



BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Bi-State Working Group Meeting Summary

Monday, May 15, 2023 | 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Port of Hood River – Commission Board Room & Via Zoom
1000 E Port Marina Drive, Hood River OR 97031

In Attendance:

Members: Chair, Mike Fox (Commissioner), Port of Hood River; Vice Chair, Jake Anderson (Commissioner), Klickitat County; Arthur Babitz (Commissioner), Hood River County; Marla Keethler (Mayor), City of White Salmon; Catherine Kiewit (Mayor), City of Bingen.

Alternates: Grant Polson, City of Hood River.

Staff/Consultants: Michael Shannon (Project Manager), HNTB; Brian Munoz, HNTB; Debbie Smith-Wagar (Finance Director), Port of Hood River; Kary Witt, HNTB; Kevin Greenwood (Executive Director), Port of Hood River; Jessica Pickul, JLA; Hal Hiemstra, Summit Strategies.

Guests: Kelly O’Grady-Smith; Giridhar Reddy; Denis Reich, ODOT; Mary Francoeur; Matt Ransom, RTC; Naoh Noteboom, Columbia Gorge News; Shaneka Odom.

Approval of Minutes

The Bi-State Working Group (BSWG) minutes for May 1, 2023, were approved by consensus.

Review Action Items

Michael Shannon, HNTB Project Manager, reported that they closed out all their responses with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). ODOT is now working towards finalizing the Biological Opinion (BiOp). A follow-up is scheduled for May 24 with ODOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Informational Items

- a. **Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Authority (HRWSBA)** – Shannon noted that they met with ODOT to seek clarification on Amendment 4 scope for consulting services. ODOT described their process for developing the scope internally and that the level of information they provide in these Intergovernmental Agreement’s (IGA) is typically high level. There are also limitations with their internal systems to track and provide information. BSWG consensus was to recommend to the Port Commission, funding 100% of the requested funds.

Shannon commented that they are working on a transition plan for the HRWSBA. Commissioner Arthur Babitz noted that Hood River County will formally open their nomination process today and anticipates that interviews and selections will take place on June 20. Commissioner Jake Anderson stated that Klickitat County will open nomination May 16, and anticipates interviews and selections to take place on June 20.

Kevin Greenwood, Executive Director, reported that the process for developing the IGA with the Port has begun. A draft will be available for review at the next BSWG meeting. Shannon requested guidance on how the BSWG would like to proceed to get the IGA approved. Commissioner Babitz commented that the IGA can be reviewed by the BSWG, but the HRWSBA should be making the final decision. Shannon inquired about obtaining legal services for the HRWSBA. The BSWG consensus was to allow the HRWSBA to go through these processes and make their own decisions, and the BSWG should focus their efforts on what needs to be done now.

Shannon noted that July 10 will be the first meeting of the HRWSBA. Shannon asked if public records training was needed for the new members of the HRWSBA. The BSWG believes that those who have not been on a public body should attend the training. The BSWG meeting on June 19 has been rescheduled to June 26. A special meeting will be held before June 20 to approve HNTB's contract amendment.

- b. **GR Update** – Shannon reported that there are no updates for Washington. In Oregon, they are still waiting to hear if the Bridge Replacement Project (“Project”) received funding through the recent HB 3622. There still is another opportunity for funding from Oregon at the end of the session. Shannon asked whether the BSWG would like to attend Washington DC next week or wait till July when more information is available. A discussion followed and concluded with consensus from the BSWG to go next week. Commissioner Fox noted that the Labor Agreement Project was not well received at the recent meeting in Salem, Oregon. Mayor Marla Keethler suggested a neutral approach moving forward.
- c. **Funding Finance & Tolling** – Shannon commented that the Open Houses are scheduled for May 31 and June 7. BSWG members and council members are encouraged to attend. A briefing of the outcome will be provided to the BSWG. A Zoom meeting has been scheduled on June 16 to discuss a tolling recommendation for the Port. Shannon summarized the status of the grant submittals. A discussion ensued regarding the DOL Building Pathways grant and whether to pursue the grant. There was consensus from the BSWG to postpone the DOL grant and consider it for next year.
- d. **Treaty Memorandum of Agreement’s (MOA’s)** – Shannon reported that they are continuing their conversations with the tribes. A supplemental document is being developed to propose mitigating terms.
- e. **RBMC** – Shannon noted that the Geotech borings schedule starts June 19. There is a conflict with the tribes fishing season that also starts on June 19. A meeting is scheduled this week to discuss other alternatives. HNTB is working through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the Progressive Design Build procurement. Shannon added that they are also researching the ability to develop on a piece of land on the Washington side.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

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