

City of Cosmopolis

Workshop Minutes
August 17, 2011

Mayor Vickie L Raines presided

Councilmembers Present: Jim Ancich, Carl Sperring, Debbi Moran, Frank Chestnut and Karen Cox

Staff Present: Finance Director Kathy Welch, Attorney Stephen Hyde and Public Works Director Raines

Mayor Raines called the workshop to order.

Mayor Raines introduced Tim Hume, HDR Engineering Olympia who was present to discuss some ideas and options for Mill Creek Dam.

Darrin and Mayor Raines met with Tim two or three times in the past few months. Darrin toured the project at the Little Hoquiam River where they removed the dam and restored the area. HDR worked with the City of Hoquiam on this project for permitting, design and engineering for the removal of that dam. Darrin said that it is a beautiful site. You can hardly tell that anything other than natural habitat has been there. Darrin said that we have had discussions the past couple of years on what if anything we can do with the Mill Creek Dam site. We initially thought we could repair or replace the dam, but now we need to look at all options. We feel that HDR can help us move forward on our options. Tim Hume gave a little background on his company. They are HDR engineering out of Olympia part of a large international engineering company. They have the ability to provide local solutions through smaller local offices like the one in Olympia.

Tim has worked for HDR for seven years after having worked for a smaller firm that was acquired by HDR. They were pretty much focused on water and wastewater issues. Now with HDR they can work on dam removal and restoration. Tim said that what he has been asked to do is focus on removing the dam. He said that there has been a general feeling that we could not get funding or permits to repair or replace the dam. The emphasis has been to improve and enhance fish habitat. Tim said that they broke the planning down into phases. The first Phase would include tasks 1-5. Tim said the agreement would cover Tasks 1-3 that include the following:

Task 1 – Project management – prepare and submit status reports outlining work completed during that month

Task 2 – Data acquisition and Review – HDR will obtain and review data from CITY, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology and either the US Army Corps of Engineers or the local sponsor regarding the hydraulic structures on Mill Creek

Task 3 – Site visit to identify existing site conditions at Mill Creek Park and potential downstream conditions that may influence project development (the flood gates on Chehalis)

Tim asked how the dam impacted flood control in the past and what documentation was established. Steve Hyde said that there was some discussion in the early '70's regarding the dam and flood control, but was not sure how much science was applied. Frank asked about long range plans to reestablish the dam and what the stumbling blocks would be. Tim said that we would need the science behind reestablishment of the dam for flood control and fish habitat.

Mayor Raines said that most of the people who have commented on the site would like to see the recreation aspect of the Park reestablished. The Planning Commission has recommended that we add this project to our Capital Improvement Plan.

Darrin said that he would like to see this preliminary phase done so we can get a direction on how to fund future improvements. Mayor said that we can use some of the money of the sale of the old police facility to pay for the first part of this project.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor

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