
Minutes

Kinni Corridor Project Committee Meeting

Thursday, Aug. 24, 2017

4-5:30 p.m.

City Hall – Training Room

The Kinni Corridor Committee met on August 3, 2017. Those in attendance included Lisa Moody, Patricia LaRue, Julie Bergstrom, Adam Myszewski, Rick Bowen, Susan Reese, Gary Horvath, Rita Kozak, Amy Peterson, Chris Blasius, Bob Kost, Sarah Sularz (SEH), Mike Stifter, Angie Bond, R Sean Downing and Mark Lobermeier.

Mark Lobermeier called the meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from the August 3, 2017 were presented and approved.

Discussion Items

1. Public Comment

There was no comment from the public in attendance.

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

The committee talked at length about the prevalence of people they are in contact with who will say that the decision is already made – that the ink is dry on dam removal. Others reporting hearing just the opposite, that a decision to keep the dams is already in place. The Committee agreed that they need to communicate to the community as a committee that no decisions have been made and that we are at a very important stage in the process. Mary agreed to draft something for the committee to review. The committee agreed to sign the message. Rick attributed the issue to a misinformed vocal minority.

There was discussion of the need for additional visuals and info-graphics, particularly around the issue of electric rates and costs. One idea was to distribute information in the utility newsletter, or in a letter to rate payers. The message needs to communicate balance between the scenarios. Mark indicated that the charrette will help better define the alternatives.

3. Tech Talk No. 6 – Sept. 7 Recreation, Tourism and Economics

Mark corrected the date shown on the Agenda as September 9. The correct date is September 7. Mark reviewed the flyer in the packet and discussed the three speakers: Ed Freer, Patrick Seeb and Bob Kost. He also discussed that a Q&A format similar to the one at the last Tech Talk will be used. Advance questions, and written questions received at the event will be asked and either answered at the meeting or in written post to the web site.

The Committee emphasized the need for balance in the presentation and to include a long term focus. Committee members were encouraged to send their questions to Mark prior to the event. The issue of conflicts in use (kayaks versus fishing) will be addressed not a problem, but an opportunity.

4. Tech Memo Comments

Mark reminded the Committee that he is still looking for comments on the technical memos that were distributed in July, noting that he did receive comments from Dave and from Crystal Raleigh from the City.

5. Economic Impact Study Proposal

City staff has been approached regarding participating in an economic impact study lead by the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust. Mark also meet the KRLT's Dave Drewiske to discuss their proposal to utilize UWRF to complete the study. Mark indicated that he believed the scope of any study needed to be broad enough to cover both dams-in and dams-out scenarios, and that the KRLT-proposed timeline to complete the work before the Charrette was unnecessary.

Mark asked the Committee how a study like this would aid in their decision process. Chris wondered if there is a reliable benchmark of where we are today. Patricia suggested the study be across the entire calendar, not just the summer months. The Committee agreed that they would not need the study before the Charrette.

Gary repeated the need for a study of the impact of angling on the lower river, expressing concerns from temperatures to high-capacity crop irrigation wells in the upper watershed. The study would address the risk/reward related to the potential of losing the fishery in the future. He handed out a summary of the UW LaCrosse/TU study of the economic impacts of trout streams in the driftless area.

Susan added that questions remain regarding stormwater management.

6. Downtown Business Owners Focus Group

Mark and Bob provided a summary of their meeting with the Downtown Business Owners on August 10. The group had a lot to offer and talked about the importance of being able to see/hear the river. They are also interested in the River Walk.

7. Dam Inspection Report Update

Julie confirmed that the City has hired Ayres Associates to update their dam inspections last completed in 2009.

8. Recreation Survey Update

Mark mentioned that he had been discussing a potential of doing an update to the recreation survey previously completed by the City.

9. Planning Framework Review

Bob discussed the planning frameworks and how the questions posed in the frameworks will help to frame the implementation strategy for the Corridor Plan. He indicated that the updated frameworks would be distributed to the Committee for their review and that we would provide information for them to access the large files.

10. Feasibility Report Decision Criteria and Weighting

Mark handed out a copy of Decision Criteria discussed at the August 3 meeting. The Committee agreed that it was easier for them to use the topic for each of the decision elements than the phrases as previously

provided. The Committee discussed the idea of lengthening one of the upcoming meetings to specifically spend time on the decision criteria.

11. Documents for Committee Review

At the last meeting, Mark recommended that the committee review the 2016 Sediment study. The Committee briefly discussed their comments. The Committee asked if re-sampling in some areas would be occurring as recommended in the report.

Mark suggested that for the next meeting that the Committee specifically review the posters for Hydro Operations and Dam Removal to begin thinking about project costs. As well as the Lake George Plan.

12. Schedule – Upcoming meetings

Mark reminded the Committee of the upcoming meetings including:

- September 7 – Tech Talk No. 6
- September 14 – Committee Meeting
- October 5 – Committee Meeting
- October 25 – 28 - Charrette
- November 2 – Committee Meeting
- December 7 – Committee meeting

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at about 5:40 pm