



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Farmer, Brown, Cassidy, Cunningham and Ernst
FROM: Lance Robertson, Public Affairs Manager
DATE: Sept. 30, 2009
SUBJECT: Goodpasture Bridge Lighting Project – Letter of Support

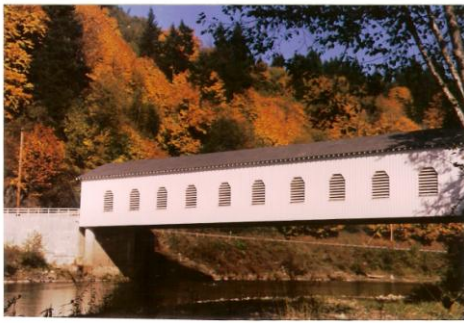
A majority of EWEB commissioners have expressed interest in providing a letter of support for a citizen project to install lighting on the historic Goodpasture Covered Bridge near Vida. The bridge is just upstream from EWEB's Leaburg Lake.

A memo provided to you for your Sept. 15, 2009, meeting gave a brief description of the project and an assessment from EWEB staff about the feasibility of extending permanent electric service to the bridge. EWEB sees no technical or other issues that would prevent service from being provided, although supporters likely will need to hire an electrician to do some rewiring on the bridge. Supporters are working with a number of local and state agencies, including Lane County, to resolve insurance requirement issues, and to obtain historic preservation permits or other necessary permits.

A chief supporter of the project, Vern Blumhagen, has asked EWEB commissioners to also provide a short letter of support for the project. We have prepared such a letter of support, addressed to the Lane County Board of Commissioners, that would be signed by Commissioner Brown should you support the project through approval of the consent calendar. I also have provided a two-page summary of a presentation made by Mr. Blumhagen to Lane County Commissioner Bill Fleenor in, which provides more details of the project.

Board Action

Approval of the consent calendar would constitute approval of the letter of support for the project.



Goodpasture Bridge Lighting Project

PRESENTATION TO COUNTY COMMISSIONER FLEENOR

August 31, 2009

I. This Community service project

A. Was initiated because of many visitors' and residents' request to see the bridge lit all night for safety and aesthetic purposes.

1. It is a particularly dangerous turn onto Goodpasture Road for west-bound drivers at night
2. The Chamber of Commerce and others consider it a significant contributor to potential tourism benefit

B. It is intended that the completed project would be county property donated by a united community.

II. Initial contacts

A. Lane County Public Works, Road Maintenance Division

1. Greg Boyle, Supervisor;
2. John Petsch main contact

III. Trail of approval process

A. John Petsch, LCPW

B. Dennis Griffin, Ph. D., State Historical Preservation Organization (SHPO),
State Archeologist.

C. Sarah Jolvang, Review and Compliance, SHPO

D. Chris Bell, Cultural Resources Program Coordinator, ODOT

E. County Commissioner Faye Stewart

NOTE: All participants are very enthused about the program.

- State participants want to use our completed project as a model for other covered bridges.
- Commissioner Stewart volunteered the idea of our piggy-backing on a potential county project of lighting the inside of the bridge as formerly requested by Friends of Leaburg Lake Association (FOLLA).
 1. Project is not currently planned

IV. Configuration development

A. Contacted Burrell Bros. electrical contractors

1. They decided to pass on the job

B. Contacted Lantz Electric – They have experience with internal bridge lighting

1. They provided preliminary design and cost estimate

C. Contacted EWEB

1. Current power access assigned to Chamber of Commerce (MRCC) is adequate
2. EWEB may want to upgrade the source power line. This does not affect the proposed lighting configuration.

V. Configuration detail

- A. Five light fixtures under the eaves on each side of the bridge
- B. Each fixture produces a fan-shaped illumination pattern down the side of the bridge
- C. No hole drilling in timbers is allowed; fixtures will be mounted from the inside of the bridge with clamps

VI. Power requirement (must include Christmas lighting power requirements)

- A. External lighting requires approximately 130 watts. At 110 volts, need 1.2 amps (6 amps with 500% safety factor @ 1.0 power factor)
- B. The existing source is greater than 50 amps. More than enough for both applications

VII. Impediment

A. Liability insurance

1. Public Works proposed to treat this project as an “event,” such as the Christmas lighting program.
 - a. Lions International provides the liability insurance for the Christmas event
 - b. Lions will not cover continuous operation systems
2. Insurance companies will provide coverage only for owned property
 - a. We do not qualify, nor would we have resources to pay for it.
3. The county insures:
 - a. Their buildings and equipment
 1. This does not include road or bridge structures
 - b. Against liability claims brought by a third party (Self Insures)

VIII. Good news

- A. The county offers to assist with the permit application process
- B. And a no-cost structural permit (Electric system permit may not be no-cost)

IX. Current status

- A. We are waiting for the resolution of the liability insurance question
 1. If the community is required to provide insurance, there is no project
- B. Latest information from the county:
 1. “The Board of Commissioners can waive the insurance requirements if they so desire. Unless I hear otherwise from the Board or County Counsel, liability insurance is needed for the lighting project.” John Petsch.
- C. We are gathering advocacy statements from EWEB, State agencies, McKenzie Watershed Council, McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce, and State Fish and Wildlife Dept.

X. Desired outcome

- A. Allow the project to proceed with no burden of insurance for the community
- B. Effectively combine the FOLLA request with the outside lighting configuration
 1. The county can participate in sharing the costs as anticipated by the FOLLA request
- C. Provide a result the region can be proud of while
 1. Improving safety and aesthetic conditions



Eugene Water & Electric Board

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Oct. 6, 2009

Lane County Board of Commissioners
125 East Eighth Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Dear Commissioners:

For the past several months, some McKenzie River Valley citizens have been working on a project to add lights to the historic Goodpasture covered bridge near Vida. This bridge is situated just upstream from the Eugene Water & Electric Board's Leaburg Dam and Lake.

For many years, EWEB has donated labor and equipment to install temporary, seasonal lights on the covered bridge during the winter holidays. The addition of permanent lights on the Goodpasture covered bridge, as envisioned by the project's supporters, would enhance the experience of river residents and visitors alike.

On behalf of the Eugene Water & Electric Board of Commissioners, EWEB supports the current efforts to add lighting to the historic Goodpasture Bridge near Vida.

Respectfully,

John Brown, Vice President
Eugene Water & Electric Board of Commissioners



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Farmer, Brown, Cassidy, Cunningham and Ernst
FROM: Lance Robertson, Public Affairs Manager
DATE: Sept. 8, 2009
SUBJECT: Goodpasture Bridge Lighting Project

EWEB staff has been in periodic contact with supporters of the Goodpasture Bridge Lighting Project, which aims to install permanent lights on the historic covered bridge that crosses the McKenzie River just upstream from Leaburg Lake. Supporters of the project, which include members of the McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce's Tourism Committee, have been working with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Lane County Board of Commissioners, Lane County Public Works, the Oregon Department of Transportation and other entities to obtain the necessary permits and other permissions that may be required to install lighting on a public and historic bridge.

The project, as currently envisioned, would install five light fixtures on each side of the bridge. No hole drilling in timbers would be allowed, and the fixtures would be mounted from the inside of the bridge and under the overhanging eaves.

For many years, EWEB has donated time and money to temporarily install seasonal lights on the bridge during the holidays (the Leaburg Dam bridge also is lighted annually). The current customer account at the plug-in point on the bridge is the McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce, according to our database. EWEB provides a donation to pay for the consumption cost of the holiday lights.

Project supporters have asked EWEB whether there are any technical or electrical issues that might hinder the project from moving forward. At this point, EWEB sees no major hurdles that would prevent supporters from obtaining permanent electric service from EWEB. There appears to be sufficient existing power to accommodate the addition of 10 lights on the bridge, although EWEB has not seen any diagrams or drawings from supporters. However, EWEB has indicated to supporters that they likely will need to hire a private electrician to reconfigure or rewire the electric service at the point of the EWEB service drop at a nearby power pole, to accommodate the permanent lighting. The service would become a full-time, metered account in which a monthly electric bill is generated.

EWEB staff has not taken any position in support or opposition to the lighting project. EWEB also has not committed to any financial support or in-kind donation above the annual holiday lighting effort. As with any customer seeking to establish service or reconfigure an existing service, EWEB is prepared to assist project supporters should they eventually receive the necessary approvals and wish to establish a permanent, metered electric service to illuminate the bridge.

Options/Board Action

No action is required. This is an informational item.