

Rocky Reach Meeting Minutes

To: Distribution List
From: Michelle Smith
Date: February 26, 2003
Subject: Rocky Reach Social Sciences Issues
Attendees: Refer to Sign-Up Sheet
Location: Hawley Street Conference Room, Wenatchee, WA
Time: 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Meeting Purpose

- 1) To review the schedule for Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA) and License Application (LA).
- 2) Comprehensive Plan Overview
- 3) Begin development of protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PME) details, costs and priorities

Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment and License Application Schedule (see handout)

Michelle Smith, Chelan PUD (PUD), initiated the meeting by reviewing the schedule for the Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA) and License Application (LA). She also discussed the development of the Recreation Resources Comprehensive Plan. Chris Hall, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), asked if the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) would receive copies of the management plans. Michelle (PUD) responded by saying that FERC receives a copy of all of the PUD relicensing documents. She also said that the PUD is required to provide FERC with 6-month updates of the relicensing Web site, which is downloaded onto a CD.

On the handout, Michelle (PUD) pointed out that the April 22* date is the tentative date for the policy-level kickoff meeting. By starting the settlement negotiation process early and by having an agreed settlement package could potentially allow for early license implementation. Michelle (PUD) mentioned that once the final LA is submitted to FERC, FERC would send out an official notice of application and notice for soliciting motions to intervene. The PUD would help keep stakeholders aware of comment due dates and deadlines for filing interventions.

Comprehensive Management Plan Outline (see handout)

Michelle (PUD) provided the group with an outline of the contents that would be contained in the Recreation Resources Management Plan. She briefly reviewed the table of contents and noted that Section 5 will contain the PME measures and the specific details associated with each measure.

Protection, Mitigation, and Enhancement (PME) Worksheet (see handout)

Prior to reviewing the worksheet, Michelle (PUD) mentioned that Kris Pomianek (PUD) has contacted members from Chelan Falls and Orondo to give them updates on the Rocky Reach relicensing process and to inform them of meetings. The PUD will be meeting with Rich Uhlhorn and others from Chelan Falls to discuss any potential issues

* As of February 27, the meeting has been rescheduled to April 24, 2003.

that have not yet been discussed. Karin Whitehall, US Forest Service (USFS), wondered how issues would be addressed that were not identified in the *Recreation Needs Forecast and Analysis*. Michelle (PUD) responded by saying that the PUD will look at PME development guidelines, which are listed on the worksheet. She added that all of the proposed PMEs would go through the same guideline review. The first guideline asks if there is a Project-related impact. Michelle (PUD) mentioned that there may be differences as to Project-related impacts on each issue and there may be times that the two sides may not be able to reach an agreement. In such a case, the two sides may have to “agree to disagree” or continue discussions to reach an agreement.

The group reviewed the issues in the order listed on the worksheet.

Rocky Reach, Beebe Bridge, Chelan Falls, Chelan Powerhouse

Karin (USFS) requested a break down for construction and annual operation & maintenance (O&M) costs for each park. Jim Eychaner, Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC), said that the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) document places a lot of emphasis on the stewardship of existing facilities. He recommended adding to stakeholder concern, “SCORP plan need for ongoing stewardship of existing recreation sites and facilities.” Jim (IAC) concluded by commending the PUD for their ongoing commitment and stewardship for the existing recreational facilities.

Entiat Park

Michelle (PUD) will add the management contract as an additional stakeholder concern. She said that the PUD would meet with the city to discuss ideas of developing a better partnership. Michelle (PUD) explained that the PUD has been working closely with the city of Entiat on plans for the park and shoreline lands that are owned by the PUD. Three Entiat public meetings have been held in order to gain a better understanding of the community’s needs. Bob Whitehall, city of Entiat (Entiat), has also been working with the PUD on how to improve both the RV and tent camping at the city park. Michelle (PUD) said that the PUD is in the process of putting together a plan and schedule for improvements.

Entiat Waterfront Lands

Michelle (PUD) noted that the PUD owns about 22 acres along the shoreline in Entiat. Future uses of the land and what the community would like the PUD to do with the land have been topics at the Entiat public meetings. Michelle (PUD) pointed out that specific plans for the land have not yet been determined; however, the PUD is looking at all options. She said an element would be to try and get the property back into the Entiat tax base. Final concept drawings for Entiat park and the waterfront will be presented at the March 5, 2003, Entiat public meeting. Michelle (PUD) will bring the drawings to the March 26 Social Sciences Working Group meeting.

Under the existing measures and costs column, Bob Whitehall clarified that not all of the income from the gravel excavation is going to the city of Entiat. He said that a portion is also going to the PUD.

Wendell Black (Entiat) mentioned that land west of the highway in Entiat may be annexed for golf course development.

Lincoln Rock and Daroga State Parks

To this point, specific upgrades and enhancements for the future have not been discussed with Washington state parks. The next step is to begin those discussions. Out of the *Recreation Needs Forecast and Analysis* and brief discussions with Jim Harris and Bill Fraser, Washington State Parks (WA Parks), the stakeholder concern is described on the handout. Jim (WA Parks) added that the addition of a group camp at Lincoln Rock is included in their newly-completed business plan. Jim (WA Parks) also corrected the amount of funding for 2003. He said that the cost is approximately \$250,000 instead of \$300,000.

Managed Access and Nature Trails

Michelle (PUD) explained that through Rocky Reach and Lake Chelan relicensing, a Wildlife Management Plan is being developed. As part of that plan, Jim (IAC) recommended providing an opportunity for public access to parts of those lands.

Chris (WDFW) pointed out that the Natural Sciences Working Group is also looking at access for fishing. She wondered how the two groups would correlate efforts. Michelle (PUD) said that the issue is handled through the resource that is affected. Therefore, the Natural Sciences Working Group would develop the management plan, but would work with the Social Sciences group to address the recreation or managed access component. That same concept would be true for the Natural Sciences Working Group and addressing the fishing access issue.

Chris (WDFW) added that fishing access around the dam due to security purposes is going to be restricted and questioned how the restriction would be addressed. Michelle (PUD) responded by saying that she would discuss the issue with Gregg Carrington (PUD) and Scott Kreiter (PUD) to determine whether the issue needed to be addressed through recreation or fisheries.

After a lengthy discussion regarding managed access, the group decided to separate the issue by wildlife lands and Columbia River access. It seemed that nature trails on the wildlife lands and Columbia River access could be addressed more efficiently if separated.

Rocky Reach Trail

Jim (WA Parks) recommended renaming the issue as Rocky Reach Trail *Link*.

Community Recreation Fund

As part of the recreational commitment for relicensing, the funds would be available for groups to apply for through a grant process and the projects would have to meet a specific set of criteria. The intent is that the projects would be for educational or recreational enhancements along the Project boundary (Rock Island to Wells Dam). Kris (PUD) added that because parts of Douglas County are adjacent to the Project boundary, those areas would be permitted to apply. As part of the application process, the PUD Commissioners would appoint someone from their district to sit on an advisory committee that would evaluate the projects and applications received. Kris (PUD) said that the money in the fund would have to be tied to something financially within the district. Dividing the funds up by commission district is also a concept that is being discussed. By separating the funds, it would alleviate the issue of having smaller towns having to compete with Wenatchee. The proposal will be ready and presented to PUD Commissioners at the end of April. Jim (BLM) suggested spreading the funds equally over a period of time rather than the division of funds yearly. Kris (PUD) responded by saying that the main goal is to fund the best projects. Currently, the PUD is trying to determine the best way to distribute the funds fairly, but also to make sure that the best projects are funded.

Michelle (PUD) closed the meeting by saying she would begin setting up individual meetings to discuss specific PME details.

Other Business

Next Meeting

March 26, 2003

Action Items

- ✓ Michelle will bring the Entiat Park/waterfront conceptual drawings to March 26 SSWG meeting.
- ✓ Michelle will send map of the Entiat trail plan to Chris Hall and Jim Fisher.
- ✓ Michelle will discuss fishing access around the dam with Gregg and Scott to determine if the issue is recreational or fisheries.

Reference materials are posted on the Web site, www.chelanpud.org/rr_relicense. Please contact Rosana Sokolowski, (888) 663-8121, Extension 4175, if hard copies are required.

- ✓ Sign-up Sheet
- ✓ Distribution List
- ✓ Comprehensive Plan Outline
- ✓ Social Sciences WG Tentative Schedule, January – December 2003