

9-21-2004

Red Rock Desert Learning Center Core Group Meeting: September 21, 2004

Red Rock Desert Learning Center

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RED ROCK DESERT LEARNING CENTER
CORE GROUP MEETING

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Paradise Campus, Building 100, Room 103

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

8:30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Introductions (*5 min.*)
2. Approval of Minutes from August 17 Meeting (*5 minutes*)
3. Potential Tie-in with City of Las Vegas New Directions YouthArts Program – Markus Tracy (*20 min.*)
4. Presentation of Education in the Environment Curriculum Matrix and correlation to RRDLC curriculum development – Jeanne Klockow (*30 min.*)
5. Discussion of Policy-making Board for the Center – Michael Reiland (*15 min.*)
6. Discussion of Observatory Location – Michael Reiland (*25 min.*)
7. Standing Reports (*20 minutes*)
 - A. Line and Space Architects Update – Les Wallach/Henry Tom
 - B. UNLV/CESU Update – Nancy Flagg
 - c. RRCNCA Capital Improvements Update – BLM
8. Committee Reports (*10 min.*)
 - A. Building – Angie Lara
 - B. Design Oversight – David Frommer
 - C. Educational Programs – Paul Buck
 - D. Fund-Raising & Partnerships – Blaine Benedict
 - E. NEPA – Charles Carroll
 - F. Operations – Jack Ramsey
 - G. Other Uses – Pat Williams
 - H. Wild Horse & Burro – Billie Young
8. Open Discussion / New Business (*5 min.*)

Oliver Ranch Core Group meetings are open to any interested member of the public. Attendance by new individuals is always welcomed. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically handicapped persons attending the meeting. Please call the UNLV Public Lands Initiative Office (702-895-5148) in advance so that arrangements may be made.

Meeting Minutes

RED ROCK DESERT LEARNING CENTER CORE GROUP

UNLV Paradise Campus

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

The meeting commenced at 8:35 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Loretta Asay, Blaine Benedict, Kim Blanc, Bob Boyd, Paul Buck, Bill Cates, Dale Etheridge, Nancy Flagg, David Frommer, Pat Fleming, Megan Iudice, Jeanne Klockow, Angie Lara, Richard Leifreid, John McCarty, Helen Mortenson, Tim O'Brien, Alan O'Neill, Jackson Ramsey, Michael Reiland, Henry Tom, Markus Tracy, Les Wallach, Debbie Wright, Billie Young.

1. Introductions

The group welcomed Debbie Wright from BLM and Markus Tracy from the City of Las Vegas.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 17, 2004, meeting were approved with no changes.

3. City of Las Vegas Artist-in-Residence Program

Markus Tracy from the City of Las Vegas made a presentation to the Core Group on an artist-in-residence program that he coordinates, in which artists from throughout the United States are invited to Las Vegas to teach local youth at cultural centers and within the Clark County School District. The program has been in existence 8 years and focuses on artists who have an interest outside of the arts; for example, they may combine the arts with the sciences and fuse the two into a workshop for youth. The workshops typically include field trips, visits to museums, trips to Red Rock Canyon and Valley of Fire, etc., but creativity plays a role in all core learning in the program. Mr. Tracy provided photos from past programs and described a recent outing to Red Rock Canyon, in which each child was given a disposable camera, learned about the geology and history of the area, developed the film, and created a photo collage by cutting the prints into 1-inch squares. The collages were displayed in a gallery, and Mr. Tracy is now developing a series of murals to be displayed around the city in the coming year.

Michael Reiland said this program held exciting possibilities for future partnerships with the Red Rock Desert Learning Center, especially since one goal of the school is to mix the sciences with the arts. Michael invited Markus to attend future Core Group meetings.

4. RRDLC Curriculum Matrix

Nancy Flagg provided the group with an overview of the curricular task laid out in the university's agreement with the BLM and introduced Dr. Jeanne Klockow, UNLV's new educational curriculum coordinator for its SNPLMA Education in the Environment Initiatives.

Jeanne said she was honored to be a part of the project. She had visited the site the previous day and was impressed by the location. Jeannie noted she has been asked to provide a consistent framework for various SNPLMA programs that have an educational component. These include the RRDLC, Forever Earth, and Wonderful Outdoor World on the Water, among others. Her goal is to have her work be a reflection of the core group's mission, and, similarly, her role is to serve as a collaborative partner with the project managers of the other SNPLMA educational programs.

Jeanne provided the group with a draft rationale for the curricular design of the Red Rock Desert Learning Center as well as a structural matrix for the curriculum, using the Earth Systems Approach. The matrix showed how a sample Life Science Strand developed by the Educational Programs Committee will fit into the overall curriculum template. Jeanne also demonstrated how the matrix responds to the architectural design of the facility as well as to the common curricular experiences that still need to be developed.

Jeanne reviewed a sample web page for lesson plans that would be designed with links to provide teachers with background information prior to bringing their classes out to the school. She also provided the group with a sample of what the daily schedule at the school might look like. In general, it allows for block scheduling with flexibility within each block for teachers and students to circulate thru various activities. She then asked the group for feedback.

Angie Lara said she liked the matrix but noted that many of Jeanne's samples were written in teacher-education language that the lay person may not understand. On the curricular design rationale, she pointed out that the RRDLC mission statement and the mission statement for Forever Earth did not appear to be reflected. Angie also noted that the federal agencies need to be listed as partners on the matrix, because it is important to the core mission of the school that students learn what the BLM wants them to learn. Under "audiences" on the matrix, Angie indicated that out-of-state students and web learners should be added. On the subject of web access, Dale Etheridge said that wireless webcams will be better than web-based text. Michael Reiland said that the logistics of getting technology out to the facility still needs to be investigated. Jackson Ramsey asked about the correlation between this curricular work, the statement of work for the school operator, and what the operator will be asked to do. Michael said he sees Jeanne's matrix being included in the statement of work. The operator will have a say in how the curriculum will be implemented.

5. Discussion of Policy-making Board for the Center

Michael Reiland led a discussion about the group's preferences for an advisory board to work collaboratively with the BLM and the school operator. He noted that he does not have a specific model in mind. Michael encouraged everyone to think about this as a future discussion topic, including whether the board operates independently, what kind of people should be on it, what structure it should have, whether it should have a formal mission statement, and so forth. Michael noted it can be difficult to set up a formal group under government regulations. Some other facilities of this kind have independent, non-binding boards that let the partners know if they think the mission is being met. This structure gives them the ability to be objective because they are not tied to any one partner.

Nancy Flagg asked Michael if other boards have a fund-raising function, because that can affect the kind of people asked to serve; he was not sure. Paul Buck said that in visits to other schools he recalled they were operated by a non-profit organization that had its own board. Paul also indicated that a lot of rules will be built into the operator's contract, which will give some measure of oversight. He was not convinced that an advisory board would be necessary, although he acknowledged that some type of oversight would be desirable. Jackson thought much of this would be governed by the contract between the BLM and the operator, because no operator should be asked to take suggestions from 15 different people. Angie suggested that Michael research 3 or 4 different models for discussion at the next meeting, and she asked that the models also address the oversight needs for the Wild Horse and Burro Facility.

6. Discussion of Observatory Location.

Michael Reiland informed the group that the new Red Rock Visitor Center Core Group meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month, and he invited anyone to be added to the e-mail list. At the last Visitor Center Core Group meeting, the participants discussed the location of the observatory. There are advantages to locating it at the visitor center – for example, it is a more public place, the sharing of space is good, and it allows more people to use it. The disadvantages are that there is more bleed-through of city light at the visitor center than at the Oliver Ranch site, the students at the school would not as easily be able to experience the equipment, and the conservation area has a day-use mission whereas the observatory would increase night-use of the area.

Paul Buck asked if the RRDLC would we still have a platform area for smaller telescopes. Les Wallach replied in the affirmative, but they were exploring whether to locate the major telescope at the visitor center, primarily because parking at the school is a problem, as is student safety. Helen Mortenson argued that the observatory was budgeted into the RRDLC project, not the visitor center. Michael pointed out that the monies would not be commingled between the two projects. The observatory would still come from the Oliver Ranch budget but it was simply a question of whether it could be more economically located at the visitor center. Les reiterated that the plan is to have an observatory at the school with multiple telescopes that would be smaller and age-appropriate, which would still provide the full range of astronomy. The current design calls for a protected, enclosed area with a roof that can roll back at night. Alan O'Neill pointed out that using smaller telescopes can build interest in the larger scopes. He agreed that the telescopes should be age-appropriate and he did not like the impact on the school site that the large telescope would presumably create. Dale Etheridge clarified that his original proposal was for 8-10" scopes but then also something a bit larger to allow viewing like real astronomers do. As originally envisioned, the primary use was for students, with secondary use by the public.

Jackson Ramsey noted that astronomy is a small part of the program at the visitor center, and there has been no discussion of increasing it. He is not convinced that there are a lot of resources to support it at the visitor center; however, he thinks it should be there because of parking concerns. Tim O'Brien noted that it is the cost savings that make the visitor center an attractive location. Blaine Benedict said that the nomination did not call for a public observatory, so he did not feel there was an obligation to provide public access. Pat Fleming said he had a problem with re-opening this discussion, as it was his understanding that a decision was made last April to locate the observatory at the visitor center.

The Core Group discussed the possibilities of remote viewing, with Loretta Asay noting that students could potentially remotely control this telescope and compare it to another one in Australia, for example. Angie Lara said that the students should be provided with a mix of opportunities. The visitor center would be more educational and interpretive; it is free and allows for people who want to share their hobby and enthusiasm. She sees the two functions – student access versus public access – as different.

7. Standing Reports

A. *Line and Space Architects*

Henry Tom and Les Wallach of Line and Space Architects provided an update on recent activities (*on file in UNLV Public Lands Initiative office and BLM office*). The architects met with a civil engineer on Aug. 17, who indicated that it was possible to build in the flood plain if certain requirements are met. The architects also met with personnel from Spring Mountain Ranch State Park and informed them of the plans for the school. The park staff had a few

concerns about impact on their Summer Theatre program and Living History program. They also questioned whether there would be noise impact from the Wild Horse and Burro Facility, and they asked whether students hiking to the state park would have to cross the Bonnie Springs property. They were open to the possibility of locating an educational kiosk on their site. In general, they were enthusiastic about the overall project.

Line and Space also toured the site with Clark County School District risk-management personnel. In general there were few concerns, although some questions were raised about the flood plain. They discussed American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements as well as emergency evacuation plans, especially plans for a mass evacuation.

The architects recently met with UNLV to tour the site and to review the curricular plans and matrix. They asked the university to identify by October 1 the common curricular experiences envisioned at the school and whether those activities would potentially impact the current design.

Les Wallach provided an update on the school's conceptual design. Drawings first go to the Building Committee and then will be brought to the Core Group. The programming document has been uploaded to the BLM website with sketches. The first part of the work involves site planning, followed by schematic design of the buildings. They will look at such issues as arrival and exiting, housing, eating, teaching, administration, and maintenance. Several design concepts have been pursued: (1) using the existing ranch site; (2) focusing on the maximum disturbed area; and (3) using a view site that more fully immerses students into the outdoor environment.

After meeting with the Building Committee last month, the "maximum disturbed" site was discarded and further consideration is being given to the existing ranch site and the view site. The ranch site design would cluster the dormitory and administrative buildings within the main ranch site, with the flex labs farther out, but it would require taking out the historic remnants of the ranch. The view site locates housing and labs further out in the desert and within the flood plain, which would require an elevated solution (approximately 18" above the high-water mark – or about 4-1/2 feet high). This design would allow historic remnants of the old ranch to be preserved, where they could be used for science or art activities.

In other updates, Henry Tom reported that the concepts for the wild horse facility are progressing nicely; the architects and BLM personnel recently visited a facility in Oregon. Line and Space will hold an energy conservation workshop Oct. 11-13 to help determine the energy infrastructure at the complex and how to incorporate these elements into the curriculum in an age-appropriate way.

B. *UNLV*

Nancy Flagg provided an update on UNLV's activities related to the RRDLC. She introduced web coordinator Megan Iudice. Megan showed the core group a sample of the proposed RRDLC website. Michael noted that the BLM's public affairs specialist is currently reviewing the text, and plans call for the site to go live by the first of October. He congratulated Megan on the design.

C. *Red Rock Canyon National Recreation Area*

John McCarty of Otak Inc. provided a report on the Environmental Assessment (*on file in UNLV Public Lands Initiative office and BLM office*). Phase I is a discovery phase. Phase II is preparation of the written environmental assessment. Thirty elements have been identified for investigation. Field surveys of biology and cultural resources have been completed. At the end of Phase 1, they will reduce the 30 original elements to 15 critical elements for further study.

Another element to the environmental assessment is benchmarking, wherein Otak looks at a comparable facility and the process they went through. At present, they have developed benchmarking criteria and a list of questions for BLM review. They then plan to review two comparable centers or, if it proves difficult to find directly comparable locations, they will visit more than two and pull out applicable pieces from each.

Update on Monitoring Wells. Bob Boyd reported that three wells were installed at the Oliver Ranch site over Labor Day weekend. The pumping test will start September 21. Data collection will occur over the next 2 days, followed by data analysis. The ranch house well has already produced 30 gallons per minute sustained over several hours; the preliminary analysis appears to indicate sufficient water for the projected needs of the school. Two other wells are intended primarily for monitoring but will also be available for curriculum purposes and research.

BLM Update. Michael Reiland reported that he and Billie Young met recently with the Western Veterinary Conference regarding potential partnerships with the Wild Horse and Burro Facility. It was a positive meeting and the start of a good relationship. Michael and Bill have been invited to speak at the February 2006 Western Veterinary Conference, co-presenting with Dr. Rick Redden. The focus will be on why the facility is important to veterinary science.

8. Committee Reports

Committee reports were deferred due to time constraints.

9. New Business

Billie Young announced that the National Wild Horse and Burro Association and the BLM were hosting a booth at the Clark County Farm Festival over the next couple days. They will have gentled wild horses on display. She thanked the Friends of Red Rock Canyon and the Red Rock Interpretive Association for providing funds for informational packets. Billie also distributed fliers announcing the annual wild horse adoption on October 9-10.

Angie Lara notified the group that BLM Field Office Director Mark Morse has announced his retirement effective January 2005.

Nancy Flagg reminded the group that the October 19 meeting will begin at a new time -- 10:30 a.m. -- at the BLM Interagency Office.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Minutes
Design Oversight Subcommittee
August 16, 2004

Attendees:

David Frommer, Billie Young, Michael Reiland, Laurie Howard

Minutes:

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:00 PM. It was noted that Line and Space would not be in attendance due to flight delays from weather. Several other participants were noted as not able to attend this month.

2. Review was given to past DOC tasks. As most of these except the third item required the input of parties not in attendance, most of the items were not discussed in any detail.

- **BINDER FOR LINE AND SPACE AND BLM:**

Spreadsheet of like projects, basic characteristics, contact information. – & Spreadsheet of sustainable technologies in similar projects, basic information to include type of technology, cost, scope, operations costs, educational overlap, An environmental report generated by Line and Space of some other facilities, that lists their environmental features, strategies and facility summary.

A summary of 10 +/- books on environmental education generated by Line and Space. A spreadsheet generated by Michael Reiland on 30 +/- National Park

Service (NPS) facilities that are on public lands and might be similar to the ORSS & WHB situation, with a listing of their mission statements.

- **CONSOLIDATED CPM SCHEDULE:**

Broad project process chart for the Core Committee to clarify major process elements, overlap, and concurrent activities. – Les Wallach, Pat Fleming, Tim O'Brien.

- **AVAILABLE ON-CALL :**

Assist BLM in presentation updates for programming and design in cooperation with the design contractor for community advocacy at key milestones for stakeholders.

UPDATE: Billie stated the Farm Festival will be occurring at Horseman's Park on September 21, 22 and 23, from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. It will be brought up at the Core Meeting and potential input from the RRDL and WHB Facility as to passing out information and offering volunteers for project outreach.

3. Review of project timeline was tabled.

4. Review of Line and Space items was tabled.

5. At the last DOC meeting, the following items were discussed as important information to obtain from the WH&B visits. Due to the light weather related attendance at this DOC meeting,

it was agreed that these details would be discussed at the Building Committee tomorrow and at the next DOC meeting

- Water – quality, quantity per animal, management, types of uses
- Healthcare management of animals, how, when, what types
- Short term density – holding, rounding up, adoption
- Longer term density – ideal space allowances per animal for best care
- Safety issues
- Handling animal waste – how
- Interface with public – adoptions and public education
- Surface materials and layout – walking area, work area, pasture
- Staffing levels, time slots and staff facilities
- A schematic layout of each place visited for review
- Vehicular access and adoption/visitor vehicle management/parking loads

6. Michael Reiland stated that the August 19, 2004 meeting with other similar facility owners and operators has been postponed.

7. The new UPDATED PRELIMINARY name of ORSS &WHB is the Red Rock Desert Learning Center. National has been omitted from the name.

8. Recap of future Core, DOC meetings:

Next Meetings – DOC

September 20, 2004 – 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM, UNLV CSB 102

October 18, 2004 – 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM, UNLV CSB 102

9. Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Minutes
Educational Programs Subcommittee
August 9, 2004

Attendees:

Paul Buck	DRI	Kathy August	BLM
Nancy Elder-Kjenstad	CCSD	Michael Reiland	BLM
Mary Sowder	CCSD	Kim Blanc	DRI
Steve Zitzer	DRI	Jin Xi	DRI
Laura Flynn	CCSD	Michael Young	DRI
Vic Etyemezian	DRI	Greg McCurdy	DRI
Don Sada	DRI		

Minutes:

Michael Reiland updated us on the significance of the Wild Horse and Burro program as a part of the educational mission of ORSS (Oliver Ranch Science School). In summary: every set of students that come to ORSS will have some introduction at the Wild Horse and Burro Education area. It will be ecology and environmental interaction as well as social aspects that will be taught to the students. Paul requested that BLM provide to the education group a scientist knowledgeable about horse evolution, adaptation, ecology, and behavior.

Michael also updated us that the Secretary of Interior Norton approved \$19 million for additional facilities such as: trails and alternative energy sources for ORSS.

Paul briefed the group on the mission of what the education committee is responsible for and reminded the committee that not only fifth graders will attend ORSS, but the education committee's focus is the curriculum for the fifth graders at ORSS. This group will identify the "big picture" ideas or questions that researchers are interested in and what the school district (CCSD) thinks fifth graders should know and is socially relevant. A brief recap of the last meetings "big picture" ideas included: water, air quality and where does the water go?

Paul also mentioned that since burros and wild horses are organisms like others they can certainly be included in any curriculum discussing adaptation to desert ecosystems, evolution, productivity, etc. The education group can help fit them into the curriculum by identifying how they are a part of the environment , adaptations and the issues that pertain to that.

Paul read the mission of the BLM (quoting from the BLM handbook "BLM: Environmental Education National Strategy", 1995):

BLM Environmental Education Mission:

Our central theme is "sustaining healthy ecosystems." It is tied to the central mission of the agency – to sustain healthy, productive, and naturally diverse ecological systems for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Through our educational programs we will expand public knowledge and understanding of the following:

- The characteristics of ecosystems
- The local and global patterns of ecosystems
- The biodiversity and productivity of ecosystems

- The physical processes that produce changes in the ecosystems
- How people can apply ecosystem concepts to understand and solve environmental issues

The educational committee discussed and brainstormed the “big ideas” or “big questions” some of the discussion left us with the following statements:

- Ecology is the distribution of species and vegetation related to the environment.
 - How people and wild horses/burros influence that distribution
- Impact on productivity.
 - permanent data relevant to the students stay at ORSS
 - How does productivity impact me (5th grader)?
 - How does productivity play into the researcher’s studies?
 - Productivity can go up and down
 - Biodiversity
- Ethical foundation – teach a value:
 - Examine a healthy ecosystem, a functioning ecosystem -> look at the factors that have disturbed that ecosystem and what alternatives would sustain it?
- Researchers questions:
 - Where does the water come from?
 - Where does the water go?
 - Is it good to maintain biodiversity?
 - What controls the abundance and distribution of water at ORSS?
 - What use is our (human use) have on distribution of plants and animals?

GOAL: Research questions → links to FOSS → how is it relevant to the students?

We also discussed the importance and relevance of ethics and letting the students make their own choices and behavioral changes from the knowledge gained at ORSS.

Conclusion:

The committee split into two working groups: biology/ecology and earth science/physical science. Each group includes researchers and educators in them. The groups will meet on their own and discuss their own goal/big question and using the matrix Nancy provided fill in the CEF (Curriculum Essentials Fundamentals), FOSS correlation, pre-requisite experiences, on site activities, follow-up suggestions, recourses, multicultural/historical connections, and Globe protocols.

- Biology/ecology group: The group with Nancy Elder-Kjenstad, Stephen Zitzer, Don Sada and Kim Blanc, Mary Wiesenmiller, Carron Haggerty. This group will be meeting at DRI on Wednesday, August 18, 2004 from 9am – Noon.
- Earth science/physical science working group: Vic Etyemezian, Jin Xi, Michael Young, Mary Sowder, Laura Flynn, Dave DuBois. Meeting date TBD
- History and culture group (members TBN, but likely included Carron Haggerty, Paul Buck, others). No meeting set yet.

Minutes
Educational Programs Subcommittee
August 19, 2004

Attendees:

Kim Blanc	DRI	Stephen Zitzer	DRI
Nancy Elder	CCSD	Rob Mrowka	Clark Co
Billie Young	RRCIA/NWHA	Don Sada	DRI
Laurie Howard	NWHA	Gary McFadden	BLM
Kathy August	BLM	Carron Haggerty	CCSD

Minutes:

The majority of meeting time we spent talking about and sharing ideas about the detail needed for the Environmental activities that the Fifth graders would take part in at the Science School (now called Red Rock Desert Learning Center). We talked about the different venues already identified by the Core group and Line & Space.

Nancy provided us with partially filled out matrices that included the same goal with five objectives. The group discussed the first which was:

- Students will understand the effect of disturbance on the functional characteristics of plant and animal communities.

We talked about adding the statement (to the end of the objective): “and relate this to Southern Nevada environment.

We decided that the class would need to define disturbance and three possible areas to visit at the Science School could be: riparian, aquatic and upland. The children could transect and measure the area(s). We also discussed the use of photomaps.

Other activities and follow-up could be journaling, digital photographing, comparisons in photos and measurements for website.

There was also discussion regarding the Historical disturbances such as: the ranch itself, Old Spanish Trail, foundations from old homesteads, Ansazi sites, horse and burro development from Old West, Native American seasonal gardening area.

Some of the Globe protocols that fit this matrix were:

- Sample site selection set-up.
- Land cover sample site protocol.

The next meeting is on Thursday September 16th at DRI at 1pm.

Minutes
Operations Subcommittee
August 3, 2004

The RRDLC Operations Committee met on Tuesday, August 3, 2004 at 9AM at the BLM District Office. Present were: Billie Young, Blaine Benedict, Patrick Putnam, Michael Reiland, Nancy Flagg, Paul Buck, Tim O'Brien and Jack Ramsey.

Michael gave a status report on soliciting an operator for the science school. Michael said BLM was developing a Statement of Work to send out to prospective bidders. Input to this Statement of Work has not been solicited from core group members since some core group members may represent organizations that wish to be considered to operate the school. Considerable discussion followed concerning the time line for proposal submission. Michael indicated a change in BLM personnel has delayed development of the Statement of Work. Michael suggested the Statement of Work could be completed by the first of September. If that date was met, committee members felt 2-3 months would be needed for organizations to assemble and submit the formal proposal. Allowing a month for selection, an operator could be identified by the end of 2004.

Michael asked for discussion on two points: (1) What can the operator expect from BLM? and (2) What can BLM expect from the operator? Considerable discussion ensued, with a few of the repeated points listed below.

What can the operator expect from BLM?

The land and buildings
Possible money for scholarships to apply to operations
Furnishings – a turn-key or carefully delineated list of furnishings
Continued BLM management support

What can BLM expect from the operator?

Day-to-day operations of the facility including:
Maintenance of facilities and landscaping
Student transportation (if not provided by CCSD)
Accept non-paying students
Professional, quality education
Professional instructors and staff
Marketing of programs
Provision of all necessary insurance
Alignment with curriculum committee and education programming of CCSD

Fund Raising – The amounts and types of fundraising will depend upon BLM operating funds and other sources of revenue.

The meeting adjourned about 10:45 AM

Agenda

Red Rock Desert Learning Center - CORE Meeting
Line and Space. LLC.

September 21, 2004

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1.) Meeting Reports	
- Clark County Flood Control District with Andrew Trelease – August 17	2
- Spring Mountain Ranch with Gary Rembey – September 20	No written report
- CCSD Risk Mangement with Kimberly Krumland and Loretta Asay – Sept. 20	No written report
- UNLV Curriculum Coordinator – Dr. Jeanne Klockow and Nancy Flagg	No written report
2.) Report on Work	
-Conceptual Design Update	
see included Building Committee meeting minutes	
August 17	3
August 30	5
August 31	7
September 9	9
-Resource Conservation Workshop - October 11-13.	11
3.) Schedule	
-Conceptual Design – due September 29	
-Schematic Design – due December 10	

Clark County Regional Flood Control District

Meeting Minutes

Oliver Ranch School + Wild Horse and Burro Facility

Subject: Preliminary meeting to discuss flood plain impact on project site
Location: Clark County Regional Flood Control District, 600 Grand Central Parkway, Suite 300
Phone (702) 455 - 3139
Date: August 17, 2004
Time: 4:00pm

Attendees

Henry Tom, Les Wallach and Andrew Trelease (Senior Civil Engineer)

Meeting Notes

- Andrew reviewed the flood development process with us:
 - We may build within the flood zone
 - Development may not raise the flood waters by more than 12" in any area within the flood zone
 - Finish floor must be 18" above the effective water level (local requirement which is the FEMA standard for this area)
 - FEMA must approve any changes in water level
- A FEMA study may be available for this area, if not, we will need to do our own to verify current 100 year flood boundaries and effective water elevation.
 - FEMA must be notified of any changes in water level upon completion so they can update flood maps
 - We are in Region 9 – Michael Baker (Alexandria, Virginia) is consulting engineer involved in FEMA review.
- We purchased Design Manual.

Meeting minutes

Wild Horse and Burro Facility

Subject: Concept Development - WHB
Location: Oliver Ranch
Date: Aug 30, 2004
Time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Attendees

Billie Young, Les Wallach, Henry Tom, Bob Clements and Kevin Stewart

Meeting Notes

- Bob presented the 'Wall Concept' plan for the WHB facility which is centered on the existing water tank near the intersection of Bonnie Springs Road and the Parrott Residence drive. Billie's comments were as follows:
 - ungentled (non-resident) horses will most likely not use the pasture
 - there are issues with circulation and cross circulation in the yard area
 - There should be a buffer between the public and the pasture in order to keep ill intent away from the horse
 - the fencing for the pasture should be strong and horse friendly, maximum gap of 1' between bottom of fence and grade
 - the use of natural shading elements such as mesquite trees in the pasture would be a nice alternative to actual shade structures, however, the horses may destroy unprotected trees (attention will be given to types of landscaping used in horse areas: oleanders are unacceptable for all horses and pines are unacceptable for pregnant mares, etc.)
 - the adjacency of the arena to the Bonnie Springs parking lot is a positive
 - the digester location should be easily accessible for manure loading/delivery, and adjacent to the teaching venue
 - the wall was liked for visual reasons as well as its ability to keep everything controlled (security), and its utilization to support the roof of the arena
 - the internal flow and space relationships are well thought out
 - Administration may be too far back and may want to move closer to the entry off of Bonnie Springs Road
 - The road into the facility may be too visible
- Kevin presented the 'Catwalk Concept' plan for the WHB facility which is centered on the existing water tank near the intersection of Bonnie Springs Road and the Parrott Residence drive. Billie's comments were as follows:
 - the pasture at the front is nice, as is the showcasing of the resident horses as symbols of the facilities mission
 - concern about people on the catwalk interfering (intentionally and unintentionally) with the animals below. If the catwalk were cut back to more of a viewing platform (possible use as one of the teaching shade structures) it could work especially if integrated with interpretive signage
 - a working corral should be placed closer to the platform for the kids and public to observe the gentling process
 - the concept of a pedestrian friendly zone where the kids and public can view the facility and interact (under supervision) with a mascot horse was considered positive
 - it is Billie's understanding that the research area should be considered an additional component of the infirmary
 - the bio-gas generator and maintenance location adjacent to the loading/unloading and the holding area were a good convenience

Meeting minutes

Wild Horse and Burro Facility

- All parties walked to the Wild Horse and Burro site. It was agreed that the facility location could be shifted further south (into the small wash before the wash in the floodplain) if deemed necessary. This move may better hide the facility from the school cistern/observatory.

Building committee meeting minutes

Red Rock Desert Learning Center Wild Horse and Burro Facility

Subject: Concept Development - RRDLC
Location: Oliver Ranch
Date: Aug 31, 2004
Time: 8:30 – 11:30 am

Attendees

Angie Lara, Michael Reiland, David Frommer, Les Wallach, Henry Tom, Bob Clements and Kevin Stewart

Meeting Notes

- In addition to presenting the concepts and the general discussion that followed, the group walked the entry sequence of the two concepts and identified different aspects of each concept. The discussion from the presentation and the walk are included below.
- Les presented the 'Ranch Site Concept' and stated that it was a campus-like concept with two main arc-shaped buildings (1 would be a cluster of the 3 dorm buildings, and 1 would be the administration, kitchen, dining) opposite of each other creating a central plaza area.
- There is concern that this site utilizes an area (the ranch-like setting) that is in contrast to the mission of the school: the kids having a true desert experience. There is a possibility that the impact of the school on the kids may be weakened by the experience at this site.
- A major impact of this scheme is that the existing buildings would be removed, although a possibility of salvaging/reusing remnants of the existing buildings (i.e. the stone) exists.
- The Building Committee reviewed the concept with Les:
 - Emergency access to the buildings is an issue and could possibly be solved by access at the outer edge of the plaza or around the backs of the buildings.
 - There is a possibility that the dorms (located on the upper portion of the slope) could be half-buried in the hill which creates an opportunity for both buildings and the plaza to be on one level
 - The immersion experience: drop-off loop to riparian wash to mesquite grove to 'hub' to complex was considered well thought out
 - There was concern over views of the Instructor Housing, Service Area, and back of the Admin/Kitchen/Dining building from Highway 159.
 - This concept is more about a central living/business hub which students leave to various locations for the learning experience.
- Les presented the 'View Site Concept' and stated that in contrast to the campus-like 'Ranch Site Concept' this concept was about a true desert experience with different functions located at different distinct experiences on the site.
- The 3 major issues with this site are: the floodplain and its implications, the dorms' adjacency to the existing public trail, and emergency vehicle access to the dorms.
- The Building Committee reviewed the concept with Les:
 - Views of the parking from the bus approach to the drop-off point are something that should be mitigated through vegetation or other means
 - The Instructor Housing should be moved to the 'Ranch Site Concept' dorm location with the possibility of half-burying them in. The possibility of showcasing many different types of desert housing is seen as a positive.

Building committee meeting minutes

Red Rock Desert Learning Center Wild Horse and Burro Facility

- Shifting the Dining facility further to the North/Northeast would protect the northern view from the dorms and could aid in service circulation. This view (north from the dorms) seems to be a culmination of the entire site
 - Everyone agreed that the remote housing, in conjunction with, Administration and service type functions utilizing the ranch area is positive
 - The emergency access to the dorms could have an impact upon the 'pedestrian friendly' approach sequence to the dorms. However, with ±120 people walking the path at one time, it may be necessary to provide for a wide path (that could be used by emergency vehicles) anyway
- Les asked the Building Committee if the 'View Site' becomes unbuildable due to floodplain requirements (or the possibility of a catastrophic flood event) would the 'Ranch Site' then become the sole possibility for the project, or could we consider utilizing a site along a wash on the opposite side of the cistern hill, northeast of the road that connects the Ranch to the future Wild Horse and Burro Facility. The group then walked to the site.
 - The site is beautiful and isolated from Bonnie Springs, Spring Mountain Ranch, the Parrott Residence, and Highway 159
 - There could be NEPA issues associated with this site
 - If the Administrative and dining functions were located at the ranch, the distance between this area and the dorms would be an issue
 - There are issues with the student drop-off and ADA access to the site
 - The utility runs (all utilities are to be connected throughout the school) are 2-3 times as long as those associated with the 'View Site'
 - There was much concern that a concept centered at this site (or near this site) would not be approved, Angie Lara was going to talk to some BLM staff and get their opinions
 - The 'View Site Concept' is considered the first-choice. Line and Space will investigate floodplain requirements, and emergency vehicle access for this site before its presentation (if considered feasible) on September 29th.
 - Bob and Kevin presented the 'Wall Concept' and the 'Catwalk Concept' for the Wild Horse and Burro Facility and mentioned that Billie Young had reviewed both concepts the day before. The comments concerning these concepts were minimal and similar to Billie's comments, refer to the Billie Young meeting minutes for a more thorough review.

Building committee meeting minutes

Red Rock Desert Learning Center Wild Horse and Burro Facility

Subject: Concept Development – RRDLC and WH&B
Location: Oliver Ranch
Date: September 9, 2004
Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Attendees (phone conference)

Pat Fleming, Les Wallach, Henry Tom, Bob Clements and Kevin Stewart

Meeting Notes

- Les presented the Ranch Site Concept:
 - A campus-like concept with two main arc-shaped buildings (1 would be a cluster of the 3 dorm buildings, and 1 would be the administration, kitchen, dining) opposite of each other creating a central plaza area. There exists a possibility of 'burying' the dorm buildings at the base of the cistern hill to get them to the same grade (or close) as the administration buildings
 - There is concern that this site utilizes an area (the ranch-like setting) that is in contrast to the mission of the school: the kids having a true desert experience. There is a possibility that the impact of the school on the kids may be weakened by the experience at this site
 - A major impact of this scheme is that the existing buildings would be removed, although a possibility of salvaging/reusing remnants of the existing buildings (i.e. the stone) exists

- Les presented the View Site Concept:
 - In contrast to the campus-like 'Ranch Site Concept' this concept was about a true desert experience with different functions located at different distinct experiences on the site
 - There has been discussion of relocating the Instructor and Maintenance Housing from the location shown on the diagram to the dorm area shown on the Ranch Site Concept diagram
 - The 3 major issues with this site are: the floodplain and its implications, the dorms' adjacency to the existing public trail, and emergency vehicle access to the dorms
 - There are a couple of possibilities for the access road to the dorms: design the pedestrian access to support emergency vehicles, provide a separate access road starting further to the east
 - Lochsa Engineering from Las Vegas has been hired to write an 'opinion as to feasibility letter' after performing a preliminary hydrological study of the View Site. The letter will provide enough information as to whether or not this site could be utilized

- Les related to Pat that there is a possibility for an alternative site if it is determined that the View Site should not be used. The site is located off of the road to the WH&B site on the southwest face of the cistern hill within a small canyon. It does have issues in regards to NEPA (new disturbance), public reaction, utilities (may have to feed from WH&B), etc. Pat will walk the site with Line and Space on September 20th.

- Pat related that the concept comments from Tom Busch did not require a response and were referring to concepts developed in accordance with the original feasibility studies.

- All parties felt that each concept would be within budget. However, the current volatile construction cost inflation does lend an air of uncertainty.

- Pat is going to talk to Angie Lara, about presenting the concepts to the CORE and the level of the CORE's involvement in this process.

Building committee meeting minutes

Red Rock Desert Learning Center Wild Horse and Burro Facility

- The following would be presented at the concept review meeting on September 29th:
 - 2-dimensional concept diagrams and 3-dimensional concept models
 - Pro's and Con's associated with each concept will be on the 2-dimensional concept diagrams
 - Percentage cost comparison of concepts, i.e. 'the infrastructure (utilities, access road, etc.) associated with the View Site Concept will be $\pm X\%$ more than the Ranch Site Concept infrastructure; the buried dorm buildings associated with the Ranch Site Concept will be $\pm X\%$ more than those in the View Site Concept

- Bob Clements discussed the site forces influencing the design parameters of the Wild Horse and Burro concepts:
 - Showcasing the pasture and the resident horses
 - Minimize visual impact on Bonnie Springs, Bonnie Springs Road, the Parrot Residence and other neighbors, the Desert Learning Center, and Highway 159
 - Keeping the footprint in disturbed areas
 - Entering off of Bonnie Springs Road but avoiding conflict with the Parrott drive
 - Control of public access to the facility

- Bob presented the Wall Concept:
 - The concept utilizes the large (10'-12') retaining walls as an architectural statement (with the floating roof), to 'hide' the facility, and as part of the actual buildings making up the facility

- Bob presented the Catwalk Concept:
 - Utilize a catwalk and a raised pedestrian friendly plaza to separate the working part of the facility from the visitors and support different types of circulation

- Pat Fleming related that the Bio-gas generator is a circular tank (in plan view) with a domed roof (20'-25' in diameter) and has a small adjacent building for storage, etc. The odors associated with the bio-gas can be mitigated and are seen as secondary to the odors generated by the actual facility (horse manure). There is a possibility of trucking in septic material from surroundings (Desert Learning Center, residences, etc.) for use within the bio-gas generator.

- Pat Fleming stated that the arena size is in discussion and that he believes it will end up being somewhere between the size in the SNPLMA Round 4 proposal (net square footage after seating is approximately 100' X 100') and the 200' x 120' size desired by the BLM. Les stated that the increase in cost for a larger arena is not a matter of multiplying square foot costs by additional square footage, the square foot costs will increase with the larger spans for the roof structure.