



UNION COUNTY B2H Advisory Committee

Scott Hartell, Planning Director

1001 4th Street, Suite C

La Grande, OR 97850

PHONE (541)963-1014

FAX (541)963-1039

TTY 1-800-735-1232

Union County B2H Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes- January 7, 2016

ATTENDANCE: Ted Taylor- Chair, Brad Allen, Anna Baum, Terry Edvalson, Irene Gilbert, George Mead, Norm Paullus, Ray Randall, Scott Hartell & Darcy Carreiro

Excused: Joel Goldstein

Chairman, Ted Taylor opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Ted asked all members present to introduce themselves, as well as all in attendance. Scott passed around a sign in sheet for all in attendance, also asking if they would like to list an email for the Committees record. Darcy will type & keep record of all meeting attendance in the Planning Department.

II. COMMITTEE & ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Agenda

Irene asked to add to “Public Input Opportunity” to the Agenda. That was approved by the Committee. Terry would also like to add “EFSC process/input” to the Agenda. Ted would like to add “Review of the charge of the Committee to the Board of Commissioners”. There was no objection to any of these additions and all three were added.

B. Review of the Charge of the Committee

Ted read the Resolution that was passed by the Board of Commissioners. He explained that he met with Commissioner McClure and Scott Hartell to determine the primary focus of this Committee. He explained that the consensus was that the Committee’s focus was to be to formulate a recommendation for the environmental effects and decide which of the 4 lines will be best for the County. Ray Randall & Irene Gilbert felt that this was not accurate statement; they said that they thought this Committee should be representing the Community and that the Committee should have input to establish the line or not. Ted asked if the Committee should take that back to the Commissioners for clarification. Scott offered clarification from the Resolution itself, provided criteria review process. Terry explained to Irene that the need for the entire project has been documented and established. He and Ted concluded that we are only dealing with the line going through Union County.

- C. Election of Vice Chair
Scott spoke with the Commissioners regarding this topic. The Commissioners felt that they should be included in this decision if this Committee feels that there is a need for a Vice Chair.
- D. Committee Process and Procedures
- (1) Decision making: Majority vote vs. consensus
Ted asked for feedback from the Committee. Norm asked Scott if there was a ruling for Public meetings to be consensus. Irene recommended that we use the majority vote. The Committee agreed unanimously.
 - (2) Public Comment on Committee pending decisions
The Committee agreed to follow parley-pro procedures for all meeting structure. Public Comment will be allowed prior to a vote by the Committee.
 - (3) Public Notices and Community outreach
Public Notice will be given at a min of 10 days for the Advisory Committee meetings. It will be placed on County webpage, local newspaper as well as on local radio stations. The Agenda & dates of meetings will be posted on the County webpage under "Public Notice"
Scott explained that there will be times that we need to have emergency meetings, those parameters cannot be met. It will depend heavily on word of mouth by the Committee & Planning Department. Irene spoke with the Commissioners recently, they agreed to give us a break on that time frame and they would support an extension.
 - (4) Rules of Order
Generally follow Roberts Rule of Orders- Not rigorously, but generally. Get County Public meeting rules from Shelley or Annette for reference as well.
 - (5) County Planning Department Support
Scott has been following this project since the Commissioners tasked him with it since 2006. Scott offered his knowledge & resources in the office to anyone who would like to meet with him. Terry asked that we all be operating under the same facts, same documents. Scott has the information to present tonight and offered the entire committee to call him and rely on him as a resource. George had many questions regarding data, the validity of the data. Terry tried to explain how the State level worked.
Scott explained that for the Energy siting Committee we have a copy of the application in binders as well as on a CD. Scott & Darcy are Administrative support for this Committee.

- (6) Committee meeting schedule
Ted asked about meeting frequency, George says that will most likely be determined by due dates, and deadlines. Terry suggested that we may need to meet frequently in the beginning to get caught up to speed on the project, then meet 1-2 times a month and re-evaluate the frequency at that point. The Committee would like to keep the meeting on Thursday. Ted asked if the Committee would like to meet Feb 4, 2016 at 6:30 pm, at that point we will make the next meeting. All members were in favor if Feb. 4th at 6:30pm.
The Committee would like to have coffee, tea and water at the meetings.
- (7) Workshops and tours
Ted asked if the Committee would like to have workshops or tours to get caught up on this project and familiarize themselves with the public views this project. Terry asked if we could get a Google Earth tour of the line path. Scott said yes, he would follow up. Ted asked what workshops we would like to do and when, site tours and visitations. The Committee would like to pursue this when the weather is better this spring/summer.
Irene suggested that she help individuals prepare comments. Terry and Scott suggested that we not allow this. Ex-parte contact with public and preparing documents for individuals is highly discouraged.
- (8) Public Input Opportunity
Irene would like to create all correspondence from the Public to be sent to Scott Hartell and the Planning Department. She would like the Planning Department to keep all of the communication or forward any communications on to the B2H Advisory Committee to have access to. Irene said that she could make herself available 3 times in the next week to help the public put their comments together. She recommends letting the interested parties know by placing notices in the paper, place an ad on the radio, possibly do a radio interview, letter to the editor and place something in the Nickle. Irene would like to send a mailing out to all potential impacted land owners. Scott said that the County had not mailed anything out because this is a Federal application, meaning they are responsible to contact all potential impacted land owners. Irene offered to pay for this mailing herself. Ted asked the public that was in attendance how they had each heard of the meeting. They had shared the meeting on a “Google List”, newspaper and the County webpage.
- (9) Future agenda topics
Google Earth tour of the 4 proposed lines to be given
Look at all overlay maps that Scott will present as
Review DEIS public comments

III. BRIEFING OF PROJECT HISTORY & STATUS

A. Scott Hartell- History of B2H Project, Scott shared that all documents the Advisory Committee received tonight were put together by the Planning Department. He recommends that the Committee ask the Department for any further information they may need on these documents. Scott also gave an explanation of the "Opportunity for Comment". The BLM gave a deadline of January 22nd for Comment, the comments this Committee would like to submit have to go before the County Commissioners. The next Commissioner meeting is Jan. 20th. He explained that as a "Cooperating Agency" if we have substantial comments at any point they can be submitted. Scott asked that Don Gonzales of the BLM to give further explanation of the project, maps presented & routes.

Don Gonzalez came forward and gave explanations of the map and how to interpret the alternative routes, especially the Environmentally Friendly route. Terry said it is complicated to understand why they chose the route alternatives and asked what the BLM took into consideration. Irene would like to see a topographical map that shows landmarks, tax lots, etc. Don said that the BLM has all of those maps collected in 2012 and all others moving forward with the changes. He is leaving those maps with Scott for the Advisory Committee to look at. He will leave the environmentally preferred route with Scott also. Don said that Scott has access to the GIS programs through the BLM and can create a map for this Committee to view. Ted asked if Scott could overlay specific items, Scott can overlay anything but explained that he will need to show them individual. The Committee explained to Don that the maps are very hard to interpret because the maps do not show why decisions were made for specific routes based on substantial constraints.

Don suggested that we look at the big items, evaluate our "most tolerable" route that the Committee can send on to the Commissioners. He suggested to the Committee that they look at where the line comes in Union County from Baker County and enters Umatilla County Ted asked Don how would we like the information delivered and what the composition of that data should be. Ted also shared with Don that he feels that the BLM owes it to this Committee to grant more time to Comment. He thinks that the letters submitted by Senator Merkley and Wyden should have been given more priority, for an extension of the time line, than the BLM gave.

Ray asked if there is a need to coordinate with Baker & Umatilla County to determine which line is most tolerable. Don said yes, we should coordinate our recommendations. But also understand that we need to focus on the big issues of concern we have within Union County on the Routes.

Don explained the Draft of the Environmental Impact Statement is out. The process that we are in now is to receive the Cooperating agency comments. He asked that any Public Comments be sent in to the "Cooperators" - Union County Commissioners. He would like to have the County's thoughts by the 22nd. Don explained all timelines in the BLM process in detail. He hopes that by the end of this month, the BLM will have a preliminary alternative route established. Don said that Cooperators should have comments sent in by the end of this month. That way he could receive the Committees comments by the February Cooperating Agency Conference call.

Ted asked if cost factors, land purchase will be considered. Don said that is a small portion. Ted asked if the Committee should focus on environmental, social and cultural impacts. Don suggested we consider that; consider laws that could be in jeopardy, etc.

Jeff Maffuccio from Idaho Power spoke about the land acquisition topic, financial compensation as well as easement per George Mead's request. He also spoke about the Idaho Power application process they have followed with both states involved. He will also present this at the next meeting in more detail. George asked about the 250 foot wide swath, how that is done, how they determine this. Jeff gave a very detailed explanation of this process and all impacts taken into consideration. Jeff will also attend the next meeting with more information on this as well.

IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS (Motions, Resolutions, Action Items, etc.)

MOTION: Ray Randall made the motion to submit Ted's letter "motion" of 6 Observations for submission to the Board of Commissioners. The Advisory Committee asked that the Commissioners send this in with a cover letter to accompany. The motion was seconded by Irene Gilbert. This motion was approved unanimously by the Committee members present, with no discussion needed.

Scott will work with the Commissioners Administrative Support to draft a potential Resolution for the Commissioners to sign.

Action: Ted will write a letter to the Editor to be published in the Observer.

Action: Scott to follow up with Commissioner McClure regarding "no action" motion & contacting all land owners affected by the B2H line. He will check with the Commissioners Monday to see if Irene can draft a letter to be mailed out to all land owners affected. Anna asked that Ted include this in his letter to the Editor that all land owners should send in comments to the Advisory Committee as soon as possible.

Action: Scott will request a copy of Public Meeting rules for Union County.

Action: Scott will follow up on "google list" potential with Union County IT.

Recommendation: Ted recommends that this Committee send a letter to Senators Merkley and Wyden asking for more time.

Action: Scott to send his list of "DEIS" Comments for Union County to the B2H Advisory Committee to review the comments to make recommendation.

Action: Scott will bring over lay maps and project them at the next meeting & present the Google Earth tour at the same time.

Action: Post a draft Agenda and meeting Notice for January 13th meeting on the Union County Webpage

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Kreider, 60366 Morgan Lake Rd. LaGrande, OR 97850. He is concerned with the fact that public cannot access the BLM maps. He thinks that this is censorship to public information. Jim feels that it is a tremendous burden for public & land owners to have to

come to the Planning Department. He thinks that restrictions are being placed on land owners unfairly.

Lois Barry, 60688 Morgan Lake Rd. LaGrande 97850. She was puzzled with the no action comment made by Don Gonzales. She also recommends that Ted contact any reporters at the Observer if he cannot get his letter to the editor in. She also commented that she thought this Committee was to represent the “public” so she was puzzled with the discussion the Committee had on ex-parte contact with the public. T\She thought it was OK as long as full disclosure was in place to eliminate any conflict of interest.

Fugi Kreider, 60366 Morgan Lake Rd. LaGrande, OR 97850. Felt meeting covered several items she wanted covered. She is concerned with comments Commissioner McClure made to Ted & Scott regarding the scope of this Committee. She hopes that the “no actions” alternative is still available. She hopes that the Committee considers a “no action” alternative.

She recommends that the DEIS public comments should all be taken into consideration. She suggests that the Committee does not get hung up on small details, but focuses on the big points that these comments should reveal. She recommends that each route elect a “spokesperson” and presents their case for that particular route to the Advisory Committee. Where will the construction crews access the tower building sites? What is the impact and plan for this?

Kelly Skovlin, 1404 Walnut Street, LaGrande, 97850. Thanked the entire Committee for their service. She supports the no action motion. She feels that as a community member looking at the map presented tonight. She thinks that a map should be provided so that the public can evaluate where exactly the routes will run, what impact each will have and what factors were taken into these determination. She also has concerns with potential health affects the lines could create. If she had to make a recommendation it would be to run it along the power lines that we already have carved through our mountains.

VI. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be considered an Emergency Meeting, which will take place Wednesday, January 13th, 2016 at 1830.

The next regular Committee meeting will be February 4th 2016.

VII. ADJOURN

Ted adjourned the Union County B2H Advisory Committee meeting of January 7th, 2016 at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darcy Johnson Carreiro
Senior Department Specialist II