



Oregon Travel Information Council
1500 Liberty Street SE, Suite 150
Salem, Oregon 97302

MINUTES
Oregon Travel Information Council Special Meeting
November 3, 2015
Telephonic

Council Members:

Gwenn Baldwin, Chair
Kathy Watson, Secretary
Charlotte Lehan
David Lohman

Bob Russell, Vice Chair
Mike Drennan
Ed Washington
Mike Marsh

Excused: Ryan Snyder

OTE Staff:

Nancy DeSouza, Executive Director

Tim Pickett, Operations Director

Convening: A special public meeting of the Travel Information Council was called to order by Chair Baldwin at 2:02 p.m. Chair Baldwin noted attendance for the record.

Introductions: All Council members in attendance by telephone except Snyder, who was excused.

Public Comment: None.

New Business:

Approval of LED Lighting Conversion at French Prairie and Santiam Rest Areas:

DeSouza gave a brief overview of the first meeting of the TIC Rest Area Committee on November 2, where Councilor Russell was elected chair. The committee unanimously approved forwarding this proposal to the full Council. Pickett referenced the handouts sent out to the Council. He gave an overview of the ODOT sustainability plan and the reduction in energy consumption required. The successful bidder in the ODOT contract is EC Renewable Solutions, and OTE can use this contractor and the granting of funds through Energy Trust of Oregon to

reduce the costs. The projected return on investment is five years, and continuing savings beyond that. Staff requests that Council approve this project.

Drennan had asked questions earlier, and noted that there will be no impact on our monthly or biennial profit and loss statements. The offset will depreciate the costs of the project over the five years, and the offsets will keep us at a break-even point on the expenses.

Lohman asked if the terms of the IAA could force upgrades to specific items and override the decisions of Council. DeSouza said that Council can always reject a proposal. Pickett said that cash flow considerations are always in the purview of Council. The Highway Fund balance is fully adequate to cover this proposed expense. Baldwin asked if is this a formality/semantics approval based on the IAA that is required by ODOT upgrades to their facilities with specific vendors beyond the control of Council. DeSouza and Pickett explained that Council and the agency determine the upgrades and at what cost, and that we may choose to use the ODOT vendor, but are not obligated to do so. ODOT has the authority to reject changes beyond in-kind replacement in the rest areas, but does not mandate changes under the IAA.

DeSouza recapped that this is a good investment with a desirable reduction in energy usage at those two rest areas that will provide a return on the investment in five years and then ongoing savings.

Marsh moved approval of the contract, second by Drennan. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business:

Drennan reminded Finance Committee members to stay on the line for a subsequent Finance Committee meeting.

DeSouza gave an overview of the recent problems in completing the patch/overlay repairs to the Summit Ski Area parking lot adjacent to Government Camp Rest Area. She explained the complex conversations with the US Forest Service, Senator Betsy Johnson, TIC members, ODOT leadership, Craig Campbell, Clackamas County Tourism and others. The ultimate decision was for OTE to pay under protest up to \$4,000 more in Other Funds to ensure the project would not fail. Baldwin agreed that access to our rest area being limited by that lot's failure would be detrimental to Oregon travelers. DeSouza thanked Travis Brower for his cooperation and willingness to help keep costs down. In the end, we have stronger partnerships moving into future conversation for this area. Marsh asked about next steps, and DeSouza reported that the patch job is expected to last only one year. OTE cannot take responsibility for this lot without having control of the lot, and even then, we do not have a funding source to ensure the lot's required rebuild and ongoing maintenance. The relationships among the permit issuer, permit holders and stakeholders are highly complex.

The Cooper Spur land swap may lead to a solution, but perhaps not in time for decisions on what needs to happen in 2016. Baldwin referred the issue to the Rest Area Committee.

DeSouza said that incomplete records left by the former Rules and Policy Analyst delayed staff knowledge that the contract with the Victory Group for government relations had expired on October 31. Staff developed an addendum to the contract through the end of the year to ensure continuity. The question that needs to come before Council is whether to develop a new sole-source contract with the Victory Group or open it up for new proposals. Baldwin discussed the need for continuity of representation, and that as legislative policy, the recommendation will need to come from the Executive Committee. She instructed DeSouza to schedule a meeting for this topic. Discussion included the authority of staff to approve the \$8,000 cost of this extension prior to formal action by Council in December. Council had no objection to the recommended staff action.

Executive Committee will have a meeting to determine whether the government relations contract should be a sole source renewal or go out to competitive bid and put that recommendation on the Council agenda for December.

Watson recapped her concerns about the process that led to the completion of the paving project at Government Camp and the need for leadership from the US Forest Service in the long-term solution with the permit holder. DeSouza did agree that there is a problem that will require higher levels of political involvement, discussion and transparency. DeSouza recommended this being discussed by the Executive Committee because of the legislative issues. Baldwin directed DeSouza to add it to the agenda.

Adjourn:

- Next Meeting December 16, 2015 – OTE Offices, Salem

2:38 p.m. – Meeting adjourned.