



Vernonia Schools – Oregon Solutions Steering Committee  
Scout Cabin, Vernonia  
May 10, 2011, 2-3:30pm  
Minutes

**Attendance:** Sharon Bernal, VEDC; Dan Brown, CAT; Willow Burch, Vernonia City Council; Carol Cox; Ken Cox, VSD Superintendent; John Donovan, Metropolitan Group; Steve Effros, Aadland Evans Project Manager; Mark Ellsworth, Regional Solutions; Bill Haack, Interim Administrator City of Vernonia; Stephanie Hallock, Oregon Solutions; Sally Harrison, Vernonia Honored Citizen; Jason Hitzert, Representative Wu's office; Tony Hyde, Columbia County Commissioner; Joanie Jackson, Guest; Alissa Keny-Guyer, Oregon Solutions; Greg Kintz, Vernonia School Board; Jim Krahn, VSD School Board Chair; Bill Langmaid, VSD School Board; Heather Lewis, Vernonia Health Center Board; Kelly Marks, PCC; Betsy Miller, VSD; Josette Mitchell, Mayor of Vernonia

**Welcome/Introductions**

**Commissioner Tony Hyde**

**Vernonia Rural Sustainability Center (VRSC)**

**Stephanie Hallock**

Stephanie reported on the VRSC meeting this morning with the following updates: The VRSC survey will proceed. The annual Earth Day tree-planting day was a success. A field trip is planned May 14 to Camp 18 for forestry students. Mark Stanley of LogSafe, Inc. has been assisting the forestry program. Bighorn Logging donated \$5K for the forestry program and \$25K to match The Ford Family Foundation challenge. The district has requested BLM funding for a native species green house. Campbell Group will donate \$10K. The VRSC has requested \$25K from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to help support the native plant nursery and for stream restoration.

The OSU extension continues work on Vital Vernonia Project, a project that will survey the outcomes related to all the transformations occurring in Vernonia; a steering committee will be formed.

VRSC meetings will be reconvening in September when the Oregon Solutions steering committee resumes. Stephanie may no longer be staffing this as she is helping Greg Wolfe with Regional Solutions. The Committee thanked Stephanie for her work on VRSC.

**School Project Update**

**Dr. Ken Cox, Steve Effros**

P&C presented the school board with a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$42 million – \$3.8 million over the estimated price. Cost increases are in part a result of late start expenses (due to

delay of FEMA funds), which pushed groundbreaking into this unusually wet winter and led to increases in supply costs – especially fuel and building materials – and costs associated with obtaining LEED status. Prices last summer bid on 50% documents; as those details have been worked out, costs have increased. The project is still looking for cost savings. Some increase in cost will be offset by energy savings over time. The building is still on track to be first LEED Platinum Public K-12 in the nation.

This increase could delay the second building construction, so the design team is looking to incorporate science and art into the main building. The on-site home will possibly house Shop for the first year, as well as the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council. The district office might stay in its current location for the first year until demolition/deconstruction, and then may move to the on-site home. May 17, 2012 is the proposed construction finish date, and the school is still on scheduled to open in September, 2012. Tony Hyde said delaying construction of the second building will allow more time to find funding, bring more partners to the table, and allow use of deconstructed materials from the old schools.

Alissa Keny-Guyer noted that the VRSC had already transformed from the original concept of the stand-alone (second) building housing facilities and programs to now a set of programs and partnerships using the entire campus and surrounding community and natural spaces. Thus, the delayed construction of the second building does not hamper the progress of VRSC.

School board chair Jim Krahn expressed thanks on behalf of the board to Aaron Miller for his work for the forestry program for his leadership and direction in all of the VRSC programs.

Steve briefed the team on the wetlands and road projects. We have a really good relationship with the City of Vernonia on these issues. The wetlands Request for Proposal (RFP) goes out next week to enhance about 6 acres of wetlands at the mill site. The project will continue working with the City on basic rating permits, stock pile of soil, concrete – how to coordinate possible concrete crushing plant locally. Steve hopes that relationship with the city can continue to be positive. Sally brought to the attention of the group the Tender Blue Butterfly that needs the Kincaid Lupine to survive and please consider that when developing wetlands.

### **Private Campaign Update (Community)**

**John Donovan, Alissa Keny-Guyer**

John reported on the successful campaign committee meeting two weeks ago. Eric Friedenwald-Fishman, Alissa Keny-Guyer and Tom Kelly met with Meyer Memorial Trust CEO Doug Stamm, who invited us to submit a letter of interest (LOI). We will apply for \$1 million but know that is a stretch.

Alissa and Eric Friedenwald-Fishman met with Schnitzer CARE Foundation director Barb Hall, who invited the project to submit a proposal before the end of the month for \$100K. Sadly, CARE Foundation board member Howard Schnitzer passed away the following day.

Murdock Charitable Trust will do a site visit in June and will decide on our \$350K request in September.

Tom Kelly met with the general manager from Clear Channel, which operates several radio stations, including national talent John Tesh. Clear Channel has offered a promotional package

starting in late May through most of June to work on raising general awareness about Project Vernonia in preparation for our community campaign.

Kathye Beck, Director of United Way of Columbia County, will assist with a statewide community (small donor) campaign by collecting the donations. She has offered to go to the United Way Association to see if other United Ways in the state will help. Columbia-Willamette United Way has offered to see how they can be of help to the Columbia County United Way in this effort.

US Bank (via campaign committee member David Wynde) will host a breakfast for the Portland corporate and philanthropic community on June 9 at the Portland Center Stage Armory. Tom Kelly and Justin Delaney are contacting members on the Oregon Business Association contact list to invite to this cultivation event. A student from VHS will join David, Ken and Tony as speakers.

### **Federal/FEMA, Deconstruction**

### **Dan Brown**

Dan Brown reported that the first FEMA draw should be coming soon. Second draw for acquisition of property is being developed. Agreements will be in place. The county, city and schools are working through the process.

Rebuilding Center director Shane Endicott and Board Chair Craig Kelley met with Jim Tierney, Steve Effros, Ken Cox, Bill Haack, Tony Hyde, Alissa Keny-Guyer and Dan Brown on Friday, April 29. Details need to be worked out with to see if deconstruction can be done for a reasonable cost. We hope so because it is yet another way to model how to do things the right way: It is environmentally responsible by re-using all possible materials—reducing the carbon footprint; it can involve students in the process to teach them new skills and their town's history—as well as save money; it would hire local labor to provide income and teach local residents about an emerging industry. Sally Harrison added that it would create goodwill from the community who would like parts of the buildings to be reused out of nostalgia. Old growth timbers could be used in the second building. The Rebuilding Center will do a six-hour walk through of inventory in June and will then present a financial proposal.

### **Federal Updates:**

### **Jason Hitzert**

Our federal delegation is writing a joint letter of support relating to the biomass effort. Jason can forward information about a rural energy grant for rural or agricultural businesses. It will allow people to incorporate renewable resources into their business.

### **Community Projects**

### **Heather Lewis, Mayor Mitchell**

Heather Lewis reported that the Vernonia Prevention Coalition, St. Helens School District and Hands On Art will provide summer meals June 20-August 26 in Vernonia at the school district site. The City of Vernonia accepted the Rose Avenue project, so construction of the new health center will be able to move forward. Dr. Ann Barr of the Pacific University College of Health Occupations, Kelly Marks of PCC and Heather Lewis of the Vernonia Health Center Board will meet soon to discuss way to collaborate on health projects in local communities.

Mayor Mitchell noted that she will be appointed interim city administrator for the next 60 days since Bill Haack is leaving as city administrator. She regrets the turmoil and plans to run the ship

as professionally as possible. The Columbia County Emergency Management Director resigned and Bill Haack will be the new EM Director.

**Questions & Next Steps**

**Commissioner Tony Hyde**

Oregon Solutions steering committee meetings will shift to a quarterly schedule and will meet next year on the second Tuesday in September, January and April-or-May from 2-3:30pm. The VRSC will continue to meet 11:30am-1pm on the same days.

Adjourn: 3:08pm