



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- February 4th, 2016

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

I. CALL TO ORDER:

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

II. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Ted asked that all Committee members present to introduce themselves.

III. COMMITTEE & ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

- A. Approval of the Agenda- The following changes/additions were made and approved unanimously.
 - * Move Item III-G to Section IV-A in place of IV-A, deleting the current topic
 - * Add to IV-C, review of letter from the Board of Commissioners to BLM
- B. Action Item Status- none
- C. Approval of Minutes- January 7th 2016- page 4 under recommendation Ted states that he did not recommend that this Committee send a letter to Senators Wyden & Merkley. The minutes of January 7th, 2016 were approved with that amendment.
- D. Approval of Minutes- January 13th 2016- Terry had one editorial change he found in the minutes, he will email it to Darcy tomorrow. Joel stated that on page 4, the paragraph referring to the “no line” alternative paragraph. He thought it happened after we voted on the 230 line. He didn’t think that the minutes reflected the significance of this discussion. He asked that the last paragraph on page 4 should go after the first paragraph on page 5. Terry moved to approve the January 13th meeting minutes with changes recommended.
- E. Acceptance of Minority Report from January 13th meeting- Irene shared that there was no need for the Minority Report, she had nothing and did not want to follow through.
- F. Distribution of CD, containing- Idaho Power Revised Preliminary Application for Site Certificate (also on County’s web site under Planning Department)-All members of the Committee have a copy of this CD for review now. Irene shared a link to the Department of Energy webpage for reference while

reviewing the application on the CD. Scott said that he would have Darcy email that link out to the Committee on Monday.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Public Comment Form- Scott created a Public Comment form to help organize and mainstream the comments as they are submitted. Scott proposes that we use this form so that we have a hard copy record of each public comment. It would be available on line, at the Planning Department and electronically from the Planning Department. Scott said that he would be available to help members of the public complete this form. Scott would like the Planning Department to collect all of these forms and keep a spreadsheet of these records. The Committee would like to add a little more detail to the form. The Committee recommended providing the EFSC or NEPA criteria so that they know how to connect their comment to the proper criteria. They would also like to add explanation of the acronyms and to add Scotts contact information to the form.

Joel had concerns that some people might be intimidated by this form and that we should allow them to continue to submit comment through the meetings during the Public Comment section. He doesn't want them to be intimidated by the form. Joel said that the recording of their comment should be sufficient. Joel and Irene stated that the Committee should be able to ask questions of Commenters. Ted said that he will not allow that at these meetings. Terry asked how we will be responding to Public Comments submitted and how we will clarify that the interpretation is correct. Ted thinks that we should have all public comments submitted to Scott in the Planning Department.

There was discussion on "who" should be able to comment. It was recommended that it only be open to Union County citizens, property owners or agents of property owners. There was an informal vote of 7-1 in favor of this. Brad asked if we should allow public comment before we vote, even though we already took the informal vote. Ted said not but the Committee decided that we should recess and take public comment regarding who is eligible to make comment to this Committee.

Recess 8:00 pm

Re-convene 8:15 pm

Irene thought that when we started this Committee that we could use Sub-Committees to break up the work and meet separately on specific topics (view scapes, wildlife, etc.) to be the most effective and productive.

Joel shared that he feels that as long as names & contact are attached to the comment form. Joel would like to have verbal public comment as an option at meetings.

The Committee concluded and agrees that providing the form on line or in paper form is the best option. The Committee is also willing to accept letters from public to accompany the form as well. The Committee would like to

remain as open ended as possible. The Committee agrees that anyone is able to make comment that would like to. The Committee voted to allow anyone to submit comment in the form of paper comment form at the Planning Department, verbally at Committee meetings, personal letters or using the comment form electronically.

The Committee then discussed how to process these Comments they receive. The Committee also understands that the responsibility to sort the comments and apply them to each appropriate criteria; will ultimately fall on the Committee in addition to Scott. The Committee decided to create categories for a tracking system to categorize comments submitted. Scott said that the Planning Department can log the comments submitted after they are reviewed and applied to the proper category.

Scott re-directed the Committee asking if they would like to create a sub-committee to research need. George, Irene and Ray volunteered from the Committee. Irene asked if a community member be added to the sub-committee. Brad recommended Jim Kreider to be a community member for the need sub- committee. He accepted and the Committee agreed that Jim serve as a member to this committee. Ted appointed George Mead as the Chair of the Need Sub- Committee. Ted told the established sub-committee that they are to meet on their own and asked that they would report back to the B2H Advisory Committee at the next meeting.

- B. Discussion of Committee information Sessions (tours, workshops, etc.)-
The Committee would like to have tours, workshops and opportunities to visit with the public. Irene would like to make herself as available to the public as possible. She thinks this Committee could provide valuable feedback in these work sessions. Scott suggested that the Committee establish a sub-committee to reach out to gather information from the public. He stated that he does not have the Staff to facilitate going to t public meetings on the weekends. He stated that his Staff can help the Advisory Committee during business hours but cannot facilitate Staff attending public meetings on the weekends or in towns throughout the County. He did offer his time and Staff from the Planning Department time to meet, just call our department for an appointment.

- C. Discussion of January 20th Board of Commissioners meeting. Scott & Ted did attend this meeting and submitted the motion and information sent from the B2H Advisory Committee. The Commissioners requested a GIS map from Scott. He gave each of them a map with a ¼ mile and ½ mile buffer surrounding houses. He shared this map & explained the details of it with the Advisory Committee tonight.
The Commissioners supported the Motion the Advisory Committee sent to them. They sent a letter to the BLM with the proposed map that Scott created and shared tonight, with an alternate route on January 21st. Idaho Power supports this new alternative and has asked the BLM to research this route.

Scott was contacted by BLM the day they received the letter from the Union County Commissioners. Idaho Power called as well regarding this new map & proposed line route. Idaho Power supports this line and asked BLM to follow up, research and study this line.

In the Commissioners letter, it is stated that they do want the Advisory Committee to keep exploring the “no action/no line” alternative.

There was a very lengthily discussion regarding the EFSC process and standards. Ted suggests that a representative from the Oregon Department of Energy come to the next meeting to explain with an extensive review of the standards and process. Scott suggested to only have Max come here if the Committee has direct questions addressing criteria for Max so that he can be prepared when he comes here. Ray is concerned that we are not focusing enough on the EIS. Scott explained that there will be another period of to take the opportunity to make comment on the EIS when the final draft is released, which is scheduled to be late summer 2016. Terry would like to look at public Comments that may pertain to the new line that the Commissioners submitted to the BLM.

- D. Discussion of Presentation of LaGrande Landlords Committee on Feb 11th
Ted received an invite from Maxine Hines to present B2H project data at the LaGrande Landlords Committee. Terry wants all the data shared to be consistent/uniform. Ted said he wants to share the Commissioners letter, show them a map and ask any questions that they may have. Scott recommends that he presents the background information to these groups, since he has been following this project since 2006. The Committee does not want to share any bias or feelings of leaning one direction. The Committee also thinks that any “issues” that may be brought up should be directed to the entire Committee for resolution or answers. The Committee thinks that we should stay up to date on when meetings are and that the Community should know they are available to speak when needed.

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

Action Item:

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Jim Kreider, LaGrande, OR 97850. He has been taking notes from the first meeting and shared a funny picture of the towers. The Oregon Public Utility Committee has not acknowledged Idaho Powers Integrated Resource plan yet. They are in the Public Comment session until the end of March. Jim spoke with Public Utilities staff and he is organizing a group of people to question the need to OPUC. He would like them to not acknowledge the need. He found out from Idaho Power, that there are already 3 lines from the Pacific Norwest going to Idaho. One is located on the 230 here and the 2 others he is in the process of researching how much power they carry and how much demand they have. The Cascadia line was withdrawn by PG&E that would

have gone over the Cascades. They are currently building 100 miles of new line and upgrading the 3 current lines to provide the power. He could not find anywhere in the Integrated Resource plan, that Idaho Power did an analysis of upgrading all 3 line to meet their peak flow needs. He feels this is a huge error and that they take a look at that analysis. He Fuji are trying to find the source document, it is a circular pattern. He has some of the information, there are 2 environmental groups sitting on their Integrated Resource Planning group, the Snake River Alliance and the Idaho Conservation Group. They have met with both groups who primarily wanted to reduce the carbon footprint and to have rates as low as they could be for consumers. When they talked to Idaho Conservation Group about the Elk Song Ranch they said, sorry we did you a dis-service because we were only looking in our back yard, not yours. Jim thinks that we should video conference with Oregon Department of Energy. Tamara from BLM sent the schedule for the EIS to be released; he thinks that it is the end of 2016. He will email that to the Committee. He asked the same of ODOE, they will provide us with what Quarter it may be released.

- Sue Oliver, Morrow County, OR. Sue is showed the Committee a video link on her Ipad. She thinks that the most important thing for this Committee to be successful is a common knowledge base of transmission lines. She thinks the Committee should view this video called “Electricity transmission: a primer”. It’s on the energy.gov website. It is downloadable. The purpose of the document is for groups like this. She found this document to be her Bible when she started with the Department of Energy. It will help this Committee understand terminology of transmission lines. She thinks it would be helpful to look at mitigation and standards and 2 different things. NEPA has “evaluation criteria”, they are looking at issues. “Standards” are on the FSEC side include mitigation and conditions (can you meet the standard **or** meet the standard with mitigation). It is far more than a pass, fail, no go. For example: maybe, you have to disrupt this fish and wildlife over here, so then you have to mitigate over there. They state: “Can you meet the standard or can you meet the standard with mitigation?” As you go forward, the County needs to look at, “these are the conditions” that the Committee can place on Idaho Power. Put conditions on your comment and require mitigation. She stated that she thinks that Max Woods would be happy to come out and visit with this Committee.
- Fuji Kreider,
- Mark

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

George asked Scott if he could create a map of the entire route that would include the same buffer zone around residences, like the one he created for the Commissioners. He would like it to show those “bubbles” around each home located on the “230 line”. George asked for this map before the next B2H Advisory Committee meeting.

Terry suggests that the video Sue Oliver shared with the Committee be posted on the County webpage. Terry asked if there are any other areas in concern. Scott said that he isn't aware of any further. The only area that he knew about is from LaGrande residents. Irene asked Scott if she could get a map that shows where the Oregon Trail is located through Union County, where Ladd March is located and any other important land marks. Scott said that some of those are culturally sensitive and is not mapped and released from the preservation group. Scott needs to have specific items that the Committee is interested in & he can work on that. Ted asked if we would like the ODFW come to the next meeting.

- Brad & Terry would like to focus on the DEIS Public comments moving forward then the Committee could decide what they are going to respond to.
- Joel added an update from the “no option” sub-committee
- Irene would like to have an update from Scott regarding the monthly “Cooperating agency calls”.
- Tours and workshops

IX. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

The next regular Committee meeting will be Wednesday, March 9th and will be held at 6:30pm in the Earl C. Misener Conference Room.

Recess at 2109

There were 2 public comments during recess that are on the recording from Fuji Kreider & Michael McAllister.

Reconvene 2120

X. ADJOURN

Ted adjourned the Union County B2H Advisory Committee meeting of February 4th, 2016 at 2120.

Respectfully submitted,

Darcy Johnson Carreiro
Senior Department Specialist II