6-15-2004

Oliver Ranch Core Group Meeting: June 15, 2004

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AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from May 18 Meeting
2. UNLV/CESU Update – Peg Rees/Nancy Flagg
   A. ORSS History and Talking Points
   B. Presentations to Civic Groups
3. Line and Space Update – Les Wallach/Henry Tom
4. RRCNRA Capital Improvements Update – Mark Morse
5. ORSS Project Timeline – Michael Reiland
6. Linkages Between ORSS Curriculum and Building Design – Paul Buck
7. Video Interviews of CCSD 5th Graders – CCSD Staff
8. ORSS Sub-Committee Reports
   -- Status of Committee Mission Statements
   -- Committee Responses to L&S Draft
   -- Proposal to Establish a Building Committee
   A. Operations – Jack Ramsey
   B. Wild Horse & Burro – Billie Young
   C. Educational Programs – Paul Buck
   D. Other Uses – Pat Williams
   E. Partnership & Fund-Raising – Alan O’Neill
   F. Design Oversight – David Frommer
   G. NEPA – John Jamrog
9. Schedule of Future Meetings
10. Open Discussion / New Business
The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. with the following attendees present:

Kathy August, Blaine Benedict, Kim Blanc, Paul Buck, Christy Falba, Nancy Flagg, Patrick Fleming, Laura Flynn, David Frommer, Helen Mortenson, Rob Mrowka, Alan O’Neill, Jackson Ramsey, Michael Reiland, Henry Tom, Les Wallach, Billie Young,

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 18, 2004 meeting were approved. Billie Young requested that acronyms be fully spelled and that the reference on page two to “wells” at the Oliver Ranch site be changed to “test wells.” All changes have been reflected in the permanent minutes (on file in UNLV Public Lands Initiative office and BLM office).

2. UNLV/CESU Update

Nancy Flagg provided information on the task order the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has signed with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). There are four specific tasks named, with deliverables specified for each task. The tasks are Project Coordination, Educational Curricular Coordination, Operations Analysis, and Communications Coordination. The agreement calls for quarterly reports to the BLM, and regular updates will be provided to the core committee at each meeting to keep everyone informed.

Rob Mrowka asked for clarification about UNLV’s role. Michael Reiland emphasized that it is a coordinating role, pulling together the work that has already been done or is in progress by committees in order to produce a product. Rob noted the use of action words in the task order, which implies more than coordination. Paul Buck indicated that the Educational Programs Subcommittee is moving ahead with its work on the curriculum over the summer. Both Michael and Nancy indicated that UNLV’s work would be done in close collaboration with the committees and core group.

Nancy reported on the work UNLV has undertaken thus far. She has reviewed as many notes and minutes that she has had at her disposal and invited committee members to provide any additional information they may have from their records. UNLV will compile the documents into an archive to preserve a more formal history of the project since its inception. Similarly, work has started on a written timeline of the Oliver Ranch project, with major actions that have occurred since 1993. Nancy distributed a draft copy of the timeline (on file in UNLV Public Lands Initiative office and BLM office) and invited additional input from committee members. When completed, the historical timeline will provide a common point of reference whenever anyone provides information about the project to public audiences.

In addition, Nancy reported that she is working on general talking points for the project, which would provide a common reference on key aspects of the project, such as water conservation, site stewardship, sustainable design elements, etc. Eventually, this document will form the basis
for an FAQ on an Oliver Ranch website but can also be used for public presentations, brochures, and the like. A draft will be shared at the next meeting.

UNLV is hiring a technical administrator for its Public Lands Initiative office. This person will provide initial assistance on creating an Oliver Ranch website. The job candidates were given an exercise to develop a mock website as part of the interview process, so the beginnings of an eventual site have already begun.

Nancy noted that UNLV has placed a solicitation for freelance public relations/marketing assistance for the Oliver Ranch project. The solicitation will be posted to the websites of the Public Relations Society of America and the American Marketing Association, but she invited the core group to provide additional leads on any people they may know who would be interested. Billie Young asked that the notice be e-mailed to the group.

As part of the overall communications plan, there will need to be a core group of people who are willing to make presentations to civic groups about the project, especially after the conceptual designs are completed. Nancy asked the attendees to begin thinking about whether they would be interested in serving in this capacity.

Nancy emphasized the strong need to keep the committees working on their charges and, where needed, to revitalize the charge of individual committees. She has reviewed old minutes and has found some issues that remain unresolved, which will be assigned to committees or the core group as appropriate. She plans to call each committee chair to review their current tasks. Committee chairs will be asked to provide written reports in advance of each core group meeting, which will be sent out with the agenda and minutes in an effort to keep everyone on the core committee fully informed.

Nancy welcomed input from all attendees about issues that need to be handled, outreach that should occur, keeping communication lines open, etc. She will make an attempt to reconnect with people who have not been attending core group meetings to find out if they are still interested in participating. New attendees are always welcome.

3. Line and Space Update

A. Les Wallach and Henry Tom provided an extensive overview of meetings, site visits, and school visitations that occurred May 13, 18-19, and 25-27 (copy of report on file in UNLV Public Lands Initiative office and BLM office). The activities included:

- A phone conference with Dale Etheridge of CCSN regarding the observatory.
- Visits to 5th graders at 4 elementary schools, include Blue Diamond Elementary, to discuss the students’ vision of the science school.
- An evening site visit to Oliver Ranch to experience night-time conditions at the site.
- A meeting at the Oliver Ranch site to discuss the cultural history of Native Americans on the site.
- An informational meeting with the Red Rock Canyon Citizens Advisory Council.
- A walking tour of Oliver Ranch.
- A tour of Blue Diamond Hill.
- A meeting to discuss the scope of the Wild Horse & Burro Facility

Jackson Ramsey requested that a detailed discussion be held about moving the observatory to the Red Rock Visitors Center site when the programming sessions for the visitor center are
scheduled. The impact on the building footprint and space allocation especially need to be considered.

Les noted that the feedback from Blue Diamond Elementary School students may suggest giving those students a different role in the Oliver Ranch Science School. The potential for developing a mentoring program throughout the school was mentioned, as was allowing more frequent visits per year from the Blue Diamond students.

The meeting with Native American representatives yielded a suggestion to tie some exhibits or native plantings to the scientific methods originally used by the indigenous peoples on the site, such as how plantings were tied to star movement.

The committee discussed at some length methods for future contact with the residents of Blue Diamond. Ideas included holding workshop-style meetings on a regular basis either at the Oliver Ranch site or a neutral location, having lunch with small groups of Blue Diamond residents at Bonnie Springs or private homes, and Rob Mrowka offered to facilitate a meeting between Line and Space and the Clark County Commissioner for that area.

B. **Tour of Las Vegas Springs Preserve:**
Les Wallach and Henry Tom reported on a tour they took of the Las Vegas Springs Preserve on June 14. The project covers 180 acres and will eventually feature $166 million in capital improvements, including a 25,000 s.f. visitor center, a desert living center, gardens, trails with interpretive exhibits, and the Nevada State Museum, which is relocating to the site. Henry noted the need for collaborative work between the Oliver Ranch/Red Rock Visitor Center projects and the Las Vegas Springs Preserve project so that the visitor centers and activities complement each other rather than duplicate.

Paul Buck suggested that the Educational Programs Committee tour the Las Vegas Springs Preserve. Michael said he would provide the contact name to Paul. Loretta Asay emphasized the Clark County School District’s desire for curricular continuity among these projects, with activities different yet complementary at each location. It may be useful to coordinate activities so that the Springs Preserve focuses on 6th or 7th graders while Oliver Ranch focuses upon 5th graders.

Alan O’Neill seconded the need for coordination and integration among the Oliver Ranch, Red Rock Visitor Center, and Las Vegas Springs Preserve projects. If done right, each location can tell a different story while also reinforcing the others.

C. **Update on Programming Document:**
Les Wallach and Henry Tom provided an update on the status of the programming document for the Science School. The first draft has been delivered to Pat Fleming and will undergo an initial review by the Design Oversight Committee at its June 15 meeting. In response to a question from Nancy Flagg, Michael noted that the other Oliver Ranch committees will be given an opportunity to provide written comments on the document when it is ready for distribution.

4. **Update on Red Rock Canyon Capital Improvements**
Michael Reiland provided an update on other capital improvement projects at Red Rock National Conservation Area, as all of these projects – along with Oliver Ranch – can be viewed as a whole. The programming and design phase of the Red Rock Visitor Center will begin in the near future. The BLM wants to mirror the process used on the Oliver Ranch project. Michael reported that the environmental assessment (EA) is starting on the campground improvements.
He also reported that the Red Springs project is underway, with interpretive and public areas being added. He requested that the Wild Horse & Burro facility be discussed at the next core committee meeting. This facility is part of the same Round 4 nomination as the Science School, and thus equal attention needs to be given to it.

David Frommer asked about the timeline for pending Round 5 nominations. Michael reported that the interagency executive committee will meet on June 16 to finalize the recommendations to the Interior Secretary. In approximately 6 weeks, those recommendations will be formally transmitted to the Secretary. A decision on Round 5 nominations may not occur until October or later. The conceptual design phase of the Science School should be finished by December 10, which – assuming the Round 5 approvals are known by then – would allow the Round 5 pieces to be added to the project if they are approved. Michael reported that on the preliminary list the Oliver Ranch capital improvement nomination is currently ranked #3. The Conservation Initiative nomination is currently ranked #11. He anticipates that both nominations will move forward to the Secretary.

5. **Project Timeline**

Michael Reiland showed the committee a draft copy of the project timeline he has designed, which responds to a request made at the last meeting to keep the core group updated regularly on the overall project. Michael is making some final refinements and additions to the timeline and then will distribute it as a “pdf” file.

6. **Curriculum / Design Linkages**

Discussion of the linkages between the Science School curriculum and the building design were deferred to the next meeting. Paul Buck reported that the Educational Programs Committee will look at how to incorporate the green building concepts into the curriculum, as well as other ideas.

7. **CCSD Video**

Loretta Asay and Laura Flynn presented a video compilation of the sessions Line and Space held with 5th grade students at four local elementary schools in late May. The students commented on the design features they prefer and, at Hancock Elementary, displayed student-designed architectural models for the sleeping areas of the science school. In general, the students favored larger sleeping rooms of 6-8 children, liked the idea of hammocks as well as bunk beds, favored having windows in the sleeping area, and suggested group meeting/working areas within their bunk group.

8. **Committee Reports**

Michael reported on plans to establish a Building Committee. This committee will provide the BLM with input on specific design and construction issues as they arise; as such, it will replace some of the duties of the Design Oversight Committee (DOC). David Frommer noted that the DOC will provide input to the Building Committee and will focus on more general design issues that protect the integrity of the site ecology and guide the overall development of the science school and wild horse and burro facility.
A. **Operations Committee**
Committee Chair Jackson Ramsey reported that the committee has not met recently. He noted that a mission statement and list of charges was submitted to the BLM last October. He and Michael will discuss the next steps for the committee.

B. **Wild Horse and Burro Committee**
Committee Chair Billie Young reported that the committee is putting together a plan for tours of area wild horse and burro facilities.

C. **Educational Programs Committee**
Committee Chair Paul Buck reported that the committee had an upcoming meeting scheduled. There is good representation from the Clark County School District, and DRI staff have been added in order to establish a closer connection between science and education. The committee will develop a meeting schedule for the summer months.

D. **Other Uses Committee**
No report.

E. **Fund-Raising & Partnerships Committee**
Committee Chair Blaine Benedict reported that the committee has not met in three months, and it may be premature for the committee to meet until the project is further along.

F. **Design Oversight Committee**
Committee Chair David Frommer reported that the committee meets monthly, usually a day prior to the core committee meeting. The group is meeting June 16 to review the Line and Space programming draft and to discuss its role vis a vis the new Building Advisory Committee.

9. **Future Core Group Meetings**
A schedule of future meetings was set for the third Tuesday of each month, starting at 8:30 a.m. and ending at approximately 10:30 a.m. Agendas, minutes, and committee reports will be e-mailed to members approximately one week in advance of each meeting.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<td>July 20, 2004</td>
<td>BLM</td>
<td>4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr. (Just north of Rancho &amp; Craig Rd.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 17, 2004</td>
<td>UNLV</td>
<td>Paradise Campus – Bldg. 400, Rm. 401 (Corner of Tropicana &amp; Swenson)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 21, 2004</td>
<td>UNLV</td>
<td>Paradise Campus – Bldg. 400, Rm. 401 (Corner of Tropicana &amp; Swenson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 19, 2004</td>
<td>BLM</td>
<td>4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr. (Just north of Rancho &amp; Craig Rd.)</td>
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The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.
Meeting Notes

Oliver Ranch Committee Chairs Meeting
BLM Las Vegas Field Office – 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.
June 10, 2004

Attendees:  Pat Williams, Jackson Ramsey, Blaine Benedict, Michael Reiland, Nancy Flagg.
Absent:  Billie Young, David Frommer, Paul Buck, Charles Carroll

Michael Reiland reported that the BLM is investigating two new proposals: 1) to request Operations and Maintenance funding to maintain SNPLMA facilities and 2) to expand the Conservation Initiative to provide O&M funds for the Oliver Ranch Science School as well as to cover the attendance costs for the students. Tentatively, they are looking at $2.2 million total annual operating costs for the science school. If O&M is funded through SMPLMA, all uses of the facility would have to fall within the core mission of the school and be related to education. BLM is doing similar O&M estimates for the Wild Horse facility. No timeframe is known on these proposals. They may just modify the existing Round 5 nomination. At this time, Michael asked that this information not be shared with others.

Michael indicated that he will discuss the proposal to form a Building Advisory Committee at next week’s core committee meeting. The Design Oversight Committee may not be necessary if the other committee is formed, but Michael will let them decide what they wish to do.

Michael said that a 30-day comment period will most likely be provided for the Oliver Ranch committees and others to provide feedback on the Line and Space programming document. Every committee will need to meet between next week’s core committee meeting and the following meeting.

Blaine Benedict suggested that review processes be developed for the committees and others to comment on the curriculum, business plan, and communications plan as these develop.

Michael indicated that he would be reporting on the UNLV Task Order and deliverables at the core committee meeting.

Blaine also suggested that all accounting procedures for this project be open and made public, so that there is not future public criticism about how money was spent. Michael discussed putting a cost accounting section on the Web site he intends to develop.

Nancy discussed the Oliver Ranch history and talking points she is developing. These will be distributed to the core committee, with everyone being asked to add to them. The history and talking points can be used when people make presentations on the project, so that everyone has the same baseline information. The talking points will eventually develop into an FAQ for the website. The chairs suggested adding a section about why Line and Space was chosen as the design firm.

Blaine suggested that regular updates be provided to the core committee and other groups about what is new with the Oliver Ranch school. It will help keep everyone informed on a regular basis. Some initial suggestions for topics included a discussion of the recent meeting with the Blue Diamond Town Advisory Board, the KNPR radio interview, an update on the well drilling, and any interesting results of the NEPA study.
The chairs indicated a critical need to finalize a name for the science school and develop a logo, especially as public outreach and visibility increases.

The chairs requested an organizational chart of the Oliver Ranch project so that the core committee can understand everyone’s roles.

Blaine suggested that team building exercises be planned for the fall, possibly at the Oliver Ranch site. These would be social functions rather than business, to allow core committee members to get to know each other better. Another idea might be to take participants to an interesting locale, such as Ash Meadows.

Michael indicated that the BLM intends to seek help from the Smithsonian Institution on developing a statement of work for the operation of the School. The Smithsonian operates a science school on Chesapeake Bay.

Michael reported that the BLM is investigating the use of a $1.5 million fine recently paid by a company to the EPA. They may partner with the EPA to help with wastewater treatment at Oliver Ranch and use a portion of the $1.5 million fine to do the work.
1.) Meeting Reports
   - Phone Conference with Dale Etheridge regarding Observatory on May 13, 2004 - Purple Sheet
   - Elementary School Visits – White and Yellow Sheets
   - Evening Oliver Ranch Site Visit on May 25, 2004 - White Sheets
   - Oliver Ranch with Kenny Anderson on May 26, 2004 - Salmon Sheets
   - Blue Diamond Meeting on May 26, 2004 - Blue Sheets
   - Walking Tour of Oliver Ranch on May 27, 2004 - White Sheets
   - Tour of Blue Diamond Hill on May 27, 2004 - White Sheets
   - Wild Horse and Burro Project Scope on May 27, 2004 - Green Sheets

2.) Report on Tour of Las Vegas Springs Preserve on June 14, 2004

3.) Programming Document Update
   - What is complete to date
   - Schedule for Completion of Program

4.) Overall Project Schedule
   - Brief of Key dates that have been identified
Meeting Minutes
Oliver Ranch School

Subject:    Scope of Observatory component of the Oliver Ranch School (phone conference)
Date:      May 13, 2004
Time:      8:30am

1. Present:
   Michael Reiland - BLM
   Dale Etheridge - CCSN
   Les Wallach – Line and Space, llc
   Kevin Stewart - Line and Space, llc

2. Issues
   • Round Four SNPLMA money was allocated for an observatory which included both a large
telescope and a meeting room at Oliver Ranch School. It was envisioned that the observatory
would be for both the students and the general public
   • There is a conflict between the need for security at the school and a requirement for serving up to
400 members of the public on certain viewing nights
   • On viewing nights there would be a large increase in traffic which may impact Blue Diamond
   • Parking far in excess of the general requirements of the school will be needed
   • The meeting room associated with the observatory would be quite large and have limited use by
the school
   • There is slightly less light pollution at Oliver Ranch than at the Visitor Center site
   • There is a requirement for astronomy related activities at Oliver Ranch

3. Solution
   • The 'big' telescope and its associated storage room and control room will be moved to the Visitor
Center with its planned expansion. A meeting room, which is already planned for the Visitor
Center, will be able to serve the Observatory.
   • Oliver Ranch will have a small telescope area for use by 10-12 students at a time with (1) 8" to
10" telescope per 3 students and the ability to view images from the "big" telescope remotely (via
a network).

4. Budget
   • The possibility of purchasing used equipment for both facilities was discussed, and will be
pursued (i.e. a research institution may be replacing an older telescope). However, due to a
small amount of depreciation associated with the equipment, and rapidly evolving technology, the
use of used equipment may not be viable.
   • There will be a substantial cost savings associated with eliminating the need to construct a
special meeting room for the Observatory.

Phone conference concluded at 9:30pm
Notes by:   Kevin Stewart – Line and Space, llc
Report
Meeting with 5th graders

On May 18 and 19, 2004 architects from Line and Space guided by science teacher Laura Flynn and accompanied by BLM Southern Nevada Associated Director, Angie Lara and Project Coordinator, Michael Reiland as well as Core Member Blaine Benedict (May 18th, only) met with five 5th grade classes located among three different schools (Miller, Hancock and CP Squire) to discuss their vision of the new environmental school at Oliver Ranch. The classes were diverse and the schools ranged from an international magnet school to one considered "low SES". Uniformly, the children were well mannered and participatory.

The 5th graders had knowledge of Red Rock Canyon (the context of the new environmental school) and were enthusiastic about the prospects of exploring and learning about the environment, in the environment.

There was no obvious distinction among the children from the varied schools in their preferences as related to the new project.

In general the students:
- Seemed to be in favor of larger sleeping rooms; 6-8 children instead of 4-6. In some classes there was more or less a 50/50 split on this issue.
- Were evenly divided over preference for bunk beds vs. one level beds although there was unwavering unanimity when alternative sleeping possibilities such as sleeping in hammocks was suggested.
- Favored windows that would allow them to see out from their sleeping areas including the night sky; one or two were worried about people being able to see in.
- Suggested group meeting/working areas within their bunk group including large table/chairs, bean bags and other types of comfortable seating, a nook, book shelves, computers, etc. .
- Wanted privacy for showering and toilet use.
- Were concerned about not having TV.
- Articulated the need for choices in terms of indoor and outdoor learning and eating possibilities. When it was offered that outdoor experiences would occur during nice weather they were more uniformly in favor of the concept.
- Were enthusiastic about campfires and associated night time activities.
- Offered a broad range of naming suggestions (Mohave Science School, Opportunity Center, Mohave Center, etc.) but were uniformly receptive to the idea of a name that related to the Paiute Indians

Specific suggestions that occurred more than once included providing telescopes, meeting "pits" and special windows (including fresh air) in the bedrooms, a greenhouse, camping out and having good food. A place to play sports was mentioned.

One particularly provocative suggestion was that computers would "allow the kids at the Science School to talk with other classes that were not able to be at the facility". Another stated, "draw what you see, then you will have a souvenir to take home"; and, an extremely perceptive young person volunteered to develop his idea for flushing toilets with grey water.

The concept of competing among groups to determine who could conserve the most water was popular with everyone except for the rare individual who “needs to take three showers a day!”

Oliver Ranch School
Line and Space, llc 627 East Speedway Blvd. Tucson AZ 85705 520.623.1313
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Trip Summary
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

Tuesday, May 25th

8:30pm – 9:15pm
Oliver Ranch site visit

Attendees
Ramona Sakiestewa, cultural consultant
Andy Merrell, cultural consultant
Les Wallach, Line and Space, llc
Bob Clements, Line and Space, llc
Kevin Stewart, Line and Space, llc

Summary of visit
- Conditions on hill below the cistern at Oliver Ranch: quarter moon, light pollution over Blue Diamond Hill to the East and Northeast (Luxor beam visible), lights of Bonnie Springs easily visible with additional lights at Parrot house, visible/audible cars on Highway 159. up to 6 planes visible at any one time with a new plane arriving every minute or so (‘east-west flight path’ seems to be a few miles south of the site), very cool downslope breeze
- Conditions on Highway 159 at entrance to the Visitor Center: light pollution over Blue Diamond Hill to the East and Northeast (Luxor beam visible) with some lights from town visible, lights of Visitor Center visible, planes visible (same as at Oliver Ranch).
- An interesting idea (to be discussed) would be to move the Observatory into the canyons (old house foundation near Willow Springs?) and be more connected to the ‘place’ with an actual arrival/departure experience. Bus/shuttle from the Visitor Center (would control # of people arriving, groups of ±45). Be careful not to infringe upon site angles with actual location in canyon (closer to base than in a slot at the end of the canyon).

Wednesday, May 26th

10:00am – 11:35am
Meeting at Oliver Ranch with Kenny Anderson (see separate meeting minutes)

1:55pm – 2:40pm
Blue Diamond Elementary School visit

Attendees
David Hall?, CCSD
Laura Flynn, CCSD
Michael Reiland, BLM
Les Wallach, Line and Space, llc
Bob Clements, Line and Space, llc
Kevin Stewart, Line and Space, llc
3rd thru 6th graders at Blue Diamond School

Summary of visit
- Prior to our visit the students had divided into teams and designed/developed their ideas for the Oliver Ranch School.
- Line and Space introduced ourselves and then began to discuss the possibilities of the school with the students.
Trip Summary
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

- It was immediately apparent that the students were excited about the school and the possibility of spending some time learning in the environment. The amount and quality of ideas (summarized below) that were generated in the discussion was invaluable.
  - Larger sleeping rooms serving 6-8 students are much more desirable than rooms serving 4-6 students.
  - Top bunks were the preferred sleeping arrangement (25% of them wanted to sleep on the bottom bunk) until hammocks were mentioned and unanimously agreed upon as the best sleeping idea.
  - The following are desirable design elements: large windows to capture views of the mountains, wildlife (including insects), and stars; porches or rooftop viewing areas with telescopes and spotting scopes (with night vision); nooks with beanbags for socializing; desks with computer for working/researching; indoor/outdoor flexibility using large operable walls with windows; buildings that imitated animal adaptations to the desert, i.e. burrowing (although some concerns about the structural integrity of the building were raised).
- During our discussion of water conservation it became apparent that the student were very 'water aware,' and developed many excellent ideas for water conservation/re-use at the school: use A/C condensate for irrigation, provide basins in the showers to collect the water for use as irrigation, provide limits on water usage with provision of water time (3 minute coins) to be used by the students.
- The students saw the internet as a possible way to broaden the audience of the school through pen-pals, fielding questions from other schools, and developing an online journal.
- The students agreed that hikes of 2-3 miles are not difficult as long as an adult with a first-aid kit accompanies them and they have plenty of water.
- The students then presented the (3) designs of the Oliver Ranch School, the designs are available.

7:00pm – 9:35pm
Blue Diamond meeting (see separate meeting minutes)

Thursday, May 27th

5:20am – 8:00am
Walking tour of the Oliver Ranch

Attendees
Les Wallach, Line and Space, llc
Bob Clements, Line and Space, llc
Kevin Stewart, Line and Space, llc

Summary
- Walked the perimeter of the site and spent some time identifying an alternative location for the WHB facility.
- Identified some groups of mesquite trees near the alternative location for the WHB facility for outdoor gathering of students.
- ‘Discovered,’ but was unable to identify, a grass growing on the Parrot property adjacent to Oliver Ranch. Perhaps the grass could be used at the WHB pasture??
- Identified erosion areas along perimeter of site. One area at the southwest corner of the property could be subsidence.
- Identified a grouping of oaks on the west side of the property as a possible gathering space for students.
Trip Summary
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

8:00am - 10:00am
Tour of Blue Diamond Hill with Richard Leifried (*meet in front of gate accessing Oliver Ranch)

Attendees
Les Wallach, Line and Space, llc
Bob Clements, Line and Space, llc
Kevin Stewart, Line and Space, llc
Richard Leifried, Master Gardener
Paul Buck, DRI
Ramona Sakiestewa, cultural consultant
Andy Merrel, cultural consultant
Lola Henio, BLM – Interpretive Specialist
John McCarty, OTAK
The graduating class of master gardeners

Summary of tour
- The aforementioned participants toured Blue Diamond Hill stopping (5) times to identify separate plant species (Blue Diamond Cholla, Mojave Yucca, multiple species of Barrel cactus, etc.), fossils, and talk to Bill Rogers of BP Gypsum.
- The Line and Space team along with Ramona Sakiestewa and Andy Merrell left the tour at approximately 10:30am.
- Les explained to Richard Leifried that: the proposed greenhouse should be designed specifically for Oliver Ranch and the desert because a standard, off-the-shelf greenhouse is problematic in the desert (due to issues with overheating). Les proposed that Line and Space could talk with the donors about getting a ‘kit-of-parts.’
- Richard mentioned that the Oliver Ranch School may be able to get ‘gear’ from Sports Authority (Richard’s past employer).

1:00pm – 2:15pm
Review student designs at Hancock Elementary School

Attendees
Gary Flood, CCSD
Laura Flynn, CCSD
Michael Reiland, BLM
Les Wallach, Line and Space, llc
Bob Clements, Line and Space, llc
Kevin Stewart, Line and Space, llc
5th graders of Hancock Elementary

Summary of visit
- Subsequent to the original visit by Line and Space, the students had formed teams and developed ±20 designs for the ‘sleeping areas’ of the Oliver Ranch School.
- After introducing ourselves, Line and Space toured the room talking to each team about their specific designs which included the following elements: rooftop telescopes, multi-level spaces with separations for sleeping/working/socializing, large windows, themed rooms, and variations upon traditional sleeping arrangements (sleeping shelves, hanging beds, star-shaped bed, etc.).
- Line and Space selected (2) winning projects and presented them with their awards.
- Les Wallach then gave a power-point presentation of the Line and Space’s work.
- Photo documentation of the student projects is available.

3:30pm – 5:30pm
Wild Horse and Burro meeting *(see separate meeting minutes)*
Subject: Cultural history of Native Americans on the Oliver Ranch site
Location: Oliver Ranch
Date: May 26, 2004
Time: 10:00am

Attendees
Kenny Anderson, cultural resource person for the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
Lola Henio, BLM – Interpretive Specialist
Kathy August, BLM
Linda Nations, RRCIA
Ramona Sakiestewa, cultural consultant
Andy Merrel, cultural consultant
John McCarty, OTAK
Les Wallach, Line and Space, llc
Bob Clements, Line and Space, llc
Kevin Stewart, Line and Space, llc

Summary of the Projects with emphasis on Oliver Ranch School
Presenter: Les Wallach

- A new Visitor Center will be built with administration moving into a remodel of the existing Visitor Center.
- The Oliver Ranch School will be a ‘sleep-over’ school (3-4 nights) for ±100 kids. The school will focus on science, but will also include artistic expression (writing, painting, etc.).
- In support of this mission there will be facilities to accommodate ±130 people (including the kids) living on the site.
- It is the intent of the school to facilitate the kids taking personal responsibility for the land, i.e. stewardship.
- The Wild Horse and Burro Facility which currently uses a portion of the site for the school, will be relocated to a different part of the Oliver Ranch site. A large component of the program at the Wild Horse and Burro facility will be education of the kids from the Oliver Ranch School.

Discussion of the Native People’s history on this site and resources currently available
Discussion with Kenny Anderson

- Les Wallach informed Kenny Anderson that in order to supplement the traditional science and artistic curriculum, project participants feel it is important to introduce the children to an alternative view of the land and the night-sky, that of the Native Americans. Therefore, it is important to get the Southern Paiute perspective on this area. If we are able to introduce how the Native Americans think then we can hopefully increase the kids knowledge base and the kids acceptance of the Native American culture (including other cultures in the future).

- Kenny Anderson advised that: 26 different sovereign Native American Nations exist in Southern Nevada; it is possible that all of the native peoples of southern Nevada used the site, including but not limited to: Paiute, Moapaee, Shoshonee, Southern Paiute, San Juan Paiute, etc.; the tribes of Southern Nevada have similar languages, customs, and stories (creation); the relationships between these different groups were developed and strengthened by their interactions with the river; inter-tribal marriages, trading of goods (and songs: the Hualapai sing Paiute songs), and their interaction has resulted in a general mixing of all of the tribes.
Meeting Minutes
Oliver Ranch School

- Kenny Anderson presented the idea that the children could be taught about tracking the night-sky to determine the appropriate times to harvest certain plants. He will look into additional ideas for relating the ways of the Native Americans to the students.

- Kenny Anderson told that: Paiute = True Water, but the Paiutes also refer to themselves as Nuwuvi = The People. Ankaharem?=red; Toom?=rock; Charles Carroll has the actual ‘Red Rock’ translation.

- Les Wallach told those participating that: it is important to know what cultural sites are at Oliver Ranch for three main reasons: (1) prevent their destruction, (2) preserve, study, and introduce the students to them, and (3) reference what is learned at Oliver Ranch to other sites. Kenny Anderson advised that Kathleen Sprow, USFS, surveyed the Spring Mountain Area as to sites important to the Native peoples. It was decided that if any of these sites are visible from the cistern (or other location on the Oliver Ranch site) they could be shown to the students. Linda Nations has identified a ‘mano’ at Mormon Green Springs 1, and a grinding site near Mormon Green Springs 2.

- Kenny Anderson (in conjunction with Linda Nations) then informed participants of the following: The Northern Moapa Paiutes have many people (±300) and therefore many resources in regards to their culture and history; the Southern Paiutes, however, have few people (±50 with 7 tribal elders) and little resources. Some of the written resources available are: The Rocks Begin to Speak (interpreting petroglyphs), Las Vegas Paiutes (history book available at the tribal office), and Nuwuvi (video or book??). Other written resources available which Kenny Anderson approved of are the works of Lavan Martineau (specifically The Southern Paiutes), Richard W. Stoffle (of the Yucca Mountain Project), Isabelle Kelly, Kathleen Fowler (may have information specific to Oliver Rancy), etc. (see the bibliography compiled by Ramona). Oral histories (collected by Liz Warren??) as well as unpublished information on Las Vegas Paiutes and Southern Nevada Paiutes are available in the Special Collections @ UNLV (Peter Michelle, Head Librarian). Southern Nevada Paiute living history demonstrators for the Southern Nevada Tribes are rare, but Everitt Pickavitt is a Moapa master basketweaver that teaches classes. Refer to the Yucca Mountain Center Native Uses of Land?? for a list of 17-23(?) Southern Nevada tribes and other resources.

- Kenny Anderson will meet with the Southern Paiutes to see if they will talk to Ramona. Tribal members have been ‘burned’ in the past by providing their knowledge to others who then profited while offering nothing back to the Southern Paiutes. Also, they see the process of providing this information to outsiders as a double-edged sword: they are a private people that do not feel comfortable providing information about their culture to outsiders, however, the written record becomes a valuable history of the tribe that can be passed onto younger generations. Specific Southern Paiutes that Kenny Anderson mentioned contacting are: Clarabelle Jim, Richard Arnold (tribal representative to Nellis AFB?), Roger Ben (relative of ‘Whispering Ben’?), and others. Ramona Sakiestewa will then set-up a meeting at the Tribal Office and possibly interview individual tribal members (for which Line and Space may need to pay a per diem).

- It would be interesting to discover the Native American Southern Paiute relationship with horses. Kenny’s grandparents and uncles always had horses from the range when he was growing up; but as they ended up moving into town, they had to turn them loose. Kenny will investigate how the horses were gentled.

Meeting concluded at 11:35am
Notes by: Kevin Stewart – Line and Space, llc

Line and Space, llc
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6/9/04
Blue Diamond Meeting Minutes
Oliver Ranch School

Subject: Presentation of Line and Space work to Red Rock Canyon Citizens Advisory Council
Location: Blue Diamond Library
Date: May 26, 2004
Time: 7:00pm

Attendees
Evan Blythen, RRCAC, Chair
Albert Hartmann, RRCAC, Vice-Chair
Alan Levinson, RRCAC
Don Ginthner, RRCAC
Nina Mata, RRCAC, Secretary
Mike Longi, Blue Diamond
Bob Mathews, Blue Diamond
(not all attendees from Blue Diamond were identified)
Dave Frommer, UNLV
Ramona Sakiestewa, cultural consultant
Andy Merrel, cultural consultant
John McCarty, OTAK
Les Wallach, Line and Space, llc
Bob Clements, Line and Space, llc
Kevin Stewart, Line and Space, llc

Introduction of Line and Space, LLC
Dave Frommer

Slide-show of Line and Space work, programming workshop, and 5th grader meetings
Les Wallach
- Presented slide show: Birkinbine greenhouse, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, ASDM – Restaurant complex, Linear Parks, Arroyo House, St, Gregory's – Science and Technology Classrooms, programming workshop, 5th graders
- Key points mentioned during the slide show: sensitivity of the surrounding environment during construction, re-use of materials, water conservation and re-use, intense site analysis with respect to views and impacts upon surrounding areas, interior/exterior transitions, and tempering microclimates.

Project Synopsis
Les Wallach
- The number of kids at the school is in direct ratio of classes containing 35 students (maximum). The land could not support 250 kids (the originally proposed number). 3 classes of 35 students results in a maximum of 105 students on site at any one time. 1 instructor is required for every 10-12 kids, therefore 10 instructors.
- It is an immersion/sleep-over school: 2-4 nights, current investigation of whether there should be 1 or 2 rotations of kids per week.
- Site will include, but not be limited to, the following facilities: Dining Area (doubling as a large multi-purpose room), Kitchen (4) Flex-labs, (2) Outdoor labs, Gear room, and Research Area with Lab.

Commentary/Questions
Evan Blythen
- The group presented a general appreciation for the work which Line and Space showed.
- The following issues/concerns were brought up by 4 or 5 of the 20 attendees:
  - They lambasted the BLM for not having a representative at the meeting.
  - The use of other sites was not investigated by the BLM.
Blue Diamond Meeting Minutes

No environmental study for the site has been performed.
- The scope of serving 5,000 to 10,000 kids is too small and elitist, $22 million could educate a lot of students through the existing school system.
- This is an outlaw project in which the BLM is trying to commercialize public land (the current management plan calls for all of the buildings to be re-used with educational day-trips on site) for use as a corporate retreat.
- The apparent discrepancy between a small educational school and its $22 million budget.
- Blue Diamond shares an aquifer with Oliver Ranch (they have confirmed this with independent testing) and their well water-levels are lowering. This project is being done without hydrological studies.
- In an earlier meeting, Alan O'Neill and Blaine Benedict informed Blue Diamond that the BLM would extend the water supply for the Visitor Center to Oliver Ranch and not use local wells.
- The whole site is in the flood zone.
- Why not place the project on Blue Diamond Hill once the mine leaves and have The 5th graders restore the area.
- A lawyer is working on an injunction against the project which has been done behind the back of the public in violation of proper process.

- Les Wallach responded to some of the comments:
  - The NEPA Environmental Assessment process has begun but is dependent upon information contained in our schematic design (identifies which areas on site will be impacted and to what extent). Upon completion of our schematic design, OTAK the firm in charge of the EA will complete their study and identify possible issues, if any.
  - Current plans are to use approximately 10 acre-feet/year for the facility.
  - The BLM has contracted with the USGS to install multiple monitoring wells.
  - The Observatory, originally planned to be at Oliver Ranch with public visitation, has been relocated to the Visitor Center.

- All vocal members of the Blue Diamond group expressed surprise @ the idea of using approximately 10 acre-feet/year, specifically Evan Blythen. They all thought it was not possible.

Meeting concluded at 9:35pm
Notes by: Kevin Stewart – Line and Space, llc
Meeting Minutes
Wild Horse and Burro Facility

Subject: Scope of the Wild Horse and Burro Facility
Location: BLM Las Vegas Field Office
Date: May 27, 2004
Time: 3:30pm

Attendees
Mark Morse, BLM
Michael Reiland, BLM
Billie Young, RRCIA/NWHA
Les Wallach, Line and Space, llc
Bob Clements, Line and Space, llc
Kevin Stewart, Line and Space, llc

Mark Morse and Billie Young defined the project scope as follows:

- The focus of the facility is: (1) the interaction/education of the kids, and (2) facilitating the adoption of the horses and burros. Note: the BLM does not want busses of 'the public' stopping at the facility, there will be no 'off the street' public access to the facility.
- Annually, there are plans for 3 - 4 large-scale adoptions with simultaneous horse shows. Additionally, there will be the possibility of adopting a horse everyday, either by appointment or regularly appointed hours.
- The possibility of using this facility (in the future) for research and training exists: wild horse education for veterinarians, research on the animals (Nellis herd problem with hooves), etc. The Round 4 and Round 5 SNPLMA funding do not include funding for research; however, the BLM will investigate including funding for research in Round 5 or later Round’s. Therefore, the facility should be programmed to include this possibility (enough space in an appropriate location with sufficient sewer, power, and water).
- A public area with educational/interpretive components will be necessary and should be included in the 'meet & greet' space discussed at the programming workshop.
- The arena will be 13,000 sq. ft. with open sides that are closable (i.e. tent-flaps, or other means) with permanent seating for 200 people and no temporary seating.
- The facility will be planned to accommodate staff, a few visitors, and a couple of adopters (trucks w/trailers) = 20-30 cars on ±1 acre. The parking necessary to accommodate the amphitheater (300 people @ 2 people per car = 150 spaces, some for trucks with trailers) will be located off-site. The BLM will begin the process of developing an agreement with Bonnie Springs to use their parking lot during large events (notes: (1) the use of buses or vans may be necessary during these events and there may be a possibility of using the van transportation planned for Oliver Ranch, (2) the activities requiring the use of Bonnie Springs parking will have to be coordinated to avoid scheduling conflicts). In the event that the parking agreement would end/be terminated, the facility will be planned with an area for a parking lot to accommodate 120-130 cars and some trucks with trailers).
- Additionally the facility needs to accommodate 1 semi for on/offloading, other semi's will be staged.
- The Entry/Control area will control public access to the facility: during regular days the public will be directed to the 'meet & greet,' during shows/adoptions it will allow public entry to the arena and other public areas as well as provide access to the 'meet & greet.'
- On-site animals will consist of: 6 Ranger horses, 2 Mascot horses, 2 Mascot burros, and 25 Wild horses/burros.
- The Animal infirmary needs to be separate from the rest of the facility and needs to meet sanitary requirements (concrete floors with rubber mats in the stalls, etc.). The infirmary corral component is the exterior portion of the interior/exterior stalls.
Meeting Minutes
Wild Horse and Burro Facility

- The 2 acre pasture will be a dust problem because of the existing soil, therefore alternatives need to be considered for this area: staging between 10 acres, installation of sand/gravel bed, etc.
- The feed for the horses varies between low-grade Bermuda grass to alfalfa. The feed can be stored in one central storage facility with straw, grains, and oats. Note: 6 horses will eat 3 tons of feed (@ 20 bales/ton) in 6 weeks.
- The possibility of using a different water source than the aquifer that feeds Oliver Ranch for the horses should be investigated. Note: a horse can consume 25 gallons/day in the summer.
- The sorting/handling area will consist of 6 corrals of low-stress design able to handle 25 horses (total for all corrals) @ 400 square feet per horse. (2) Holding/Training corrals shall be located adjacent to the sorting/handling area.
- In order to understand the sequence of the horses (arrival/departure/daily) and the associated equipment, the project team will be planning a field trip to other horse facilities: Susanville, Palomino Valley, Ridgecrest, etc. Billie Young is to identify the appropriate facilities and finalize the trip with Line and Space.
- A contracted position, “WHB Facility Manager” will manage the facility. However, it is imperative that the BLM develops a management plan for the Wild Horse and Burro Facility.

Meeting concluded at 5:45pm
Notes by: Kevin Stewart – Line and Space, llc