State Park will occur soon, with planting this fall when the rain begins. The boulders were sold on eBay. Charlie would like to use the area behind the fill as a future disposal area. Recent action to allow disposal sites has been approved by the Columbia River Gorge Commission, however, it is restricted to lands designated Agriculture or Forest (this site is Public Recreation and Open Space).

Sam Wilkins thanked Jeanette Kloos for her efforts during the Management Plan revision process. He said that the disposal sites are needed. We have previously used our right-of-way for this, but the easy sites have all been used, that is why it is a larger issue now.

Sam Wilkins updated the Committee on the road approach presented at the last meeting. Due to time issues, the Forest Service improved the existing alignment, but it does not meet permitting standards for site distance. Since it seems to work, it will be left as is.

Sam Wilkins reported that ODOT plans to “surplus” the Shooting Range Pit (approximately 10 acres). While the volunteer group cleans it up at least quarterly, it quickly becomes cluttered with litter again.

*Forest Service*

No report.

*OPRD*

Jack Wiles reported that the Rowena Crest restoration and Rowena Pit work was selected for National Scenic Byway funding for this Federal Fiscal Year. He is concerned that he has not yet heard from Pat Moran what process needs to be followed to obligate and use the funds (STIP amendment, Intergovernmental Agreement, Obligation of funds, etc.).

State Parks day is the weekend of June 7-8; all parks are fee. Some have special programs, including a fishing clinic at Benson Lake.

Jack Wiles showed the Committee a copy of the Guest Book from Crown Point Chalet.

**DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS**

The HCRH AC briefly discussed the proposed development at 1st and Oak streets in Hood River (attached). Bill Pattison and Sally Donovan will pass along any information they receive about the exterior architecture of the new building.

**MEMBERS ISSUES**

Jerry Igo said that vegetation management is an issue that needs to be addressed; people should be able to see the waterfalls. There should be a written policy of what is acceptable and what is not. All six counties

should be involved in weed control and vegetation management to maintain views.

Charlie Sciscione reported that recently National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been an obstacle to vegetation management to preserve views. Their opinion is that every tree is important in preserving habitat for endangered migratory fish species. Therefore, Nancy Munn, of NOAA Fisheries should be part of any discussion to change vegetation management practices in the Gorge. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife also needs to be involved. They need to be part of any solution.

Jack Wiles agreed that we should restore and reopen some of the original views that were part of the historic designed landscapes, such as those at Latourell. He suggested that we ask the Forest Service and Gorge Commission to update the Advisory Committee on what can be done.

Ernie Drapela said that people seek authenticity of experience; vistas should reflect the 1924 experience (the year for the Milepost Data Log on the HCRH). He also repeated his request for an inventory of masonry work that is needed and what has been preserved over time. He noted that ODOT crews had removed ivy from the rockwork at the Toothrock Tunnel; this provides a clean, fresh appearance.

James Hamrick said that the OPRD budget has made it through Ways and Means; it is a pretty healthy budget, due in large part to the dedicated funds from the Lottery.

Mandy Cole reported on a recent poll of the visitor industry. Within the Columbia Gorge and Mt. Hood region, people expect a flat or slightly improved visitation count. "Cargo" the first phase of the Gorge Discovery Center exhibit on Lewis and Clark should open soon. Jerry Igo said that cruise ships on the Columbia River had 40 percent fewer people than last year. Carolyn Wood said that visitation at the Gorge Discovery Center was flat, but people were spending more there. The trail has reopened.

Kay Van Sickel said that this will be her last meeting; she is leaving ODOT to pursue other opportunities. Matthew Garrett will be the interim Region 1 manager, beginning about June 16. She said she considered it a privilege to serve on the Committee.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE**

The next meeting will be September 16 at the Hood River Expo Center.