



# UNION COUNTY B2H Advisory Committee

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## Union County B2H Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes- July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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

**Members Absent:** Norm Paullus

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

Chairman, Ted Taylor opened the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

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

The Agenda was approved as submitted by the Committee.

### III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES- June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting**

George Mead made a motion to approve the minutes from June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 as submitted. Irene Gilbert seconded the motion and the June Minutes were approved unanimously.

### IV. **STAFF REPORT:**

Scott did not have any new information to share with the Committee.

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

A. “Consideration of topics discussed at June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting”, regarding relevance to the Purpose of the Advisory Committee.

Members had different interpretation of The Purpose and there was discussion among the Committee trying to define this. There was still confusion and need for clarification from the Commissioners of the Purpose of this Committee. Joel stated that Ted Taylors letter in the Observer was too technical and that he wouldn't be able to understand it if he was general public. The Committee had discussion regarding each of the topics listed. The Committee voted on each topic one at a time by show of hands.

### VI. **COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES:**

Irene Gilbert shared what she has been doing with the “Stop B2H Committee” as a member. Specifically she spoke regarding contacting land owners within 1 mile of the possible transmission line.

She shared that the DOE Oversight Committee will meet again August 20<sup>th</sup> and would like any comments submitted by August 15<sup>th</sup>. The EFSC is having an emergency meeting July 29<sup>th</sup> because they would like help reviewing wind energy applications.

Irene has also been trying to determine the dollar amount that Oregon rate payers will be charged with the installation of this line. USFWS is asking for mitigation details regarding endangered species in the supplemental EIS.

Irene stated that people are asking for Hanley Jenkin's to recuse from any decision making at the EFSC level regarding B2H.

Ray worked on 2 motions that he will submit at the appropriate portion of the meeting. No other Committee members had anything to report at this time.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

## **VIII. OTHER COMMITTEE BUSINESS:**

A. Consideration of process for review of Public Comments submitted to the Advisory Committee.

B. Ray proposed and read into record a motion (labeled as #2) to the Committee. Terry Edvalson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by the B2H Advisory Committee.

Ray proposed a second motion (labeled #1) to the Committee. George Mead seconded it. There was brief discussion. The B2H Advisory Committee voted unanimously on this motion.

Scott will notify the Board of Commissioners on August 1st asking to add these motions to their agenda for the August 3rd meeting. Ted will prepare a cover letter for the motions, sign it as Chair and submit that to the Board of Commissioners.

C. Irene made a motion to "Request that the County Commissioners ask Bonneville Power and Idaho Power for a projection of impacts of rates to be assumed by consumers." With the recommendation of the Committee, Irene moved to table this motion until the next meeting. Ted asked that Irene place the draft motion in writing and submit it to Darcy prior to the next meeting for review of the Committee.

## **IX. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

**Bernice Webster:** Concerned with the history of her families property which would be directly affected by the placement of the line. She gave us history of her portion of land, and how the Oregon Trail goes through her land. That there is a Pioneer camp ground and natural springs that make it possible for her to rent some as pasture. Her late husband was very proud of this piece of land. He personally took hundreds of hikers on their portion of this property to see the Oregon Trail. After her husband passed away, she found a list of all of the people he took for hikes and planned to take in the future. She stated that her family continues to hike, camp and enjoy it often. The Bonneville Power line already runs through her property. Bernice thinks that we owe it to her family, county, state and nation. She thinks that this property should be preserved. She did give Idaho Power permission to survey her land and she regrets that decision now. Her property is between Morgan Lake Road and Deal Canyon Rd.

**Charlie Gillis 601 N Avenue, LaGrande, OR 97850:** He wants everyone to know that Idaho Power destroyed the Idaho salmon run and grossly diminished the Oregon

salmon runs significantly by the development of the fish ladder. He wants everyone to know who we are dealing with.

Irene asked Charlie about his research on FERC regarding protection. He is in contact with the Senators office librarians and is currently working on this. He is still struggling to contact an actual person at the State. He will bring any information he receives to the next meeting.

**Tom Thompson:** Land owner that already has the 230 route on his property up Ladd Canyon. He shares Ray's concerns that alternative routes are still on the table that we are not aware of publically. He deals with heavy equipment damage to his property when the current 230 line is serviced. He deals with noxious weed issues already. The power company has introduced forms of cheat grass, pentaes dubia "African wire grass" and other weeds. He could lose some bunch grass sights that are in good shape in the next 10-15 years if this continues or increases. Tom would like the Glass Hill alternative to be added back into consideration. He would like the Committee to narrow the scope on 2-3 that they are considering. He asked for clarification from the Committee with the NEPA process. Terry asked if he was asked to survey Tom's property, Tom said yes. Terry asked Scott what lines are still being considered. Scott said that any line that they are studying/surveying. Scott said as a co-operating agent; there is certain information that he can release and some information that he cannot. Tom doesn't understand how a Federal group can be the "decision maker" on private land. He told Idaho Power that they couldn't survey the property.

**Lois Barry, 60688 Morgan Lake Road LaGrande, OR 97850:** Lois provided clarification to Terry, that she had requested information from Idaho Power for conservation statistics. She clarified that she had offered, at the last meeting, that she had submitted a request letter to Jeff at Idaho Power, he responded respectfully that they did not have time to respond to this. So she simplified her query and sent a letter to Scott as well. She then received a link that directed her to a 12 page report, 5 pages of statistics from Idaho Power. She stated that Energy Trust has a 128 page annual report, meaning, in summary, Idaho Power is doing about 1/3 of the conservation work that Energy Trust does. She encourages this Advisory Committee to review these portfolios available online. She will reach out and do more research and report back to this Committee with any information she collects. She thinks that Idaho Power is doing business the "same ole" way and other energy utilities are changing and elaborating. Terry asked if dam removal was in any of the Idaho Power portfolios. She said no there was actually mention of another dam being placed. She feels like this line does not need to be built and if it is, it will cost rate payers a significant amount of money. Lois thanked Terry for asking for citations to be attached with her bullet point letters she has submitted.

#### **X. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE**

The next regular Committee meeting will be September 22nd, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the Earl C. Misener Conference Room.

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

**XI. ADJOURN**

Ted adjourned the Union County B2H Advisory Committee meeting of July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darcy Johnson Carreiro  
Senior Department Specialist II