
AGENDA
Kinni Corridor Project Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 29, 2017

4-5:30 p.m.
City Hall – Training Room

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. PUBLIC COMMENT
2. COMMITTEE MEMBER CHECK-IN: QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA
3. TECH TALK #5 - DAM REMOVAL ALTERNATIVES

The intent of the meeting will be to collaborate in a single or multiple groups to review discuss and refine the initial questions for the panelists and the focus and details of the poster sessions:

A. Panel Discussion: First thought on questions

i. Removal: Marty Melchoir – Inter-Fluve (confirmed)

- How will sediment be managed if the dams are removed? Is the material contaminated? Can it simply be released?
- With the dams removed and the current upstream sediment loading, how will habitat change in the river below Powell Falls?
- The lower Kinni, below Powell Falls is already classified as a Class I trout water by WDNR? What kinds of improvement in the fishery can be expected? Will fish be able to migrate upstream or downstream?
- Previous studies have estimated that there is a 5° F difference in water temperatures above Lake George and below Lake Louise. How much of a thermal impact on the lower river would you expect dam removal to have on the lower river?
- What are the actual ecological implications?
- Is partial removal of one or both of the dams a realistic option?

ii. Regulatory: Cheryl Laatsch, WDNR (confirmed)

- What is the recent history with the removal of FERC regulated facilities in Wisconsin over the past 10 – 20 years? What success stories are you familiar with? What made those projects successful?
- What State regulatory issues would you anticipate if the City decides to remove the facilities?

- If the City decides to surrender the hydro licenses, can the dams remain assuming they continue to meet State dam safety requirements?
- Is partial removal of one or both of the dams a realistic option?
- What types of financing have you seen cities like River Falls utilize to help pay for dam removal?

iii. Alternatives: Ismael Martinez – IMO (confirmed)

- The Lake George Restoration Plan represented an idea for improving Lake George and discharging colder water to Lake Louise without removing the Junction Falls Dams. What were the main elements of that plan? Was it costly? What were the ecological impacts? Why didn't the project move forward?
- Based on your experience, what are the major cost considerations in dam removal?
- What is your experience with successful dam removal projects? What made them successful?
- What examples of storm water management improvements has the City made in the past 20 years to improve the quality and quantity of storm water runoff discharging to the river? What else should the City consider in the next 20 years?
- What is your experience with reservoir restoration and dam rehabilitation
- Is partial removal of one or both of the dams a realistic option?

B. Poster Session: Moving from initial ideas

Financial

- What are the major monetary costs - removal, restoration, disposal, restoration, retrofitting, relocation, lost generation capability? What are the secondary impacts – Winter Street Bridge, power lines, underground utilities? Who pays? How would we finance?
- Graphic ideas: Winter Street Bridge, dam demolition images

Visual

- What is behind the dams? What might it look like?
- Property around Lake George – if lake is drained, then what? Uses, restoration, ownership.
- Downtown/river relationship – ask presenters to describe river in mid-summer condition.
- Graphic ideas: Cascades (steps) versus waterfall images, FOTK renderings, stream profile and flood plain

Reservoirs Repurposed

- Describe potential reuse and barriers to re-purposing the existing reservoirs.
- Graphic ideas: Cross-section and plan views, image of Lake George in the drawn-down condition during dam rehab. Images and description of the Lake George Restoration Plan, dredging and enhancements

River Ecology

- How will the river change if the dams are removed?
- Graphic ideas: Sediment management, Thermal conditions, fish migration and invasive species, floodway and wetland impacts etc. before and after

Recreation

- How will recreation be impacted?

- Graphic ideas: Trails, access, view-sheds, kayaks, fly rod etc.

Hydros and Relicensing

- Physical and financial conditions, relicensing scenarios, unbundling dam removal from hydros.
- Hydro role as a critical asset during natural disaster
- Value of renewable energy
- Graphic ideas: from the most recent presentation, photos of Powell Falls condition assessment, Junction Falls Dam Safety Inspection

Precedent projects

- Share information on precedent projects (removals and rehabs)

4. ADJOURN