

Army Engineer Reviews Plans for Dam

Howard Hogan of the dams and reservoir section of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla district, reviewed plans for the Willow Creek project in a talk before the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce April 21.

He said that budget cuts for Corps projects are expected this year. "We don't know how much we are going to end up with," he said. "Most of the reports are in the rumor stage. We have no definite information on cuts, but we do know that we will be short. We will analyze each project separately for the best use of the money."

Mayor Bill Collins, speaking prior to Hogan's talk, reported on the city's planning towards the Willow Creek project.

He said that in 1964 the city agreed to purchase 100 acre feet of water annually for municipal and industrial use at a total cost of \$72,000 to be repaid over a 50-year period.

Many Uses Seen
Mayor Collins said that this water could be used for such things as the cemetery, the high school grounds, the rodeo grounds, the grade school grounds and the city park without making demands on the city's supply from wells for domestic use.

He said he understood the city's obligation on rights of way for the project channel and relocation of utilities would total about \$10,500.

"We are going to try to budget \$2000 to \$3000 this year to start a sinking fund for the rights of way and utilities relocation," he said.

Hogan said that now that the Willow Creek project is authorized by Congress, the next step is to do the pre-construction planning, which establishes definite plans prior to construction. It would take approximately two years to do this planning, but construction could be started the third year. The dam would take two years to build, he said.

Reviewing the proposal for the project, Hogan said that the dam would be 155 feet high, and it would be 1700 feet across the top. It would require relocation of 1.5 miles of the Willow Creek road, 9 mile of the Balm Fork road, 1.75 miles of the city's 8-inch water line, and a new city reservoir.

Recreation Planned

In the way of recreation, potential development would include swimming, picnicking, boating, camping, and construction of boat launching ramps. Hogan said that main purposes of the dam include flood control, irrigation, water quality control, recreation, sports fishing and wildlife and industrial and municipal water supply.

Stream flow in the creek channel through town would be maintained at a level to take care of nuisance abatement.

It is figured that 21,000 fishing days and 750 duck hunting days would be included annually in the recreational use of the dam, among others.

Hogan pointed out the sites for recreational developments along the shores of the proposed lake, one going up Balm Fork and the other up the Willow Creek side.

He said that the life of the dam is figured at 100 years. Its total capacity would be 11,500 acre feet and 1300 acre feet would be allowed for providing for flash floods.

Hogan said that the city, in agreeing to take a share of the water, doesn't have to pay for it until it starts using it. However, it must be paid within a 50-year period. The first 10 years is free of interest, but thereafter interest must be paid.

Corps Maintains Channel

This project is different from many in that the Corps has agreed to maintain and operate the channel. Usually this is a local responsibility, Hogan said.

Recreational development will require local participation on costs of 50% under an act recently passed, he said. Local interests must also administer, operate and maintain the recreational areas.

In answer to a question, Hogan said that the Corps had requested the "full capability" on the project this year, about \$250,000. However, he said it presents these requests on authorized projects as a matter of routine. It has done this for several years without receiving an appropriation for pre-construction.

County Seeks FAS Funds To Improve Willow Route

Morrow county court is currently investigating the possibility of using Federal Aid Secondary highway funds, which have accumulated to its credit, for improving the Willow Creek highway (74). County Judge Paul Jones told directors of the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce on April 21.

He said that the county's accumulated credit on the state and federal funds could be as much as \$550,000. These are provided on a matching basis for county roads and bridge construction, but when used on county roads, the county must match the funds with 20% from the local source.

The judge expressed the thought that if the funds were used on the state highway, the county's matching would not be required.

The State Highway Department administers the FAS funds. The judge said that a state highway engineer would meet with the county court on Wednesday, May 7, to consider the matter.

Straightening is Goal
Under the plan being considered by the court, a large part of the funds would go to straightening and realigning bad spots on the Willow Creek highway to the junction with Highway I-80N. It would not go far towards complete rebuilding such as was done on three miles from Heppner towards Lexington several years ago.

The judge said that the plan of taking accumulated FAS funds to improve state highways within a county is not without precedent, since it was done in Crook county some time ago.

He said that the county court would not look with favor on using the entire \$550,000 for this purpose since it would want to reserve some for needed county road improvements. One such need, he said, is to oil the Willow Creek road from the end of the present surfaced road to Cutsforth Park.

The judge said that if the county used the FAS funds on the highway to the north there may be some possibility that it would encourage the State Highway Department to do some more badly needed work on its own.

Rebuilding Awaited
When the 3-mile section was rebuilt, it was understood that the highway, which retains most of its original construction of more than 40 years ago, would be rebuilt in similar sections, but nothing more has been done.

"It looks as if we are not going to get any more improvement on it this year," the judge said.

Director Gene Pierce said that one contestant at the week-end Cow Cutting contest, who came from southern Oregon, declared that the 40 miles from the interstate highway to Heppner was "longer" than the rest of his entire trip. The man was pulling a trailer with two horses and battled the twisting highway.

"He said he wouldn't be back

next year," Pierce said.

Director Ed Dick said that he felt the county should plan for funds in the future to surface the Shaw Creek Grade to link with the Western Route Road when it is built from Ukiah towards Condon in the future.

Directors agreed to authorize some funds for Judge Jones to go to Washington, D. C., in the interests of the Willow Creek project in late May. Cong. Al Ullman has requested that he be there to help put the case for the project to Congressional committees and other agencies.

Wranglers to See Movies of Court; Playday is Held

Monthly meeting of the Heppner Wranglers Riding club will be Tuesday, May 6, at the fairgrounds building, starting at 8:00 p.m.

Special feature of the program will be the showing of home movies by Mike Matthews of Ione. Films will be shown of various activities of the 1968 Rodeo Court, and their travels of the past summer, during the reign of Queen Berniece Matthews.

Next regular Spring Playday is announced for Sunday, May 18. There will be no playday events on May 11, in observance of Mother's Day.

Results of the Wrangler Playday races on Sunday, April 27, were as follows:

Barrel Racing—Six years and under: Tony Currin, 27.9; Jana Steagall, 29.6; Jo Lynn Daly, 34.0; Mary Brock, 34.9. Ages 7-9: Cindy Dougherty, 21.2; Janice Healy, 21.3; David Steagall, 21.9; Ron Currin, 22.1. Ages 10-12: Lisa Collins, 21.0; Mark Mecham, 21.9; Mary Healy, 24.1; Cindy Brock, 25.0. Ages 13-17: Marcia Jones, 18.2; Patti Healy, 18.8; Sherri Brock, 19.0; Mary Adair, 19.2. Ages 18 and over: Gail Malcom, 18.1; Beverly Steagall, 19.0; Cliff Adair, 19.4; Kite Healy, 20.8.

Pole Bending—Six years and under: Tony Currin, 34.0; Jana Steagall, 37.4; Jo Lynn Daly, 45.5; Mary Brock, 51.3. Ages 7-9: David Steagall, 26.4; Janice Healy, 27.3; Kyrnn Robinson, 28.2; Cindy Dougherty, 28.9. Ages 10-12: Mark Mecham, 28.2; Lisa Collins, 28.7; Mary Healy, 30.5; Michelle Evans, 32.0. Ages 13-17: Sherri Brock, 23.8; Kyle Robinson, 25.2; Sherry Kemp and Becky Fulleton (tie), 25.8. Ages 18 and over: Beverly Steagall, 24.2; Pat Dougherty, 26.4; Cliff Adair, 26.5; Kite Healy, 27.0.

Figure 8 Stake Race—Six years and under: Jana Steagall, 11.5; Jo Lynn Daly, 14.1; Mary Brock, 14.4; Tony Currin, 15.2. Ages 7-9: Janice Healy, 9.3; David Steagall, 9.4; Maureen Healy, 9.5; Ron Currin, 11.6. Ages 10-12: Lisa Collins, 9.9; Mary Healy, 10.4; Mark Mecham, 10.7; Mary Ann Greenup, 10.9. Ages 13-17: Patti Healy, 8.3; Kyle Robinson, 8.4; Sherri O'Brien and Becky Fulleton (tie), 8.6. Ages 18 and over: Roice Fulleton, 8.7; Beverly Steagall and Meryn Robinson (tie), 9.1; Cliff Adair and Kite Healy (tie), 9.2.

Ring Race—Ages 7-9: Janice Healy, 17.5; David Steagall, 19.0; Ron Currin and Maureen Healy (tie), 21.0. Ages 10-12: Lisa Collins, 16.3; Mark Mecham and Mary Healy (tie), 18.3; Mary Ann Greenup, 19.1. Ages 13-17: Craig Munkers, 12.8; Barry Munkers, 13.2; Becky Dougherty, 13.5; Susan Healy and Marcia Jones (tie), 13.9. Ages 18 and over: Jerry Dougherty, 13.3; Ken Howard, 14.9; Glen Mecham and Pat O'Brien (tie), 15.0.

Graduation Days Near for Seniors

It won't be long until commencement time for seniors in Morrow county high schools.

Heppner High school graduation will be on Sunday afternoon, May 25, at 2:30 in the high school gymnasium. This year, for the first time, commencement and baccalaureate programs at the school will be combined into one, it is announced.

Commencement at Riverside High school, Boardman, will be on Friday, May 23, at 8 p.m. At Ione High school, the graduation will be on Tuesday, May 27, at 8 p.m.

Baccalaureate for Riverside seniors will be Sunday, May 18, at 7 p.m. in the Boardman Community church, and for Ione, the baccalaureate will be Sunday, May 25, at 7 p.m.

Last day of school for all students, both high and elementary, will be Thursday, May 29.

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