

# Meeting Minutes - Swan River Bridge SC #5

**Date:** 10/12/2016

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Facilitator:** Wade Salyards / Kathy Harris

**Minutes CC:** Steering Committee, KLJ attendees,  
Wade Salyards

## Attending:

| Name                  | Organization                 | Phone Number | E-Mail   |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Wade Salyards         | MDT Consultant Design        | 406-444-0451 | <a href="mailto:wsalyards@mt.gov">wsalyards@mt.gov</a>                     |
| Shane Stack (Phone)   | MDT Missoula                 | 406-523-5830 | <a href="mailto:sstack@mt.gov">sstack@mt.gov</a>                           |
| Chris Hardan          | MDT Bridge                   | 406-444-9221 | <a href="mailto:chardan@mt.gov">chardan@mt.gov</a>                         |
| Pam Holmquist         | Flathead Co Commissioner     | 406-758-5508 | <a href="mailto:pholmquist@flathead.mt.gov">pholmquist@flathead.mt.gov</a> |
| Jed Fisher            | Flathead Co Parks & Rec      | 406-758-5805 | <a href="mailto:jedfisher@flathead.mt.gov">jedfisher@flathead.mt.gov</a>   |
| Walter Kuhn           | Citizen Representative       | 406-837-4550 | <a href="mailto:wkuhn@k-mmi.com">wkuhn@k-mmi.com</a>                       |
| Paul Mutascio         | CFBB, Citizen Representative | 406-261-1049 | <a href="mailto:pmutascio@centurytel.net">pmutascio@centurytel.net</a>     |
| Susan Hansen          | Citizen Representative       | 406-250-4685 | <a href="mailto:btrfly@montanasky.net">btrfly@montanasky.net</a>           |
| Kathy Harris          | KLJ                          | 406-441-5784 | <a href="mailto:kathy.harris@kljeng.com">kathy.harris@kljeng.com</a>       |
| Russ Lay (Phone)      | KLJ                          | 406-452-8600 | <a href="mailto:russ.lay@kljeng.com">russ.lay@kljeng.com</a>               |
| Steve Grabill (Phone) | KLJ                          | 406-441-5783 | <a href="mailto:Steve.grabill@kljeng.com">Steve.grabill@kljeng.com</a>     |
| William Meyers        | Bigfork Resident             |              |  |

Note: Action Items are shown below in italics.

## Agenda Topics

The fifth Steering Committee (SC) meeting was held on October 4, 2016 at 1:00 in the Kalispell Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) office to summarize the public input received since Public Meeting #2 and discuss next steps in the study process.

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions.** Wade Salyards opened the meeting with self-introductions.
- 2) **General Comments from the Public**
  - a) William "Bill" Meyers of 450 Grand Drive in Bigfork stated that there should be an eighth option, for a two-lane structure with steel girders and reusing the overhead truss. He felt the bridge needed to be replaced and agreed the community wants to maintain the look. He noted that modes of transportation have changed since early 1900's, when this bridge was built and population changes require modernization of the structure to a two-lane.

He was concerned with the ability of the bridge to accommodate emergency service vehicles/fire trucks. He said that during certain events, a one lane bridge would limit the ability to get people into or out of downtown during an emergency or if traffic were blocked

due to a traffic accident. He said he was mostly concerned with safety. He said cost and aesthetics are the next two issues that needed to be addressed. He talked about using either 10 foot or 12 foot lanes. He felt the two-lane option could be built within existing easements. He said Option 3 as a two-lane would be ideal. He felt that speed bumps could be installed to slow traffic down and a 5 mph speed zone should be installed.

County representatives were not in favor of speed bumps due to challenges with winter maintenance. After some further discussion, the meeting continued to cover items from the agenda.

### 3) Old Business

- a) Review SC Meeting #4 Minutes. There were no comments or changes to the meeting minutes.
- b) Review Public Meeting #2-Draft Memo. Kathy Harris summarized input received during and since the August 16, 2016 meeting. The meeting packet included a draft memo summarizing:
  - i) There was no support for four of the options (1,2,4,6).
  - ii) Option 3 received the most support, followed by Option 5 and Option 7.
  - iii) A bulleted list of comments condensed the written comments.
  - iv) There was a question on whether right of way would be required for a two lane option. Kathy responded that without design exceptions, the two lane option would require additional right of way.
  - v) There were no comments or changes to the meeting summary.
- c) The Steering Committee determined that the ratings (screening criteria rankings) should remain as is-and not be changed based on the written and verbal public comments.
- d) Feasibility Study Status - Kathy reviewed the project schedule and status of the feasibility study.

### 4) New Business

- a) **What more data needed for Committee?**
  - i) *KLJ will confirm with the fire chief (Mark Thiry) on the Bigfork Fire Department concerns or issues for the bridge, including response time, routes and one- or two-lane bridge.*
- b) **Bridge Memo #2 - Risk Analysis:** KLJ has been asked to address MDT's new Risk Analysis methodology. Public support will be one of the risks evaluated. KLJ and MDT will prepare the risk analysis and forward the results to the SC (Bridge Memo #2 via email) to obtain SC review and input at the next SC meeting.
- c) **Final Report Preparation:** KLJ will incorporate all information into a final report. It was suggested that the options could be listed in the report in order of preference by the SC.
- d) **Resource Agency Meeting:** A resource agency meeting has been scheduled for October 6, 2016 to discuss and/or identify regulatory or permitting concerns from regulatory agencies.

### 5) Schedule Next/Future Meetings:

- a) The next (sixth) SC meeting will review the Risk Assessment Memo (Bridge Memo #2) and was scheduled for November 16, 2016 in Kalispell. The need for a seventh meeting will be

determined then. The SC could develop their conclusions at this meeting, for presentation to the public.

- b) The SC discussed the merits and venue for another public meeting Pam said it was important to let people know what they are being asked to respond to. The SC discussed narrowing the options presented to the public to three (or a smaller number). Pam stated that the public will want to see approximate costs in today's dollars. The SC discussed the various unknown's and uncertainties for costs and generally supported additional costing information. The next report should incorporate the risk assessment and additional cost information (after the meeting, MDT and KLJ confirmed additional cost information will be focused on two or three options).
  - c) The next public meeting will tentatively be scheduled for the week of November 28, 2016.
    - i) The public needs to hear that the bridge will be shut down for one summer while it is under construction.
  - d) The SC discussed presenting the study results (from the SC) to the County Commission.
    - i) All three County Commissioners should be invited to the next public meeting.
    - ii) The County Commission would prefer a disk (CD) containing the Feasibility Study documents-for their review. If the SC desires, this can include the committee's recommendation or conclusions.
  - e) The County Commission will need to seek action (funding) from MDT for the next steps. MDT discussed the engineering funds could be programmed in the near future with engineering being completed in 2-3 years. Unfortunately, the funding for construction is not currently known.
- 6) General Comments**
- a) Bill Meyers reiterated his desire for an Option 8, which essentially was Option 3 as a two-lane bridge facility. He questioned why there was no picture version of the two-lane bridge. Walter Kuehn noted that the local representatives on the Steering Committee support the one-lane bridge. Kathy responded that this was considered from the engineering side. However, at the first and second public meetings, the public resoundingly pushed for the bridge to be a one-lane bridge. Therefore, KLJ decided to not develop a picture representation of the two-lane bridge option.

- END -

## Next Meeting Information

---

**Date:** 11/16/2016

**Facilitator:** Wade Salyards/Kathy Harris

**Time:** 1:00 - 4:00 PM