Red Rock Desert Learning Center Core Group Meeting: October 18, 2005

Red Rock Desert Learning Center

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/ pli_red_rock_learning_center_reports

Part of the Desert Ecology Commons, Environmental Sciences Commons, and the Science and Mathematics Education Commons

Repository Citation

This Meeting Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the Red Rock Desert Learning Center at Digital Scholarship@UNLV. It has been accepted for inclusion in Reports (RRLC) by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@unlv.edu.
“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 September 20, 2005 Meeting (5 min.)

3. Curriculum Update – Jeanne Klockow (15 min.)

4. Review of Project Schedule – Michael Reiland (10 min.)
   A. Utilities
   B. Water Line
   C. Parking
   D. Operator

5. Standing Reports (15 minutes)
   A. Line and Space Architects – Les Wallach/Henry Tom
   B. BLM Capital Improvements – Michael Reiland

6. Committee Reports (5 min.)
   A. Building Committee – Angie Lara
   B. Design Oversight – David Frommer
   C. Educational Programs – Paul Buck
   D. Fund-raising and Partnerships – Blaine Benedict
   E. NEPA – Michael Johnson
   F. Operations – Jackson Ramsey
   G. Other Uses – Pat Williams
   H. Wild Horse & Burro – Billie Young

8. Open Discussion / New Business (5 min.)
Meeting Minutes

RED ROCK DESERT LEARNING CENTER CORE GROUP
Bureau of Land Management Las Vegas Field Office
Tuesday, October 18, 2005

The meeting commenced at 10:45 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:
Loretta Asay, Kathy August, Christine Brehm, Bob Clements, Richard Cutbirth, Nancy Flagg,
Pat Fleming, Gary Graham, Laurie Howard, Michael Johnson, Richard Leifreid, Alan O’Neill,
Michael Reiland, Mark Ryzshinski, Henry Tom, Pam Vilkin, Liz Warren, Mary Weisenmiller,
Debbie Wright, and Billie Young.

1. **Introductions and Announcements**
The group welcomed Liz Warren, local historian, and Gary Graham, citizen.

2. **Approval of Minutes**
The minutes of the September 20, 2005, meeting were approved with no changes.

3. **Curriculum Update**
Curriculum coordinator Jeanne Klockow provided an update on progress toward completion of
the historical curriculum and cultural curriculum. Jeanne reported that curriculum development
is on schedule. The Historical curriculum was distributed at the September core group meeting,
and Jeanne said feedback was still welcome. She distributed the essential questions recently
developed by the Cultural work group. Jeanne noted that there is no discussion of Native
American topics as yet. The work group is awaiting representation from local Native Americans
in order to ensure the curriculum addresses this important topic correctly. Jeanne will be
assembling a work group in November to develop the Night Sky curriculum. The development
process includes a brainstorming session, followed by the development of essential questions,
which are then correlated with activities for students and, finally, correlated with state and local
education standards.

4. **Review of Project Schedule**
Michael Reiland reviewed the project schedule and provided an update on several key issues.

*Utilities*
Michael reported that BLM is still trying to contact a photovoltaic expert recommended by
Loretta Asay. The agency needs to work out a net metering agreement with Nevada Power
Company.

*Water Line*
The BLM is still moving on a dual path to resolve the water issue – either through a well or a
municipal pipeline. The agency will continue pursuing both options until one clearly becomes
the best option. There are advantages and disadvantages to both. Michael reported the Water
District did some testing on water for the wells and determined the magnesium levels would
need to be reduced if the BLM uses groundwater. BLM still has rights to 19 acre feet of surface
water on the property, although the flow is not constant throughout the year. The developer of
homes near Bonnie Springs has contacted the Las Vegas Valley Water District to inquire about
connecting to the same water line that might run to the school. Such a possibility would
decrease the BLM’s cost for the line, but a well might be a better option. The Water District
thinks the pumping station to the visitor center will be sufficient to get water to the school. Pam Vilkin asked about the size of the line. Michael replied that a three-inch line is contemplated from the visitor center to the school, which could potentially change to an eight-inch line if the developer ties into it. Pam also asked if the NEPA study will take into account the potential for future development in the area. Michael replied that Otak, Inc., is aware of plans for homes in the area.

Pam questioned the message to kids by running a water line to an environmental education school that could help encourage development on both sides of the highway. Liz Warren thought it could be worked into the curriculum. Loretta Asay pointed out that there are costs and benefits and tradeoffs threaded throughout the project, which could allow the students to apply critical thinking skills. Jeanne Klockow said the students need to feel what it is like to conserve, which they will learn at the school. But Pam Vilkin noted that the bigger lesson may be that a structure doesn’t get built when water is not available.

Michael reminded the group that the school is being planned around water usage of only 10 acre feet per year no matter what the source. Les Wallach agreed and said the architects are planning for 50 gallons per day per students versus the 230 gallon-per-day average for Las Vegas residents.

Parking
Michael Reiland reported that BLM is still talking to Bonnie Springs about parking but there is no news to report at this time.

Operator
Michael Reiland said the agency is still on schedule to have a Request For Information (RFI) out by November 1 to potential school operators. If anyone knows of organizations that should be sent the RFI, please notify Michael.

5. Standing Reports
A. Line and Space Architects
Bob Clements of Line and Space Architects provided on update on recent activities (on file in UNLV Public Lands Institute office and BLM office). The design development phase continues and is scheduled for completion by December 13, at which time there will be a series of reviews and then a formal value analysis in early January by a panel of experts. Line and Space is moving forward on getting geotechnical studies completed. Bob met with Jeanne Klockow and Paul Buck on his last trip to Las Vegas and, based on curriculum needs, one flex lab will be dropped from the plans. Instructor housing will be scaled back to reduce square footage by approximately 40 percent. Bob said the entrance has been reworked into a one-way drive through the parking area and will loop into the bus drop-off. Bob said revisions to the wild horse and burro facility include: 1) moving the maintenance area, 2) adding stairs to the catwalk and at the southeast corner of arena, 3) turning one holding pen into 6 individual stalls, and 4) placing the helicopter pad in the northeast corner of the pasture. Revised plans will be presented to the Building Committee.

Henry Tom reported on LEED certification, which is currently at 48 points. Several other possibilities are being pursued to reach the platinum rating, and work continues on LEED commissioning. Liz Warren expressed a concern about mixed messages by having a dryer, rather than teaching students to hang clothes to dry. The architects said instructors will have a choice on whether to use a dryer or to hang clothes on the line for drying.
B. **BLM Capital Improvements**
Michael Reiland provided an update on BLM capital improvements at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. The law enforcement building next to the fire station is moving along well. Red Springs will have its grand opening on November 22. Vandalism recently occurred at the site, resulting in $3,000-$4,000 in damages from graffiti.

The Visitor Center project will undergo its first value analysis on November 14. Michael reminded the group that the Visitor Center Core Group meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month and all are welcome.

7. **Committee Reports**

**NEPA Committee**
Chair Michael Johnson has been trying to schedule a meeting to review the draft NEPA report in order to get comments back to Otak. John McCarty expects completion of the environmental assessment by June 2006. Michael is hoping for a March deadline to coincide with the operator contract. The agency hopes to tighten up the deadline in the next two weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, December 6, at the UNLV Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach, located at Tropicana Avenue and Tamarus Street, just east of Maryland Parkway.
Agenda

Red Rock Desert Learning Center and WHB – CORE Meeting
Line and Space, LLC.

BLM Las Vegas Field Office 10:30am
Design Development Progress Report

1.) Update on RRDLC/WHB Progress for Design Development Phase
   - Design Development Revisions
     Present Revised Site Plan
   - Report on CCSD Presentation

2.) Schedule Update
   - Design Development 70% Complete Progress Review August 16-17, 2005
   - Design Development Progress Review September 20, 2005
   - Design Development Progress Review October 18, 2005
   - Design Development Complete December 2, 2005
   - Design Development Value Analysis Early January 2006
   - Design Development BLM Review and Approval December 12, 2005-January 6, 2006
   - Design Development Review with Line and Space January 9-11, 2006
   - Construction Documents Complete October 2006 (may shift depending on start date)
   - Bidding Phase October 2006 – February 2007 (may shift depending on CD start date)
   - Construction February 2007- March 2009 ** (may shift depending on CD start date)

** Please note the schedule listed does not show the possibility of completing the utility infrastructure prior to the commencement of the building construction, this may trim a few months off the schedule. This reflects BLM’s concern with the schedule for project completion

3.) Minutes from September 20, 2005 Building Committee Meeting are included for your information.
Meeting Notes
1.) Henry Tom reviewed the agenda and reported that Line and Space is continuing with progress towards the completion of the Design Development Phase. This meeting will focus mainly on revisions to the designs, which are based on the response to comments received from the Building Committee meeting held on August 16-17.

2.) There were no comments for the August 16-17, 2005 Building Committee meeting minutes (copy of minutes included with agenda).

3.) A complete set of 11x17 drawings of issues to be discussed during the meeting were presented to everyone in attendance and a 24" x 36" set was given to Michael Reiland.

Bob Clements lead the presentation for the Design Development progress. The following were presented; comments and explanations as noted:

- Entry Parking/Bus Drop Off. Revised design drawings for the entry parking/bus drop off were presented.
  - The main entry road will now circulate through the parking lot. This was based on the building committee’s decision that by allowing the circulation of all traffic to flow through the parking lot, a section of road could be eliminated; and that because of the relatively low use of this road, conflict was not an issue. Henry Tom reminded the committee that the parking lot and the main entry drive were separated for safety and to avoid conflict between the buses and cars in the original design. The new design will have angled parking allowing a one way road to circulate through and leading to the Bus Drop Off. A left hand turn after the Bus Drop Off will allow vehicular traffic to re-circulate through the parking.
  - Line and Space reported that the number of parking spaces for the project was based on the design program. Line and Space and Pat Fleming will review to see if parking can be reduced, a report analyzing the number of parking spaces will be submitted to the BLM for review and direction.
  - The Bus Drop off was revised. The new design was able to keep the original design idea of three separate drop off points, however, the area for the entire Bus Drop Off was reduced in size by over 50%. Each long wall (27"-4" long) that designated each drop off point has been reduced to a 16" x 32" x 8' identifying column. By keeping the three drop-off areas, the idea to provide a bus pull out prior to the parking lot was eliminated. A discussion was held on the increased distance from the drop-off area to the friendship circle, it was determined by the committee that this was not an issue.
The areas at the existing WHB corrals and parking lots will be part of landscape restoration project plans.

Pat Fleming suggested that Line and Space consider a product called Euro-Tech2 (confirm name) for the roads and parking lot. Pat mentioned that this product was used at the San Pedro Riparian Area and he was impressed with its performance.

A path from the administration to the bus drop-off will be added as recommended by the committee.

The committee liked the revisions for both the parking and bus drop-off areas and thought that it was a nice improvement.

Friendship Circle. A View Impact Analysis drawing for the Friendship Circle was presented.

A question was brought up during the last Building Committee meeting regarding views to the Friendship Circle and is the roof visible. The drawing presented showed that a small portion of the Friendship Circle Roof is visible from Cistern Hill; however, most of the views to the Friendship Circle are shielded by surrounding deciduous trees.

Dining and Kitchen. Revised Progress drawings for the Dining and Kitchen were presented.

The flip up counter at the Gear Room is increased in size for ease of access and moving items in. A location for washer/dryer, drip/dry area, counter sink and a slop sink are now shown. Solar tube type skylights are now shown in the Gear Storage area. It was suggested that an area for a computer/desk counter be shown at the south end of the Gear Room.

Bob suggested that the video projection screen that was originally located at an angle at the northeast corner of the Dining Room be moved to the North wall for improved visibility. The committee agreed with the change, but also suggested that an additional screen be located on the west wall.

Modifications have been made to the serving area so that it could be converted into a waiter station for a sit down type dinner event. A pocket type screen is now shown to allow this area to closed-off. The counter along the east wall is now located in a niche that extends into the Entry Foyer with windows on each end (this is to accommodate kitchen expansion since area narrows as you move north). The counter at the Foyer will allow the Serving Area to be closed off and have the ability to set out snacks in this area. The committee also suggested that the serving counter for drinks have provisions to keep drinks cooled. If ice is used, drainage should be provided.

Line and Space will look at locations for condiments, several locations may be provided.

Double door access into the Kitchen is now provided. It was suggested that the door into the Kitchen be moved to the north of the serving line. The door at Service Entrance 111A will remain a single leaf door.

The kitchen has increased in size by moving the north wall approximately 5’.

A separate room for a Janitor Closet and a private office for the Chef/Manager are provided.

Bob indicated that the revised kitchen plan would now be reviewed with the food service designer. It was also mentioned that storage is very important;
Building Committee Meeting Minutes
Red Rock Desert Learning Center
Wild Horse and Burro Facility

there is a separate storage room for dry goods and that the area along the north wall may be lined with shelving.
- A recycling area/food weighing area is now shown in the dining area. The incline to the raised dining area was reconfigured to improve circulation related to the recycling area use and function.
- Solar tube type skylights have been added into the Kitchen are designated by a dashed circle. A question on whether these should be added into the dining room; it was felt that with the number of windows surrounding the dining area that skylights would not be necessary.

- Dormitories. Progress Drawings for Dormitories were presented.
  - Line and Space is working on setting up a meeting with Loretta Asay to review and get concurrence for the proposed sleeping arrangement for the dorm. A drawing showing formal and informal sleeping options was shown to the Building Committee. There was expressed concern with the informal sleeping diagram, however, it was decided that this would be presented for approval, since this could be an actual sleeping arrangement. The suggestion by Michael Reiland to use temporary foam dividers between sleeping areas should be shown on the diagram.
  - At the last meeting, Pat Fleming asked what is the optimal orientation for the Dorms and did Line and Space do any energy modeling to determine this? He was also concerned with the amount of excavation that would be required for the dorm construction; what would happen if the dorms were shifted to work parallel with the contours. Les explained that a study was done, with GLHN, to determine the optimal shape with orientation (concave, convex and straight configurations were studied). The convex shape was determined to be most efficient for heating in the study. It was decided, for ease of construction and the minimal payback of the convex shape, the straight configuration would be best. Orienting the building parallel with the existing contours did not work well with the solar orientation, since the building would be exposed towards the west. A copy of the study was presented to the group. (Added note: trombe wall efficiency decreases noticeably if its orientation is not due south).

- Solar Bridge. Elevation Drawings for Solar Bridge were presented.
  - At the previous Building Committee meeting a discussion was held as to whether the utility lines crossing the wash along the solar bridge should be buried under ground or hung from the underside of the bridge. An elevation drawing was presented to show the relationship between the bridge and utility lines hung from the bottom of the bridge. It was explained that the preliminary elevation study shows the sewer lines (using 1/8" per foot slope) hanging approximately 12" below the lowest point of the bridge structure. It was expressed by the committee that they would rather hang the utilities from the bridge; Pat Fleming agreed with the committees’ decision. Line and Space will move forward with this decision.
Building Committee Meeting Minutes

Red Rock Desert Learning Center
Wild Horse and Burro Facility

- Flex Labs.
  - Line and Space reported that they would be meeting with Paul Buck and Jeanne Klockow tomorrow for review of the Flex Lab design with the curriculum.
  - It was also suggested that one lab might be deleted if it works with class scheduling. Line and Space will check this with Paul and Jeanne.

- Central Plant and Maintenance Facility. Revised Drawings for Central Plant were presented.
  - The Central Plant floor plan has been revised to reflect actual equipment designated for the space. Approximately 14' has been eliminated from the building.
  - A less elaborate method to provide viewing of the central plant was presented. The interior observation platform and the east screen wall have been deleted. The path to the viewing area has been reconfigured to improve the experience and allow for viewing and interpretation of the parabolic collectors.
  - At the last meeting, a question was brought up on whether a berm was required at the central plant. It was explained that the berm and existing vegetation would help alleviate the visual impact looking at the building from Highway 159. It was mentioned that the central plant was about 15' to 16' tall. A section drawn from highway 159 to study this issue was presented to the group. The earth berms will also be revised to take on a more natural form.
  - Sample photos for the parabolic array for the hot water system were presented to the group. Locations were also shown on the plan for the arrays.

- Observatory. Progress Drawings for Observatory were presented.
  - An updated plan and elevation was presented. It was reported to the group that the color for the dome does not have to be white or reflective, but should be a light color.
  - Line and Space will be meeting with Dale Etheridge at CCSN tomorrow to review the design.

- Instructor Housing/Facility Manger Housing. A new design for Instructor Housing was presented.
  - A new floor plan based on a revised program for the Instructor Housing was presented. The new design provides 10 individual sleeping units (includes a bed, desk and wardrobe) with a private bathroom. The units are divided into two groups of five and are separated by an exterior courtyard. Shared spaces include the kitchen (includes private pantry for each unit), interior dining area, and exterior dining area, living room space and laundry. A separate facility manager’s unit is also included. Access to the shared areas is through the exterior courtyard. With the new design the floor area has been reduced approximately 40% from the previous design.
  - The group likes the direction of the design for the housing. It was suggested that the outdoor drying area remain as an outdoor space, but that drying clothes outdoors in Las Vegas is something people don’t do. Direction was
Building Committee Meeting Minutes

Red Rock Desert Learning Center
Wild Horse and Burro Facility

also given that the units beyond the accessible units (moving up slope) do not have to be accessible.
○ Line and Space will continue further development of the housing as presented.

- WHB Administration and Tack Room. Revised Drawings for WHB Administration and Tack Room were presented.
  ○ Clerestory window has been deleted.
  ○ A door between space 105 and 114 has been added.
  ○ The revised plan now includes separate restrooms for both men and women that are accessible from the exterior of the administration building. Each restroom will have two stalls and one lavatory. A private restroom for staff is included in the office area. A janitor's closet has also been added.
  ○ A stair to the catwalk is to be moved to the Gathering Space for public use.

- WHB Holding, Handling and Sorting. Discussion was held for WHB Holding, Handling and Sorting were presented.
  ○ A separate area will be developed for horses that have started the gentling process. These horses cannot be mixed back in with the other wild horses.

- WHB Maintenance and Feed. Revised Drawings for WHB Maintenance and Feed were presented.
  ○ The revised maintenance area has been reduced in size by approximately 300 square feet. The three roll up doors has been reduced to one. This was accomplished by not storing vehicle inside the building and deleting the vehicle pull through capability.
  ○ The maintenance and feed locations may be changed for more efficient function.
  ○ The Heilipad will be moved to the pasture.

- Bob Clements reported that a meeting was held with BJ Schafer to review the WHB design; BJ provided helpful comments. It was also reported that Clark County has requirements for horse facilities, Line and Space will find out what these are; although the BLM may not chose to comply fully (this may effect permitting, see discussion on permitting below).

4.) Other items discussed.

- An update was given on the Energy Modeling. A sample form showing the Administration Building and the Dining Room were presented. The goal is to reduce energy consumption by 40%. Also included were narratives on the lighting and a table showing the type of lighting controls, hours of operation, prescriptive light loads and recommended foot-candles for each space throughout the campus.

- A LEED update was given. The current LEED-NC Version 2.1 Project Checklist shows a projected 48 points for a Gold rating. There are several possible points that still may be achieved leading to a Platinum rating. The group was also presented with summary on Commissioning Requirements for LEED Certification. There are
Building Committee Meeting Minutes

Red Rock Desert Learning Center
Wild Horse and Burro Facility

two levels of commissioning, Fundamental Building Commissioning and Additional
Commissioning. Further discussion will need to be held regarding these issues and
direction given by the BLM.

- Environmental Assessment Report. Michael reported that he is hoping the report will
be completed so that the Contract Documents may start in late February or early
March. It was also reported that Jeff Wedding (Harry Reid Center) would be onsite in
early October and that we may schedule directly with him to coordinate our soils
testing, locating of certain venues and trails. A plan showing boring locations for the
soils testing was sent to Michael and Pat.

- Equipment and Furnishings. A list showing all equipment and furnishings was given
to Michael Reiland. He will review and let Line and Space know what should be
included in our contract documents. The list shows approximately 2.5 million dollars
worth of equipment and furnishings.

- Michael also reported that the RFI for the operator would be released in November

- Line and Space will provide hydrological study requirements to Pat Fleming. The
BLM will provide the site hydrology study.

- Line and Space will be meeting with the Clark County Fire Department tomorrow.

- A discussion was held on whether the BLM would be obtaining a building permit prior
to construction. Pat Fleming suggested a permit be obtained. Drawings will need to
comply with local requirements. (Added note: there are cost implications with plan
check and permitting not included in the budget.)

- Michael Reiland reported that the BLM would need to start working on the Net
Metering issue with Nevada Power. This agreement impacts the location of the
Photovoltaics and could hold up the design if not solved soon.

5.) Project Schedule Update. The next Building Committee meeting will be held on October 18,
2005 after the CORE Meeting at the BLM Field Office. Starting at around 2:00pm.

The 100% Completion of Design Development date scheduled for December 2, 2005 will remain.
The Value Analysis review will be rescheduled for early January. Line and Space will provide
available dates to BLM. This is being rescheduled due to certain members of the VA team being
assigned to the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts during the original scheduled dates.

End of Report.