



# UNION COUNTY

## B2H Advisory Committee

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### Union County B2H Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes- March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016

**ATTENDANCE:** Ted Taylor- Chair, Brad Allen, Anna Baum, Terry Edvalson, Irene Gilbert, George Mead, Joel Goldstein, Ray Randall & Darcy Carreiro

#### Members Absent:

#### I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman, Ted Taylor opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

#### II. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Ted welcomed all present.

#### III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Jim Kreider**, 60366 Marvin Road LaGrande, OR 97850. He is commenting on Public Comment Policy for B2H Advisory Committee. He interpreted a section of the policy that referred to limiting public comments to items only being forwarded onto the Board of Commissioners. He feels that as this policy is written it would prohibit the public from speaking unless the motion is going to be directed to the Commissioners. He says it now because there is no other place to comment during this meeting. He feels that if this policy is passed that this will act as internal bylaws for the committee. He thinks that all of this material should be available to the public prior to the meetings. He would like to ask that all people on the mailing lists get a copy of the meeting packets ahead of time. He states that in a different place in the policy it states in the regular comment section, that says "any subject germane to the Committee/discussion". He thinks that you are restricting public comments that the Committee could hear.

He doesn't understand the restrictions being put on citizen input. He feels that a time restriction is appropriate if needed. He thinks that there should be more than one opportunity in the Agenda process to receive public comment.

He is also confused with the section related to processing of the public comment. He would like to know why would comments be considered at a later date or at a different meeting. He feels that this policy, as written, is restrictive and discouraging to public comments.

John Williams, PO Box 1384 LaGrande, OR 97850. He brought a copy of the Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. He also shared a copy of the final draft of their recommendation and steps you need to talk. He also provided a map, a letter form Loretta Paul, (who provides guided tours of the Oregon Trail and

offered to take anyone on this Committee for a tour), a letter from the Mighty Rocky, a copy of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation that is pertinent to this.

#### **IV. COMMITTEE & ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

- A. Approval of the Agenda  
George recommended adding a Public Comment period directly before setting the next meeting date. Irene would like to add a section for Committee Updates that any members may have. Joel agreed that at the beginning of each meeting it would be helpful to have an update on the entire B2H project. The Committee asked Scott to provide a “staff report” before Public Comments, at the beginning of each meeting. Moving forward this will be a standing agenda item.  
George Mead would like to add to the next meeting agenda having someone from the BLM attend to explain the progress.  
Joel asked that moving forward; we explain the acronyms, since some members are not familiar with all of them.  
The Committee unanimously approved the Agenda as revised adding another Public Comment after #8.
- B. Action Items Status  
All action items were complete and there was no report for this meeting.
- C. Approval of Minutes  
Terry Edvalson made a motion to approve and accept the minutes from January 7<sup>th</sup>, January 13<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup> 2016. Joel Goldstein seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.  
Irene had a question on Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, page 2 continuing onto page 3. This was discussed with the entire Committee and they agreed that the minutes are ok as submitted.  
The Committee reviewed the March 14<sup>th</sup> minutes. Ted would like to add “Version 3” & “Version 4” to reflect the appropriate copies of the subcommittee report. Anna Baum made the motion to approve and accept the minutes from March 14<sup>th</sup> as corrected Terry Edvalson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with Norm & Joel abstaining.

#### **V. Discussion Items**

- A. GIS Tour of B2H proposed route  
The GIS Tour was postponed to the next meeting.
- B. Policy for processing public comments  
Ted put this form together to help determine how the Committee will review the Public Comments. Irene would like the Committee to acknowledge each Commenter with a post card or phone call. Scott clarified the process of receiving the comments; he said that he does reply that he has received the Public Comment.

Irene would like to see every Comment that comes in. She does not want anyone else to sort out what is relevant or not, she would rather see more comments and sort through them. Ted asked if we would like to do this as a full Committee or as a Sub Committee. The Committee agreed that if we get overwhelmed with Comments that we could elect a sub-committee at that time, as needed.

The Committee would like Scott & Darcy to categorize and receive all Comments. Scott will provide copies of these comments to the next meeting. The process of how to submit a comment was reviewed again. We will accept all written, verbal and electronic comments.

## **VI. COMMITTEE BUSINESS (Motions, Resolutions, Action Items, etc.)**

### **Motion:**

#### **A. Public Comment policy**

The Committee reviewed the Public Comment policy.

Ted discussed/clarified a couple aspects regarding making a motion in Roberts Rules as it applied to the Committee and may apply to the policy.

Joel doesn't think that it is a bad idea to let the Public comment on workshops in addition to the Comments to be forwarded to the Commissioners.

Ted disagreed. Terry offered clarification to the difference between the advisory meetings vs potential workshops. Terry doesn't think that there should be any time limits to Public Comment, but he does think that the chairman should use discretion to cut someone off if they have a problem arise. Brad Allen stated that we have not had any problems with comments and he thinks that we should only address this and leave it up to the Chairman if these issues do arise. George agreed and stated that this paragraph "Regular Public Comment Periods". Irene suggested that we make an editorial change to change "resolution" to "B2H transmission line". They also deleted "germane to the committee" and deleted the time limit section. There will be two public comment periods, one at the beginning of the meeting and one towards the end of the meeting.

Terry Edvalson made a motion to adopt the Public Comment Policy as amended. The Committee voted unanimously to adopt it.

#### **B. Report from the Subcommittee on Need Analysis**

George shared the outline of the report that was submitted by the Sub Committee. Ted explained that he had sent a motion to the Board of Commissioners with the 13 bullet points from the Sub Committee report. George Mead made a motion to accept the sub-Committee report on needs analysis and the Motion that was sent to the Board of Commissioners. The B2H Advisory Committee accepted the motion and Sub-Committee report unanimously.

#### **C. Committee updates since the last meeting**

Scott had not new information to share. The Committee asked Scott questions regarding items that have been in the media recently. Scott provided some

explanation to topics he had knowledge of. BLM will review all land effected, not only the Federal ground. Scott said that there should be a new preliminary application and (EIS) from Idaho Power sometime this summer, to early spring. Scott explained this process on a State level as well.

Irene gave a summary of her attendance at the Oregon PUC meeting last March 24th. She commented at that Oregon PUC meeting. She stated that Idaho Power entered the meeting with items out of compliance, and left the meeting with a longer list. She said that the Oregon PUC was not happy with Idaho Power after the meeting. Idaho Power reps spoke with Irene after the meeting asking what they could do to make things better in the county. Irene attended this meeting as the legal analyst for the Friends of the Grande Ronde Valley, not representing the B2H Advisory Committee. Jim Kreider called into the meeting and will comment during the Public Comment section at the end of the meeting. Irene also attended the Energy Facility Siting Council meeting and shared information from that meeting as well with the Committee.

Ted asked if anyone knows how the Oregon PUC staff is responding to this. He said that Oregon PUC stated in their staff report in the past 9 months that they had become satisfied with the IEP from Idaho Power. Irene feels that the 2017 IRP should make a big difference for this Committee.

Ted asked if there is anything else that anyone on the Committee had anything to share. There were no additional comments from any Committee members.

## **VII. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE**

The next regular Committee meeting will be May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6:30pm in the Joseph Annex Conference Room.

The Following items will be on the Agenda, under Committee Business for the next meeting.

1. BLM EIS update.
2. Scott's GIS tour

Scott clarified the charge of the resolution for the B2H Committee once again to the Committee. There needs to be structure to comments and there has to be applicable facts to apply them to. Joel asked if they could get the GIS tour sooner than the May meeting. Scott said anyone is welcome to set up a meeting with him to come in personally and meet with him. Joel said that is complicated. Brad stated that he didn't think a public meeting just for the GIS tour prior to May is necessary. Scott shared that he has not seen the interest from the public through the Planning Department. Scott is prepared to add any overlays that the Committee would like to the GIS tour. Ted offered to write a "My Turn" letter for the Observer regarding this. The Committee agreed they would like Ted to do so. Ted will do that in the next couple weeks.

Ted asked Scott to invite a representative from the BLM to attend the next meeting.

Ted shared that Irene has resigned from the Sub-Committee. George said that the Needs Sub-Committee job is done. So there is no more need to meet.

### **VIII. Public Comment**

Maxine Hines, 701 D Avenue LaGrande, OR. She wanted to express her appreciation for this Committee and all of the work active members are doing. She is excited to have the online GIS tour. She offered to help spread the information regarding that meeting and anything else that she could do as a citizen to help.

Jim Kreider, 60366 Marvin Rd. LaGrande, OR. He wanted to share his information from the PUC meeting. He said that the meetings are available to the public online. Idaho Power, Mitch Colburn, expected the EIS in late 2016, early 2017. Then they will file the Federal Right of Way Grant. They expect to have the line built in 2025, which is when they plan to retire the Wyoming power plant. The state will file the amended preliminary site application to FSAC by spring 2016, final by mid 2017. One of the Commissioners stated that they have not made the big decision to build the power line yet. They have not established how Oregon rate payers will be affected. The Committee chair has resigned recently also. When Jim asked Idaho Power if they had done research on the 5 other line coming in, their rep said they had looked at them and had done a thorough analysis and the PUC staff rep said, no. Idaho Power entered the meeting asking for 14 requests, but only left with 5 approved.

Jim asked if the Committee would provide members of the public to provide the meeting packets ahead of the Advisory Committee meetings. Darcy sends the meeting notice to the mailing list online. Jim would like everyone to get everything without the Draft minutes. Terry suggested that it be placed on the webpage. The Committee voted with Scott's recommendation to post the meeting packets on the County webpage on the B2H tab.

Joel asked Jim when the PUC accepted the preliminary application, was it before or after the question of researching the other 5 resources. Jim said they voted after this question was asked and clarified.

Fuji Kreider, 60366 Marvin Rd. LaGrande, OR 97850. She clarified Joel's question to Jim. They acknowledged that Idaho Power is still planning. They said they will look at the 2017 IRP and look at need. Fuji asked why Darcy cannot just send out to the entire packet to the email list with the meeting notice, she is frustrated. She thinks that it's important to provide this information to the public via email as well as posting it the County webpage.

Maxine Hines, 701 D Avenue, LaGrande OR, additional comments. She would like the meeting packets sent to the email list. Scott said that the information on the County website, not have Darcy email the packet to the email list. George asked why email wasn't just as easy. Ted said that Scott has decided to post it on the County webpage. Irene asked if it was easy to print from the webpage. Scott said it was easy, it's online in PDF form and could be printed and forwarded.

Irene asked about contacting property owners that the B2H line may cross their properties. Scott said that the BLM is sending this out. Irene asked if BLM could mention to them that we have this Committee. Scott said they know we have this Committee. Scott said that BLM sent notice to property owners within a 10000 foot swath where the line may be. Ted said that we will ask the BLM representative this question at the next meeting.

**IX. ADJOURN**

Ted adjourned the Union County B2H Advisory Committee meeting of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darcy Johnson Carreiro  
Senior Department Specialist II