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## MINUTES

### **Kinni Corridor Project Committee Meeting**

Thursday, Nov. 30, 2016 at 4-5:30 p.m.

City Hall – Training Room

The Kinni Corridor Committee met on November 30, 2016. Those who signed-in included:

*Jason Egerstrom, Rita Kozak, Gary Horvath, Dan Toland, Dave Fodroczi, Adam Myszewski, Chris Blasius, Mary Zimmerman, Angie Bond, Kevin Westhuis, Mike Stifter, Lisa Moody, Amy Peterson, Patricia LaRue, Julie Bergstrom, Rick Bowen, Susan Reese, Dan Mariette, Buddy Lucero, Bob Kost and Mark Lobermeier.*

Buddy Lucero opened the meeting and distributed booklets to all committee members along with other information, resources, meeting agendas and meeting minutes.

#### **1. Kinni Video**

Dan Mariette (City of River Falls) debuted his video “A Trip Down the Kinni” for the Kinnickinnic River Corridor for the Committee. The video will be used at the December 8 Community Kickoff event and will also be posted on the project website.

#### **2. Refinement of Mission and Vision Statement**

Mark Lobermeier introduced the worksheet included in the meeting packet regarding refinement of the mission statement. Prior to the meeting, Patricia LaRue had offered another version of the mission statement for consideration. The committee discussed their thoughts and ideas around the mission statement including:

- Seeing the river thrive.
- Working with community partners.
- Using the concept of back-casting: working back from the vision statement regarding what we want to be.
- Gathering community input on December 8, similar to the overall project kickoff meeting on September 1.
- Utilizing information from the upcoming community survey.
- Keeping words like ‘community’ and ‘the Kinnickinnic River’.
- Critical for Committee to listen and hear what the community says.

### **3. Introduction to Corridor Planning**

Bob Kost asked for a show of hands regarding who had participated in a comprehensive plan or (transportation) corridor planning processes. The majority of the committee indicated some exposure to a similar planning process. The similarity of the Kinnickinnic River Corridor project to a transportation corridor is that the river is the centerline. However, along the six mile length of the study area, the breadth, or width of the corridor is yet to be defined. If the planning area is too wide, the study is more hydrologic or watershed oriented; too narrow and opportunities/issues may be overlooked.

Bob discussed the planning approach starting with an inventory of land use, natural and physical environments, and social/economic conditions. The inventory will be used to create an initial definition of the corridor limits. In some corridor studies, walkability can be used to define the breadth of the corridor; Bob believes that the scale of the corridor will vary over the six mile thread, some narrower and some wider based on the inventory of information.

Public engagement (now underway) will seek out the aspirations of the community while the technical components get underway. The Planning team will start looking at a series of maps, overlays, subsurface conditions (geology, soils, utilities, groundwater) flood plain, ecosystem, habitats, threatened and endangered species etc. All the layers will define the influences on the planning process.

Next, the team and committee will begin discussing the guiding planning principals that will be applied. Later in 2017, the focus will shift to scenario planning and illustrations, leading up to the first of two community workshops. At the workshops, the principals will be tested, community input gathered and maps of different scenarios will be developed and refined.

After scenario planning, the effort will further narrow towards a preferred corridor plan and alternatives – a community with or with hydroelectric. A vision of the preferred alternative will be graphically depicted.

The final document will be an illustrated policy document for implementation.

The planning process includes many places for input and engagement, and testing of a lot of ideas. The process is designed to build support for the preferred alternative. A screening process will systematically reduce alternatives that apply various filters such as functional or cost, ownership, and “the smell test”.

The September 2017 design workshop will be one of the earliest times we will begin sharing a lot of information with the public. Interaction will include the creation of feedback loops that add definition and detail as the process proceeds.

While the planning efforts are occurring, the community conversations will be occurring. The five tech talks will occur from January 2017 to September 2017, serving to inform, engage and involve the community, and add addition feedback loops to the process.

### **4. Public Engagement Plan**

Mary Zimmerman presented the Public Engagement Plan document dated October 25, 2016. She discussed the importance of engagement, inclusiveness and meaningful dialogue. Mary discussed how the plan would create many opportunities to engagement, and that the process would result in good information, organized for the community to easily find and utilize. Te plan will seek volunteers and participation wherever possible.

Mary mentioned that the email invites for the December 8 meeting includes as many as 3400 individuals. Social media is also being used to promote the event along with media interviews regarding the project.

A survey will be used at and after the December 8 event.

The web site will not be up by December 8, but is expected shortly thereafter.

Kevin Westhuis mentioned that also on December 8 is the “Powerful Choices” group meeting, which will also include a tour of the hydro facilities. That same morning is the annual meeting of the Corporate Leaders, Municipal Utilities 125 top utility customers.

Mary asked other committee members to identify other community meetings where the project could be presented. Buddy has developed a presentation that he will give and it can be tailored to meet shorter or longer presentation times.

Buddy reinforced the fact that reminded the committee that the committee members should be cautious to respond and reply to committee dialogue as the committee, being careful to not respond as individuals to articles, letters and posts. He indicated that he will be providing regular updates to the Council throughout the process.

#### **5. December 8 Kickoff Event**

The committee packet included the most current version of the meeting plan and floor plan for the events. Buddy review the committee’s role and individual assignments. He told the committee that he would be sending out “talking points” or an FAQ document to help the committee members feel more comfortable answering questions about the planning process.

#### **6. Issues and Opportunity Mapping**

Bob Kost let an Issues and Opportunities exercise where committee members provide comments using dots and post-its placed on a series of maps. The same exercise will be used on December 8.

#### **7. Next Committee Meeting**

The next event for the committee will be the December 8, 2016 Community Kickoff.

The meeting adjourned at about 5:35 pm.