



# 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- May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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

**Members Absent:** Norm Paullus

### I. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman, Ted Taylor opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

### II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The Agenda was approved as submitted by the Committee

### III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES- March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting**

Ray Randall made a motion to approve the minutes from March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 as submitted. Brad Allen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

### IV. **STAFF REPORT/COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATE:**

Scott shared his staff report with the Committee. He has received 14 comments from 10 individuals, 2 comments with action items which Scott followed up on. Darcy keeps a master file of Public Comments in the Planning Department. Irene would still like to receive copies of the Comments by email prior to the meetings.

Oregon PUC did acknowledge Idaho Power 2015 IRP with no changes to B2H project.

The BLM did send out notification post cards with the Preliminary agency preferred alternative. The Planning Department received a copy of the card April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Terry asked if the Comments Scott received regarded the FSAC, Scott said that they referred to the NEPA process primarily.

Irene shared her updates with the Committee regarding discussion with Energy Facility Siting Committee about electromagnetic levels. She has contacted Greg Barreto and he is following up on this.

### V. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Jim Kreider, 60366 Marvin Road LaGrande, OR 97850.** Jim shared that there is a law firm from Bend that will be coming up to visit this area soon and meet with government and non-governmental agencies regarding B2H. He will be their “tour director” while they are here. Jim asked if the Committee is interested in meeting with this group. The Committee would like to. The law firm would also like to meet with the Commissioners, Friends of the GR Valley, Hells Canyon Preservation, etc. Jim

will give Darcy the information regarding this firm. Recently there was a letter sent out by Idaho Power asking for permission to survey property owners land on the proposed route “right of way”. There will be a meeting at his house Monday at 6:30 to discuss the pro’s & cons of letting them survey the land. Jim has been on contact with the Idaho Conservation League regarding the regulations of allowing access. Jim & Fuji are going to have a meeting May 25<sup>th</sup> at their house to discuss the No Line Alternative. Jim also shared that there is a house along the route that he found out, is not a legal dwelling. This place would be 100 feet from the line, and have not received any notification.

**Roger Farrell, 400 Alium LaGrande, OR 97850.** Roger asked if the Agency Preferred Route will place the line ¼ mile away from the line. Scott explained that the Commissioners submitted the request that all homes be ¼ mile away from the line and the Commissioners also submitted what this Committee recommended (the 230 line) but, BLM preferred route will be closer to some homes that ¼ mile. Ted explained that during the GIS Tour anyone can ask questions of Scott. Roger asked if Scott can tally how many homes are within the ¼ mile radius. Roger asked if Scott can show access route, staging areas, etc. on a GIS report. Scott said he can but doesn’t have the exact information at this point. Roger asked how the construction equipment and pieces would be using the neighborhood roads to access the line.

Irene tried to explain that they have a “lay down area” where they assemble pieces, bring in parts and then transport it up to the site for construction. She said that they had requested the ground across from Walmart but there would be too many traffic impacts.

Roger asked if the Committee or Scott could gather this data for him. So that his neighborhood knew how it would be impacted. He also asked about home ownership. Scott said that he could call the Planning Department to inquire about the home ownership. Ted said that Scott could provide some of this information in his staff report next month.

Roger also shared that electrical line increase the likely hood for forest fire, meaning it elevates the risk that his house could burn up in a wildfire.

**Irene Gilbert,** added that she will be attending a meeting in Salem in Legislature, May 26<sup>th</sup>. She would like to share the outcome and any data with this Committee. Irene will send this to Ted or Darcy to distribute.

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

##### **A. GIS Tour of B2H transmission line route: Workshop Format**

Scott presented the GIS tour, fielded many questions, providing many answers. There were several questions regarding how BLM chose which landowners they decided to provide notification to. Ted asked that Scott try to get that information for the next meeting from BLM.

There were several questions regarding the survey requests that Idaho Power made of property owners. Scott referred them to Idaho Power for clarification.

Scott referred any wildlife/bird questions or concerns to the Oregon & US Department of Wildlife. He stated that they have been actively participating in discussions surrounding wildlife and nesting areas that could be affected.

Irene stated that anywhere you run a line like this you are going to have a significant effect on the community, wildlife, etc. She stressed that this Committee's job is to identify problems that may arise with this line and try to mitigate as many of them as they can within this Committee.

Ted tallied that there were 7 residences that fell within the 1/4 mile buffer radius. Ted stated that he would write a letter to the editor making the public aware of this. Ted stresses that we really need to wait to see the Final recommended route from BLM, meaning that there could be revisions. Ted also wants to check with the BLM and see what kind of notice these "7 residences" received. Sue Oliver stated that 4000 feet was jointly agreed upon for the notification corridor by the Oregon Department of Energy, BLM & Idaho Power.

Jim Kreider stated that Idaho Power did not include Oregon residence on updates on the progress of this line because we are not rate payers.

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

### **Motion:**

A. There was no other business brought forward tonight.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**Roger Farrell**, Roger stated that he doesn't think that deer & elk should have greater status than humans for impact. He feels that deer and elk are mobile & plentiful and can adapt.

**Nathan Smutz, 59074 Foothill Rd. LaGrande, OR 97850.** He wonders what the impact is long term on the deer and elk? Isn't cutting vegetation down long term impact? Irene stated that BLM suggested there is no long term impact.

**Susan Gerry, 402 Sunset Drive LaGrande, OR 97850.** She stated that after looking at the map and following Scott's tour it looks like it basically goes through residential areas. She thinks this is crazy.

**Irwin Smutz, 59704 Foothill Rd LaGrande, OR 97850.** He stated that he feels like his property has already been affected by fiber optic lines, petroleum line, gas lines and the current 230 line. He is personally disappointed with the placement of the line right next to the other one. It will be right in plain sight of his property. He thinks that the line should go out through the wilderness where it originally was drafted to go. Irwin did not receive any notification from the BLM. The first he heard about it was when

he received his notification from Idaho Power yesterday. He understands the concern with the deer and elk; he has them on his property almost daily. He appreciates this Committee very much. Irene asked Irwin if they received compensation for his property. He stated that the last one paid him \$1 per foot. Irwin says that all of this concern about the deer and elk is a bunch of bologna. He states that they are very adaptive. He feels that we on the east side are being controlled by the western side of the state.

Terry suggested that Irwin be added to the email list that Jim & Fuji created for this group.

**Maxine Hines, 701 B Avenue LaGrande, OR 97850** Maxine feels that it is up to our Community to show up & speak up. She asked where the radio station and Observer were tonight. She thinks they could help spread the word. She thanked the Committee and hopes that they feel appreciated. She really wants to encourage public involvement. She also liked the changes regarding Public Comment that were made at the last meeting.

**Fuji Kreider, 60366 Marvin Road LaGrande, OR 97850.** Fuji thanked the Committee for their hard work and dedication, she likes the process and format of the meeting. She re-iterated that it is not over, there are many more steps. She & Jim are having a meeting at their house next week, May 25<sup>th</sup>, and invited all present. It is a community based meeting to look at documents, discuss options, etc. They will review the survey letters sent out by Idaho Power recently.

**Jim Kreider, 60366 Marvin Road LaGrande, OR 97850.** He stated that we all need to remain aware that the Idaho Power route is still on the table. They have not agreed with the BLM preferred route. Idaho Power has disagreed with the Preferred Route. Idaho Power is a for profit corporation. He states this fight is not over.

#### **IX. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE**

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

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

1. BLM EIS update
2. BLM Notifications and dates they were sent
3. Ted asked Scott to invite a representative from the BLM to attend the next meeting.

#### **X. ADJOURN**

Ted adjourned the Union County B2H Advisory Committee meeting of May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darcy Johnson Carreiro  
Senior Department Specialist II