

1-17-2006

Red Rock Desert Learning Center Core Group Meeting: January 17, 2006

Red Rock Desert Learning Center

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RED ROCK DESERT LEARNING CENTER MEETING
Bureau of Land Management Las Vegas Field Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines
Tuesday, January 17, 2006
10:30 a.m.

“The mission of the Red Rock Desert Learning Center is to instill stewardship and respect by increasing knowledge and understanding of the Mojave Desert ecosystems and cultures through a unique experiential discovery program.”

AGENDA

1. Introductions & Announcements (5 min.)
2. Approval of Minutes from December 6, 2005 Meeting (5 min.)
3. Update on Project Schedule – Michael Reiland (10 min.)
 - A. Utilities
 - B. Parking
 - C. Construction Estimates/Inflation
4. Statement of Work/Request for Information Update – Michael Reiland (10 min.)
5. Update on Water Line – Michael Reiland/Las Vegas Valley Water District (10 min.)
6. Update on Environmental Assessment – Michael Reiland (10 min.)
7. Update on Curriculum Development – Jeanne Klockow (5 min.)
8. Standing Reports (10 min.)
 - A. Line and Space Architects
 - B. BLM Capital Improvements – Michael Reiland
 - C. Community Outreach – LaNelda Rolley

--RRDLC Open House, January 26, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
9. Committee Reports (5 min.)
 - A. Building Committee
 - B. Design Oversight
 - C. Educational Programs
 - D. Fund-raising and Partnerships
 - E. NEPA
 - F. Operations
 - G. Other Uses
 - H. Wild Horse & Burro
10. New Business (5 min.)

Meeting Minutes

RED ROCK DESERT LEARNING CENTER CORE GROUP

Bureau of Land Management Las Vegas Field Office

Tuesday, January 17, 2006

The meeting commenced at 10:35 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Loretta Asay, Kathy August, Christine Brehm, Nancy Flagg, Jeanne Klockow, Richard Leifreid, Alan O'Neill, Michael Reiland, LaNelda Rolley, Mark Rehsynskyj, Frank Tepper, Blaine Benedict, Richard Cutbirth, and Billie Young.

1. Introductions and Announcements

The group welcomed Ron Marlow--UNR department of Biology, and Beth Domowicz--BLM. Christine Brehm reported that she has developed a presentation to the Wild Horse Commission with good results and plans to include a possible letter on the March 31, 2006 agenda.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 6, 2005 meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Update on Project Schedule

Michael Reiland provided an update on several key project issues.

Utilities

Michael reported that the agency is still working with the Las Vegas Valley Water District regarding a well vs. water line options, but issues with state agencies over water rights must be settled before moving forward. A water line running from the campground and Visitor Center, separate from the school, has been proposed. Michael included an update on a potential net metering agreement, stating that Line & Space had suggested that the photovoltaic system won't require a special metering agreement. The issue can be revisited at a later date upon verification of power needs.

Parking

Michael reported that there is still no resolution with Bonnie Springs regarding a proposed parking agreement. Parking at the Visitor Center with the use of a shuttle is an option. A potential agreement with Spring Mountain Ranch is another alternative and is closer than the Visitor Center. Michael confirmed that small buses are included in the project budget.

Construction Estimates/Inflation

Michael reported that he had just received inflation estimate figures, but there are no other updates available as yet.

4. Update on Statement of Work/Request for Information

Michael Reiland distributed an updated project schedule, which included a revised 3-month timeline with an additional 30-day evaluation period for completion of the operator RFP. Construction documents would be available pending the completion of the RFP. The environmental assessment is rescheduled for completion at a date later than the proposed March date in order to include a 30-day comment period, although no delays are anticipated. Alan O'Neill asked if there have been inquiries on operator bids. Michael said there have been people interested in submitting bids and asking specific questions about the school, but official comments on the draft RFP are being accepted until January 31, allowing time for comments and

requests. Nancy Flagg asked what would happen if no bids were received. Michael offered that BLM would review comments and determine the next steps, but potentially the agency could consider operating the facility itself.

5. Update on Water Line

Michael Reiland announced that there was no representative from the water district present, as had been expected. He reiterated that the agency is still working with the water district on the option of a water line or well. No updates are available at this time. Alan O'Neill asked if an analysis is being done. Michael noted that the BLM preferred alternative is to install a well, as this is seen as the best fit for the project, and they should proceed with working with the state to buy water rights. Michael concluded that settling on one or the other option will continue to be a priority. The water district is willing to help.

6. Update on Environmental Assessment

Michael Reiland reported that final draft EA documents are being prepared, due January 23, 2006, allowing a week and a half for a full draft to become available to BLM for review and comment. March 31 is the final deadline on the EA report, followed by a 30-day comment period in April. Revisions and the final report will be due by May 15, 2006. This allows until mid-May for the water issues to be settled.

7. Curriculum Update-Jeanne Klockow

Jeanne Klockow provided an update on the development of RRDLC core curriculum. There is to be a Night Sky meeting held January 19, 2006, to complete the work on lesson plans. January 30 will be the initial brainstorming session for the Green Building curriculum. Piloting will start in the spring for the Science and Historical strands. An assessment of the curriculum from the teacher's perspective will then be provided to BLM. The curriculum has been sent to Native American representatives for input on incorporating their traditions into the curriculum. Jeanne also reported that she had received a call from Lynn Manning with the Clark County School District regarding the formation of a teacher's group interested in reviewing the curriculum. Alan O'Neill suggested a secondary site, Torino Ranch, could be used to test the curriculum with students and teachers. Alan said meeting with the private landowner is to be held next week to collaborate and develop a timeline and concepts that could be used to test design strategies. He congratulated Jeanne on her hard work developing a proposal for the Torino Ranch Foundation. Jeanne also thanked Michael for his support of the Torino pilot idea. Loretta noted she has some concerns with the Torino Ranch site, from the perspective of the school district, particularly as it concerns the teacher training and transportation of children to the location. Jeanne reiterated that small pilots are necessary to see if the curriculum is on track with teacher needs.

8. Standing Reports

A. Line & Space Architects

Michael Reiland reported that Line and Space representatives were not present but would meet the following week to conduct the second value analysis for the project.

B. BLM Capital Improvements

Michael Reiland reported that the Red Spring opening was going well. The Visitor Center project is now in schematic design phase and is progressing well, and the Campground utilities project is on schedule. Michael added that there is preliminary talk regarding resurfacing the scenic loop drive, along with the Pine Creek and Willow Springs parking areas, as well as fencing along State Route 159. Nancy Flagg asked for an update on speed limit discussions concerning the roadway through the conservation area. Michael said that the Nevada

Department of Transportation (NDOT) is the lead agency on this, but BLM is handling the right-of-way issues and safety points would be key in determining speed limits; however, this is NDOT's jurisdiction and, with public input, that agency will determine speed limits. Mark Rehszynskyj noted that NDOT has installed a speed limit monitor to aid drivers in managing their speed. Billie Young added that one suggestion calls for clearer definition between biking and driving lanes. It was noted that NDOT public hearings would be helpful in resolving these issues.

C. *Community Outreach*

LaNelda Rolley reported that BLM is holding an RRDLIC open house on January 26, 2006. (NOTE: the open house was subsequently cancelled.) She distributed a map and directions for the meeting and said public service announcements are in process. Loretta Asay noted there is a conflict with a School Board meeting that night.

9. Committee Reports

No new reports at this time.

10. New Business

No new business to report.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 21, 2006, at UNLV's Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach (NOTE: February 2006 meeting was subsequently cancelled).