
MINUTES

Kinni Corridor Project Committee Meeting Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 4 - 5:30 p.m. City Hall – Training Room

The Kinni Corridor Committee met on May 11, 2017. Those in attendance included Lisa Moody, Patricia LaRue, Susan Reese, Dave Fodroczi, Jason Egerstrom, Mary Zimmermann, Dan Tolan, Buddy Lucero, Julie Bergstrom, Kevin Westhuis, Adam Myszewski, Gary Horvath, Mike Stifter, Rick Bowen, Rita Kozak, Chris Blasius, Scott Morrisette, Bob Kost, Ismael Martinez and Mark Lobermeier.

Buddy Lucero called the meeting to order.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public. Michael Page distributed copies of the FOTK report to the Committee.

2. Committee Member Check-in: Questions, comments, items not on the agenda

Buddy mentioned he had recently presented to the Sensible Land Use Coalition

3. Updates

a. Schedule Update

Mark provided a marked-up version of the high level meeting schedule, reflecting the recent special meetings, the new date for the charrette and an update to the meeting topics. The charrette set for October 25 – 28. The Committee wants to know how much time to block out and the need for firm dates by August. A charrette-specific schedule will be developed and distributed.

b. June 22 Committee Meeting

Mark mentioned the upcoming regular committee meeting, which will include a presentation of the FOTK report.

c. Distribution of the FOTK report

Michael Page of the FOTK provided bound copies of the report to those in attendance.

d. FOTK Monitoring Project

No report

4. River Falls Days

Mary discussed the booth (11:00 am – 4:00 pm) and the idea to conduct some man-on-the-street interviews. SEH will support with some graphic material. Mark and Bob plan to attend. Mary asked for some volunteers for a booth committee. Rita, Mike and Jason agreed to help out.

5. Tech Talk #5 - Dam Removal Alternatives

Mark set the context for the discussion. July 20th is the night of the next Tech Talk – Dam Removal Alternatives.

- Scenario 1 – Keep both facilities
- Scenario 2 – Remove both facilities
- Scenario 3(a): Remove one facility and relicense
- Scenario 3(b): Remove one facility and surrender

He also talked about the idea of using broad criteria to frame the discussion including Cost/Financing, Ecological, Recreation/Tourism and []. He shared his idea of using a panel again, but also using a poster session to allow a greater exchange of information. Not all of the committee members felt that scenario 1 was an appropriate alternative for discuss around dam removal. Buddy acknowledged the risk inherent in sharing preliminary cost figures in available reports.

After a brief discussion around presentation format, the committee broke into four small groups to generate questions that could/should be addressed as part of the presentation. Each group reported back to the full committee.

The report-back thoughts were recorded as follows:

- There are not 4 scenarios. It is either keep 2 or remove 2
- Use a panel with special expertise
- Share honest facts and figures
- What is behind the dams?
- What will it look like?
- More directly answer questions related to sediment, fishing, dredging and lake restoration.
- Acknowledge that the current situation is not the best we can do.

- Discuss costs for all scenarios
- Property around Lake George – if lake is drained, then what? Uses, restoration, ownership.
- Cost for keeping or removing: order of magnitude or range of costs as well as potential funding sources.
- How will we pay for it? What is the impact to tax payers?
- Share information on precedent projects (ex. Baraboo River)
- Why not just leave one dam?
- Thermal Impact
- What does surrender mean to dam removal?
- Downtown/river relationship – ask presenters to describe river in mid-summer condition.
- Be careful that it is just not 2 scenarios.
- Do a poster session – ecological implications, visuals/renderings/ costs/funding mechanisms, time frames (50 year goggles), recreation options 10 years from now, opportunity costs related to elimination of hydros)
- Update FAQs
- Consider a Tech Talk recap.
- Hydro role as a critical asset during natural disaster
- Value of renewable energy

Mark then asked for input around the format and potential panelists, suggesting Inter-Fluve, Ayres, and Ismael Martinez (from the consultant team). The Committee suggest that we consider a leader from a precedent project community (removal and/or restoration). DNR resources were also suggested including Pete Skorseth (permitting), Cheryl Laatsch (Watershed and Dams) or Bob Martini (retired).

There was general agreement to use an open house format starting at 5:30 pm with a presentation format to follow from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Q/A would follow, with many suggesting the use of written questions submitted in advance.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm