



MINUTES
Kinni River Corridor – City Team Meeting with SEH
Sept. 1, 2016 at 10:30AM
City Hall – Training Room

The meeting began at 10:30 a.m.

City Staff Present: Kevin Westhuis, Amy Peterson, Tyler Galde, Mary Zimmermann, Buddy Lucero, Julie Bergstrom, Mike Stifter, Angie Bond

SEH Staff Present: Eduard Freer, Kristin Petersen, Mark Lobermeier, Ismael Martinez-Ortiz

Discussion

Mark Lobermeier of SEH asked all meeting attendees to state “what keeps you up at night” about the Kinni River Corridor Project? The following comments/ideas were shared.

- What does the community want for the Kinni?
- How to involve the community?
- Educate the community.
- Have visual items, maps avail for the public to show vision, progress.
- What tools will we use to reach everyone?
- Complexity of the project, how to prioritize?
- Exciting project for the community.
- Find the balance of the following: Community, conservation, compliance.
- How to get the greater community involved, focus on the feeling of the Kinni.
- This project is the essence of the community.
- Provide technical aspects, what is the ultimate vision?

The issue of how to start and how to progress was discussed. How to involve, engage and support with a technical approach? How engaged does City staff want to be?

Kevin Westhuis discussed the dam removal/relicensing issue. He wants the decision to be from the community, what the community wants to see for the future of the Kinni. The deadline is August 31, 2018 submittal for removal/relicensing. Decision should be made by Feb 2018 so that all the paperwork can get submitted by the Aug 31, 2018 deadline. He stressed that if the decision is made to relicense the dam, it does not mean it has to be operated. Relicensing may buy some time to continue to decide the future of the Kinni/dams.

Lunch Discussion:

Additional City staff present: Kristi Hartmon, Jody Nichols, Scot Simpson, Reid Wronski, Cindi Danke, Gordon Young.

Mary and Kristin lead a discussion to get ideas going for the name, branding, logo, recognition of the project.

- What is the purpose, the feeling of this project?
 - “Bring the community together”
 - Keep integrity of the river
 - Corridor “highway” the river is the corridor
 - Physical river is the focus of the process, but the entire plan includes more than that

- Describe the project in one word (all meeting attendees):
 - Community
 - “My” river
 - Discover
 - Conservation
 - Decision
 - Environment
 - Activity
 - Underutilized
 - Talent
 - Life
 - Vision
 - Exciting
 - Satisfaction
 - Wildlife
 - Educate

What should the “tech talks” be called?

- Tech talks
- Kinni Vision Talks
- Let’s Talk Kinni

Types of “tech talks” to consider:

- Relicensing 101
- Dam Removal 101
- Alternatives to Dam Removal
- Kinni Corridor Planning 101 – permeability, connectivity, lesson learned
- River Ecology, Watershed DNR
- Alternative Energy – Hydro
- Trout Stream
- Recreation, Tourism, Economic Development
- History & Culture
- Competing Interests/Stakeholders – respect/inclusive

Other topics to include/discuss

- Existing conditions
- Land use
- Water ownership

- Precedents
- Document/display – sights & sounds of the river

Stakeholder Groups (existing)

- FOTK (Friends of the Kinni)
- Trout Unlimited
- Kinni River Land Trust
- National Parks Service
- UWRF Kinni Consortium
- River Alliance of WI
- River Dam Falls
- The “other side” (hydro power, keep the dam)

Discussion moved to who should be on the Corridor Committee? How to keep the committee balanced, representative. Should they be council approved, elected? In addition to the stakeholder groups or corridor committee, should there be working groups? Will this encourage outreach and engagement? What do we name these groups?

Open House was discussed. Objectives of the open house are that we are to plan the corridor as a community, what we want it to look like, feel like and to express intent, players and timeline.

Two final points to focus on:

- Finalize community meeting
- Communicate through Buddy and Mark on issues/questions that arise.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at approximately 2:40 p.m.