
MINUTES

Kinni Corridor Project Committee Meeting Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 4 - 5:30 p.m. City Hall – Training Room

The Kinni Corridor Committee met on May 11, 2017. Those in attendance included Lisa Moody, Patricia LaRue, Susan Reese, Jason Egerstrom, Mary Zimmermann, Buddy Lucero, Julie Bergstrom, Angie Bond, Kevin Westhuis, Adam Myszewski, Gary Horvath, Mike Stifter, Scot Simpson, Rick Bowen, Rita Kozak, Bob Kost and Mark Lobermeier.

Buddy Lucero called the meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from the March 30, 2017 and April 13, 2017 meetings were presented and approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Updates:

- a. Community Presentations: Buddy and Dave F. spoke at the recent St. Croix Summit. Rita explained that the St. Croix Summit is in its 9th year. This year's event included a special session on the Kinni and included a NPS speaker who discussed corridor plans.
- b. Technical Studies: Mark provided an update regarding the status of technical studies. He reported that geomorphology study was completed and that the hydrologic/hydraulic study was in process. He indicated that the technical team will also be evaluating the TU thermal data and that the team would be meeting on May 23rd to discuss the status of all of the Tech Memos.
- c. Planning Update: Bob Kost provided a planning update, highlighting land use maps and discussing the prevalence of open-space and low density residential – important as it relates to impervious cover and minimizing thermal impacts of storm water to the river. He discussed the importance of parks and recreation (the subject of tech Talk No. 6). He also noted the limited amount of green space along Main Street (Downtown).

Bob discussed the prevalence of storm water outfalls to the river along the corridor. He reviewed the vehicular and pedestrian transportation patterns and how they can influence the corridor plan. Bob also spoke of the concept of “dark skies” and being mindful of lighting. He also addressed recent work on the indicators of the eco-tone throughout the corridor. He explained that the frameworks would be used at the upcoming charrette and to develop corridor alternatives into a preferred alternative and corridor plan. Buddy told the committee that the frameworks will be reviewed by City staff and then provided to the committee prior to the charrette.

- d. Friends of the Kinni Report. Michael Page was in attendance and he indicated he would provide printed copies of their report regarding dam removal to the committee in advance of their committee presentation on June 22.
- e. Public Engagement. Mary reported that promotion for Tech Talk No. 4 is in full swing. Survey comments have been compiled by City staff and have been provided to SEH for review and to use in the planning process, reiterating the importance of posting the information to the project website. She mentioned that river ecology is the top visited page of the website and that comments from the public continue to come in. Mary indicated that plans are underway to compile the six tech talks to be available to the public before the planning charrette. Plans are underway to meet with a downtown focus group and for a Kinni Corridor Plan booth during River Falls Days.

Buddy mentioned that at a recent national planning conference, the role of social media was emphasized as a critical component.

2. Tech Talk # 4:

Mark explained the concept for Tech Talk 4 based on the feedback from the special meeting on April 13. A three part presentation is planned. Lesley Brotkowski of TRC will first discuss Hydro Facilities - how they work, etc. This would be a generic discussion of hydro facilities. Mark will then address the City's Hydro Facilities: This would include specifics regarding production, condition surveys, physical facts (size, construction, elevations), previous rehabilitation efforts, etc. A fact sheet with similar information would be developed. Lesley would close out the presentation by reviewing Relicensing. The focus would be on the existing licenses, the relicensing processes and the multiple scenarios that exists around the relicensing and surrender decisions.

3. Committee Discussion – the influence of relicensing on the corridor plan.

Bob provided an 11 x 17 handout entitled “Influences of Relicensing on Corridor Planning” which provided a graphical summary of the relicensing scenarios and how each scenario would influence the corridor (attached).

Buddy indicated that he often hears the assumption that no hydro equals no dams. Kevin discussed elements to be considered in the corridor planning process including historic, sentiment and qualitative factors. Scot felt that time to reflect on the document was needed as we consider the impact of relicensing on the corridor planning. He believes that relicensing keeps most options open, and that we don't have to automatically rip out the dams if they no longer have hydro equipment. He would like to be able to unbundle the options, explaining that in surrender (of license) you lose some options.

Peter Dahm, who was part of the public in attendance, mentioned State of Wisconsin funding for non-FERC licensed facilities and that relicensing might close some doors to State funding. Scot again reminded the committee to recognize the nuance – and to separate the hydros from the dams.

Rita offered that there is also a cost to relicensing.

The need for a handout for Tech Talk 4 was discussed. Buddy indicated that we would want to see all the costs before the meeting.

4. Planning Charrette

Bob introduced a video regarding planning charrettes to introduce the committee to the process. The process is often described as a ‘creative cyclone, where preparation of base information and community education efforts drive a multi-day charrette where experts and planners will interact with City official, staff and citizens to development corridor alternatives using multiple feedback loops in a fully transparent process. Bob suggested that rather than a 2 day charrette as originally planned that we expand from Wednesday-Saturday format. The work completed to date is all about building a foundation of the charrette which will generate several alternative outcomes for the corridor. Those outcomes will help inform the relicensing process. After the relicensing decision, those alternatives will be refined into a preferred alternative and implementation plan.

The initial schedule was to complete the charrette by the end of September. Buddy was concerned about having Tech Talk 6 and the charrette in the same month, and to find the venues necessary for the meetings. He is thinking that the middle of October may be better. A final date will be set soon.

5. Next Meetings

Mark reviewed the upcoming schedule:

- May 18 Tech Talk #4: Hydro Facilities and Relicensing
- June 1 or 8 Special Meeting
- June 22 Kinni Committee Meeting – Workshop Promotion and Friends of the Kinni Report
- July 20 Tech Talk #5: Dam Removal Alternatives
- Aug. 3 Kinni Committee Meeting – Workshop Prep and Feasibility Outline Discussion
- Sep. 7 Tech Talk # 6 – Recreation and Tourism
- tbd Charrette

6. Adjournment

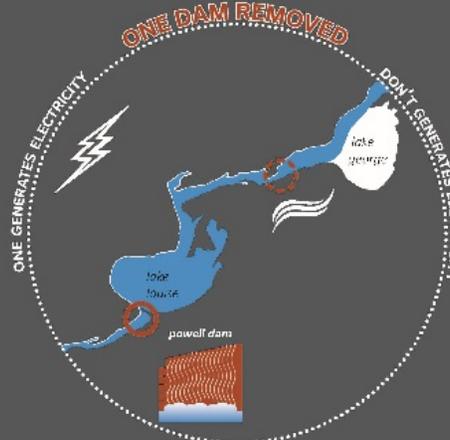
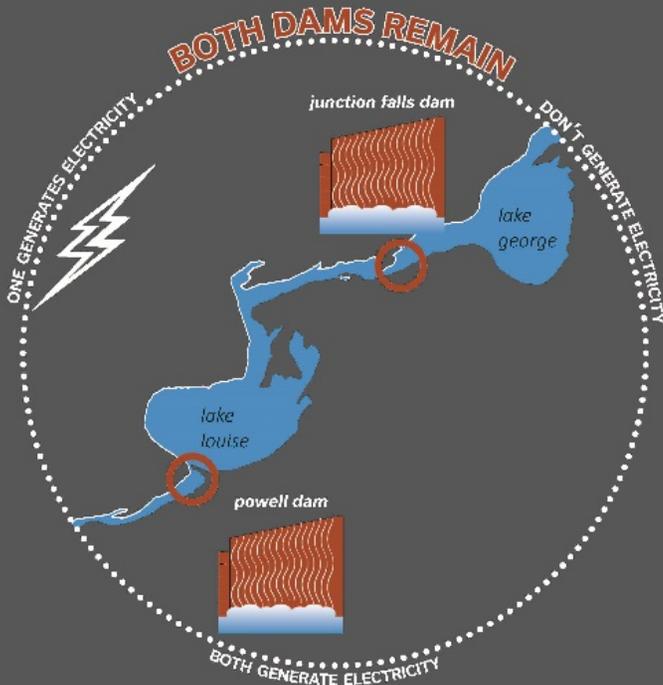
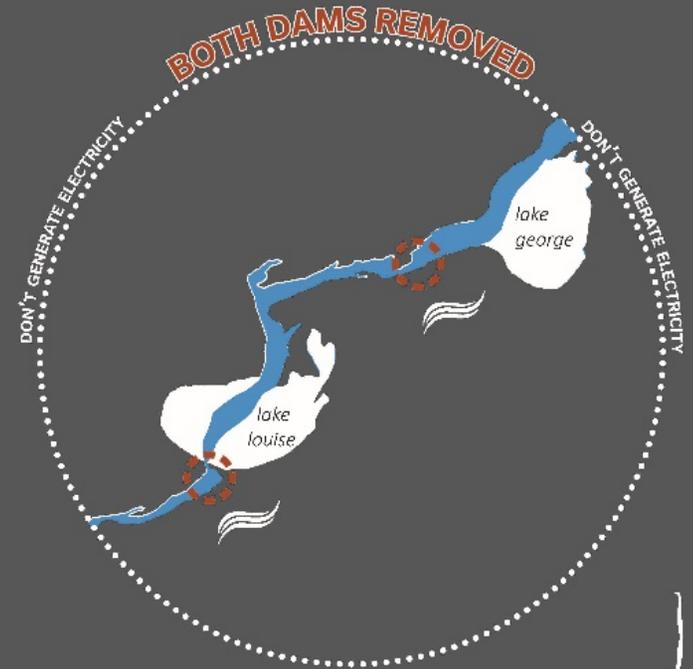
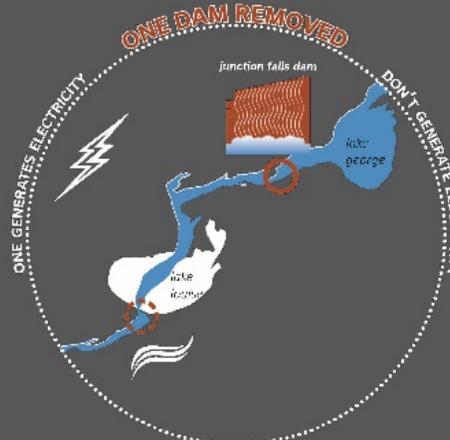
The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm

INFLUENCES OF DAMS ON CORRIDOR PLANNING

OPTIONS

- HYDRO-POWER RELICENSED BY CITY
- LICENSE TRANSFERS TO 3RD PARTY
- HYDRO POWER LICENSE LAPSES

KEEPING BOTH DAMS AND KEEPING LAKES WHERE THEY LAY



RESTORING RIVER CHANNELS / ALTERING LAKES

NORTH OF DOWNTOWN



SOUTH OF DOWNTOWN



Influences of Relicensing on Corridor Planning