

Rocky Reach Meeting Minutes

As per Rocky Reach Project Consultation Guidelines and Procedures dated July 7, 1999,
A draft version of these meeting minutes were distributed for review per request of meeting attendees.
Comments or changes received were incorporated into the final minutes for the record.

To: Distribution List
From: Michelle Smith
Date: November 20, 2002
Subject: Rocky Reach Social Sciences Issues
Attendees: Refer to Sign-Up Sheet
Location: Chelan PUD Hawley Street Conference Room, Wenatchee, WA
Time: 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Meeting Purpose

Review and discuss the Recreation, Socioeconomic, Aesthetic, and Land Use sections of the draft Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA).

Review of Draft PDEA – Recreation, Socioeconomic, Aesthetic, and Land Use Sections

Michelle Smith, Chelan PUD (PUD), noted that written comments were received on the draft sections from Jim Eychaner, Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). Keith Vradenburg, Entiat Focus Group (Entiat) asked how members of the public can submit comments. Michelle (PUD) encouraged anyone with comments to either contact her by phone or in writing. In addition, the first draft PDEA will be distributed for public comment on January 26, 2003.

Karin Whitehall, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), commented in regard to the Entiat community meeting scheduled for December 11. She suggested sending out a press release or meeting summary from the October 30 meeting prior to the meeting. Michelle (PUD) said that the PUD has already printed flyers that will be mailed. Kris Pomianek (PUD) noted that she would prepare a meeting summary that could be mailed with the flyers.

5.3.6 Recreation Resources

At the October 23 working group meeting, Jim Harris, Washington State Parks (WA Parks), discussed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He said that the column in Table 12 that addresses ADA compliance might be misleading. He said that the column indicates that all of the facilities meet ADA compliance. The column probably represents accessibility standards at the time of construction, but some facilities may not comply with the new ADA standards. Since the Oct. 23 meeting, Michelle has met with the PUD Parks & Facilities Department (PUD Parks) to discuss ADA as it relates to PUD facilities. Michelle (PUD) mentioned that most of the facilities were built prior to ADA and as improvements are made, the facilities are upgraded to meet the new standards. Michelle (PUD) said that the PUD's concern was how to address ADA in the PDEA.

Dave Schwab (PUD Parks) was present to discuss ADA. He explained that ADA requires the owner/maintainer to complete an ADA assessment of facilities and then put together an implementation plan. The ADA provides guidelines for the owner/maintainer with the intent to get them thinking about accessibility. He pointed out that

accessibility is not only for disabled, but also for the elderly and people with vision impairments. Dave (PUD Parks) said that the PUD is very proactive. Some of the things that the PUD is currently doing are providing trail access to play structures and tennis courts. Other improvements that the PUD discussed with Jim (WA Parks) are access to marine facilities, parking stalls, bathhouse showers, picnic and tent sites. Greg Jones (PUD Parks) pointed out that operations also has to be taken into consideration. He explained that park shelter use is changing. Greg (PUD Parks) said that WA Parks is allowing for activities outside the shelter, which will mean that the area around the shelters would also have to be improved to meet the standard. Jim (IAC) stated that he did not have any concerns and felt that the PUD is adequately addressing ADA in the PDEA. The only suggestion he had was that Table 12 should include more description of the ADA facilities in the "yes" column, as well as including a reference of how a copy of the parks and facilities assessment could be obtained.

The working group discussed the frequency that ADA assessments should be done. Michelle (PUD) suggested building the periodic assessments in with the Recreation FERC Form 80 schedule.

Barbara Jackson (USFS) commented that from a USFS perspective, accessibility to water is key. Dave (PUD Parks) explained that the new ADA regulations address access to water. He discussed the different options; i.e., lifts that could provide access to boat and fishing platform access. Greg (PUD Parks) noted that it is important to provide an opportunity for access. But more importantly, to provide access where the person can have the experience. He suggested reviewing the Recreation Needs Analysis report in order to find out where the recreational needs are. The group briefly discussed ADA trails. Jim (IAC) stated that the IAC has not adopted any standards for trails at this time.

Michelle (PUD) will continue to work with Greg (PUD Parks) on wording within the PDEA related to ADA facilities.

Arnie Arneson, Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center (CBFIC), asked if the Recreation Needs Analysis identified where trail opportunities are located. Michelle (PUD) responded by saying that the report was not specific as to trail locations. She said that there are opportunities around Entiat and the mitigation lands. IAC has recommended for trail opportunities on the mitigation lands as well. Jim (IAC) explained that for the Cowlitz Project, IAC identified the need for non-motorized trails and the available land within the Project was the wildlife mitigation lands. The proposal turned out to be a total of 22 trail miles and a budget was assigned. He continued by saying that the exact location and design would be left up to a cooperative effort between the utility, IAC, WDFW and other interested parties. A timeline of 5-7 years was assigned to the trail project. Additionally, he said the concept has been raised on the Lewis River Project that early action items should address underserved and unserved activities and expansion of facilities that well serve current uses (camping and boating) could wait until later in the license.

5.3.7 Socioeconomics

Michelle (PUD) pointed out that this section may change as more of the issues are discussed and addressed. The PUD will continue to work with Entiat and the other communities that are impacted by the Project. Greg (PUD) suggested that discussion of the aluminum industry should be added.

There are not any protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PME) measures associated to socioeconomics. Michelle (PUD) explained that some of the socioeconomic issues would be addressed in the recreation PMEs.

5.3.8 Land Use

There are no land use proposals at this time. Information from the land use study will be documented in the PDEA. Jim (IAC) suggested adding a comparison table of the number of public docks versus private docks. He said that he observed a private launch on the east bank of the river. Michelle (PUD) noted the request and will add the comparison.

Michelle referred to the section regarding identification of wetlands, floodlands and federal lands. She pointed out that the PDEA only states there are 13 acres of wetlands and she wants to make sure that number is accurate. Karin (USFS) stated that the Army Corps of Engineers wetlands map is a good source of information or the Natural Resource Conservation. Michelle (PUD) also mentioned that the PDEA states that 160 acres of land is federally

owned. She said that she has been unable to find out how the 160 acres is divided amongst the federal agencies and not sure how specific she needs to be. No one present at the meeting had an issue with leaving the 160 acres grouped together.

5.3.9 Aesthetics

Early in the relicensing process, the Social Sciences Working Group determined an aesthetics study was not needed for the Project. The section describes the aesthetics of the Project and Columbia River. Barb (USFS) recommended adding a description of the Cascade Loop since it is part of the River Corridor.

Other Business

Jim (IAC) said that he would appreciate it if Michelle (PUD) would provide Susan Rosebrough, National Park Service (NPS), with an update of the meeting. He said that the NPS would most likely be the signing entity on behalf of the IAC for the settlement agreement.

Next Meeting

January 22, 2003, 10 a.m. – Noon. Chief Wenatchee Building Conference Room, Wenatchee.

Action Items

- ✓ Kris will prepare a meeting summary from the Oct. 30 Entiat Community meeting and mail with Dec. 11 flyers.
- ✓ Michelle will add a comparison table of private vs. public docks to the land use section.
- ✓ Michelle will add a description of the Cascade Loop to the aesthetic section.

Reference materials are posted on the Web site, www.chelanpud.org/rr_relicense. Please contact Rosana Sokolowski, (888) 663-8121, Extension 6371, if hard copies are required.

- ✓ Sign-up Sheet
- ✓ Distribution List
- ✓ Recreation, Socioeconomic, Land Use, and Aesthetic Section of the draft PDEA.