



# BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

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## Bi-State Working Group Meeting Summary

Monday, June 5, 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:** Vice Chair, Jake Anderson (Commissioner), Klickitat County; Arthur Babitz (Commissioner), Hood River County; Catherine Kiewit (Mayor), City of Bingen; Paul Blackburn (Mayor), City of Hood River.

**Alternates:** Kristi Chapman (Commissioner), Port of Hood River.

**Staff/Consultants:** Michael Shannon (Project Manager), HNTB; Brian Munoz, HNTB; Debbie Smith-Wagar (Finance Director), Port of Hood River; Kevin Greenwood (Executive Director), Port of Hood River; Jessica Pickul, JLA; Brad Bowell, Boswell Consulting.

**Guests:** Kelly O’Grady-Smith; Giridhar Reddy; Mary Francoeur; Tamara Schurian; Sam Hunaidi, ODOT.

### Welcome

Commissioner Jake Anderson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

The Bi-State Working Group (BSWG) minutes for May 15, 2023 were approved by consensus.

### Review Action Items

Michael Shannon, HNTB Project Manager, reported that a significant section of the Biological Opinion (BiOp) has been submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The BiOp is expected to be completed in September 2023.

Shannon noted that there is a delay with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Section 106. These items are pending a response from Yakama Nation (YN). It is unclear why there has been no response from YN since March. Kevin Greenwood, Executive Director, commented that he received an email this morning from YN asking for a time and date to meet.

### Informational Items

- a. **Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Authority (HRWSBA)** – Shannon inquired on the status of the nomination process in both counties. Commissioner Arthur Babitz commented that Hood River County has had two people apply. Mayor Paul Blackburn commented that the City of Hood River has nominated Grant Polson, and Mayor Blackburn as the alternate. Commissioner Anderson noted that in Klickitat County there have not been any applicants yet. A discussion ensued regarding the alternates.

Shannon turned to Greenwood for a brief update on the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Port of Hood River (“Port”). Greenwood commented that Bill Ohle is the Port’s outside counsel and has provided services to the Bridge Replacement Project (“Project”). Ohle has conducted a first review of the IGA. Greenwood inquired on whether the BSWG would like to review the IGA or wait for the HRWSBA to review. There was consensus to have the BSWG review the IGA but allow HRWSBA to make the final decision.

Shannon reviewed the early activities that include legal services, liability insurance, and public records training. A discussion followed regarding roles and funding between the Port, HNTB, and HRWSBA.

- b. **GR Update** – Shannon reported that in Oregon a public hearing was held on May 16 for HB 3622, where they provided testimony in support of the bill. The bill passed out of the Joint Transportation Commission unanimously and has moved to way and means. Also, a letter of support was received from Senator Daniel Bonham and Representative Jeff Helfrich to Secretary Pete Buttigieg confirming their commitment to obtain \$125 million for the project.

Shannon commented that at the federal level the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Appropriations requests have been sent for a total funding request of \$8 million from Washington and Oregon. Through their discussions with Washington, it is possible that the Project will only receive \$4 million in total. A trip to Washington DC was held from May 22 to May 24 in support of funding requests. Shannon noted that everyone spoke highly of the Project. Commissioner Anderson added that they received a lot of good information to help with their grant applications.

Shannon noted that all three lobbyist firm contracts are due for renewal. Commissioner Anderson and Commissioner Fox have reviewed the contracts and made a recommendation to move forward with their renewals. There was consensus from the BSWG to move forward with a recommendation for the lobbyist firm contract renewals.

- c. **Funding Finance & Tolling** – Shannon reported that they had their first Open House on May 31 in Washington. Approximately 150 people attended the Open House. Shannon added that there were many misunderstandings and misconceptions from the public that they were able to clarify and explain. A discussion ensued regarding some of the comments that were received at the Open House.

Shannon commented that the Raise Planning Grant has been submitted. The Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) has not released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) but it is expected to be released in June.

- d. **Treaty MOA’s** – Shannon will be meeting with Nez Perce on June 6 to present to the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee to get use of their logo, obtain a letter of support, and further the discussion regarding the MOA. Shannon is working with Umatilla to set up a meeting this month and is continuing to follow up with Warm Springs to setup a meeting with them in June as well.
- e. **Replacement Bridge Management Contract (RBMC)** – Shannon commented that they are preparing an Amendment for HNTB to present to the Port Commission on June 20. The plan is to establish a three-year budget but only allocate the first year. HNTB is working through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the Progressive Design Build procurement. The RFP preliminary draft

is expected to be completed in the next month. An industry review of the RFP will be conducted in September.

Shannon reported that the underwater drilling start date has been moved to July 10 due to the tribal fishing season. Regarding the Right of Way, the appraisal is being finalized on the private property full take in Washington and work will be starting on the Port facilities. HNTB also has all the permitting for the Geotechnical work.

- f. **NEPA/FEIS/ROD** – Shannon commented that there is progress being made but NEPA is contingent on completing the Yakama Nation MOA.

## Adjourn

Commissioner Kristi Chapman acknowledged the BSWG for all their efforts with this Project. Next meeting is scheduled for June 25. The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

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