



West Dowling Road Connection Project Agency Meeting

HDR Alaska, Inc.

Thursday, February 1, 2007, 11:00 am to 12:00 noon

Minutes

Attendees

Miriam McCulloch (DOT&PF), Tony Boneta (DOT&PF), Brian Elliott (DOT&PF), Dan Simpson (HDR), Laurie Cummings (HDR), Bob Butera (HDR), Melanie Baski (HDR), and Ed Weiss (DNR).

Discussion

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss OHMP's comments regarding Campbell Creek and the related bridge.

The OHMP's comments were a concern because HDR hydrologists recommended against performing any work in Campbell Creek. Ed felt that the rip rap from the current bridge needs to come out. He felt the bridge abutments are too close and can't be removed without disturbing the creek. Some type of streambank rehabilitation would also be necessary.

Bob asked what type of rehabilitation measures was OHMP thinking about?

Ed responded that he was thinking that the increased bridge opening should allow something to grow.

Bob answered that under a bridge, nothing will grow mostly due to the lack of rain and sun. Even by increasing the bridge clearance, vegetation won't grow under the bridge.

Bob mentioned that he doesn't want to remove the riffle that is currently in the creek. The riprap in the creek now is sort of natural; it's eroded, has moss, etc. so why replace it? He doesn't want to disturb what is there now.

Ed agreed that he doesn't want to see the riffle disturbed if that is what is controlling the upstream reach. He can see a case for leaving some of the riprap in place provided it is not a hindrance to fish passage. If it is left in place, some selective removal will likely be necessary in order to assure adequate fish passage. He will discuss the matter with ADF&G to determine if there is a known fish passage problem. He was concerned about a few statements in the EA such as the close proximity of the bridge abutments and the constriction channel. He would still like to see some streambank vegetation and no disturbance during construction.

Dan responded that the contractor would be required to use BMPs to ensure the stream wasn't disturbed.

Ed says that the waste concrete should probably go. There should be some selected removal. Coordination with Fish and Game should occur regarding which ones should be removed. A Fish Habitat Permit would be required for the removal of the waste concrete.

The discussion then turned to the bridge over Campbell Creek.

The bridge does not have the minimum 12 foot clearance identified in the EA nor the minimum 14 foot requested by OHMP. By having a bridge that is too low, moose are more likely to go over the road. Having more clearance on the trail may encourage moose to use the trail where they will mix with people. It is preferable to have them separate.

Dan explained some reasons why the bridge could not be raised; primarily additional park and ROW impacts. Cost is also a concern.

Ed asked what could be done to increase the clearance?

This was followed by a short discussion of some possible options including using girders with less depth and changing the bank elevation on the non-trail side of the creek.

Ed was interested in the possibility of looking at a combination of potential options. This included looking at thinner girders or a different bridge design, raising the road bed slightly, and reducing the land height under the bridge slightly in order to achieve the 14 foot clearance. If the bank elevation on the non-trail side of the creek was changed, he wasn't sure about what surface would be used. Vegetation would be preferred but if it won't grow under a bridge, another surface would have to be used. He was going to check into this issue.

Meeting Concluded at 12:15PM

Action Items

HDR will explore alternative bridge options.

HDR will explore lowering the non-trail side bank near the bridge abutment.

OHMP will be given additional time to comment on the EA after the information regarding the bridge is available (target date of Feb. 12).