



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

B2H ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DRAFT A G E N D A

REGULAR SESSION, October 6th, 2016 6:30 P.M. Misener Conference Room 1001 Fourth St., La Grande Oregon

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of Agenda**
- III. Approval of previous Minutes- July 28, 2016**
- IV. Staff Report & Committee Member Updates**
- V. Public Comment Period**
- VI. Old Business**
 - A. Process for considering Public Comments
 - B. Motion on B2H Costs & Electricity rates impacts (tabled)
 - C. Commissioners August 4, 2016 Letter to BLM
 - D. Follow up on two Motions sent to the County Commissioners from last meeting
 - E. Status of Final EIS
- VII. New Business**
- VIII. Public Comment Period**
- X. Set Next Meeting Date**
- XI. Adjourn**

Purpose of the Committee

- 1. Gather citizen concerns and comments regarding the B2H Transmission Line.
- 2. Develop an understanding of the evaluation criteria to be considered by BLM and ODOE.
- 3. Develop suggested comments based on citizen input and evaluation criteria.
- 4. Present suggested comments to the Board of Commissioners for potential submission to the BLM and ODOE.



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Union County B2H Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes- July 28th, 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 30th meeting

George Mead made a motion to approve the minutes from June 30th 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 30th 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 20th and would like any comments submitted by August 15th. The EFSC is having an emergency meeting July 29th 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. ODF&W 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 Planning Department.

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 lattice. 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 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 28th, 2016 at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darcy Johnson Carreiro
Senior Department Specialist II

Consideration of Topics Discussed at June 30, 2016 Meeting Regarding Relevance to the Purpose of the Advisory Committee

Tabulation of Votes Taken at the July 28, 2016 Meeting of the B2H Advisory Committee

Topic	Relevant to Purpose		
	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Request statistics on energy conservation from IPC	3	4	1
Become more familiar with content of DEIS	6	0	2
Assess appropriateness of routing any transmission line through Union County, given there is an established transmission corridor in Oregon	6	1	1
Understand protections given to landowners by federal agencies for economic and other loss	1	4	3
Develop more comprehensive ways to announce and provide information on Committee meetings	4	0	4
Request our Board of Commissioners to coordinate fully with Boards in other affected counties	5	2	1
Become familiar with City of La Grande's plans for new water storage facility, hydropower generation, and transmission of electricity into the city	4	4	0
Review Google map from IPC that shows access roads, laydown areas, and other features of the B2H line	6	1	1
Send recommendation to our Board of Commissioners requesting a Supplemental EIS be issued by BLM before the current DEIS is finalized	4	2	2
Send letters to landowners on and one mile either side of the agency proposed route to provide better notice of BLM/IPC plans and their impacts	0	2	6



mailed 8-4-16

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

STEVE McCLURE, Commissioner
MARK D. DAVIDSON, Commissioner
JACK HOWARD, Commissioner

1106 "K" AVENUE LA GRANDE, OR 97850 PHONE (541) 963-1001 FAX (541) 963-1079 TTY 1-800-735-1232

August 4, 2016

Bureau of Land Management
Vale District Office
Attn: Don Gonzales
100 Oregon St.
Vale, OR 97918

Dear Mr. Gonzales:

Members of the Union County Advisory Committee on the Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Transmission Line are unsure that all potential routes through Union County and their environmental impacts have been analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). They believe it is possible that some effects of these routes are not bounded in the analysis supporting the DEIS.

Please assure us that, even though potentially new routes could be considered, all of the environmental impacts have been included in the DEIS analysis, and therefore no supplemental analysis needs to be conducted.

Since our B2H Advisory Committee does not have cooperating agency statutes please keep this in mind when responding.

Sincerely,

Jack Howard
Chairman

Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Advisory Committee
Union County Planning Department
1001 4th Street, La Grande, OR 97850
541-963-1014

An Advisory Committee to the Union County Board of Commissioners
Brad Allen, Anna Baum, Terry Edvalson, Irene Gilbert, Joel Goldstein
George Mead, Norm Paullus, Ray Randall, Ted Taylor (Chairman)

July 29, 2016

Honorable Jack Howard, Chairman
Union County Board of Commissioners
1106 K Ave.
La Grande, OR 97850

Dear Chairman Howard:

At a scheduled meeting on July 28, 2016 the Advisory Committee on the Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Transmission Line Project approved the following Recommendation and Statement. The votes on both actions were unanimous, with eight members present and voting. Given the time sensitive nature of these matters, we request that the Board of Commissioners consider them at your next meeting.

Recommendation on Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

We recommend that the Union County Board of Commissioners contact the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to request that BLM initiate a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This Supplemental EIS is needed because there are transmission route segments on two routes in Union County that have not yet been analyzed by the BLM through the Draft EIS (DEIS) process. It is imperative that the new segments of routes receive the same scrutiny as all other portions of the proposed B2H route. It is the only way to permit the opportunity to inform the public and allow for public response and testimony. This must be done prior to the release of the Final EIS (FEIS). We further recommend that our Board of Commissioners notify the other counties who could be impacted by B2H to inform them of this Union County action and notify our two U.S. Senators.

Statement on Work Session with Other Affected Counties

We encourage the Union County Board of Commissioners to contact the County Commissioners of Malheur, Baker, Umatilla, and Morrow counties to propose a joint work session to determine if there are mutual concerns or mutual interests that may arise from the proposed B2H transmission line.

Honorable Jack Howard, Chairman
July 29, 2016

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Please contact me by phone at 541-963-9397 or 541-786-7146 or by email at jayhawkted@gmail.com if you have questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Ted Taylor

Ted Taylor
Chairman

Cc:

S. Burgess, Union County Administrator

S. Hartell, Union County Planning Director

✓ D. Carreiro, Union County Planning Department (official file)

B2H Advisory Committee Members