MEETING NOTES

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

MEETING NAME:	Historic Mitigation of EWEB's College Hill Reservoir
DATE/TIME:	Tuesday, September 12 from 2-3 p.m.
ATTENDEES:	Stakeholders; Historical Research Associates (HRA) staff: Natalie Perrin; EWEB Staff: Laura Farthing, Wallace McCollough, Karen Kelley, Kris Stenshoel, Mike Masters, Claire Wray

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NOTES:

Project Overview

An EWEB staff member provided a brief project overview. The presentation covered the need to replace historic reservoir resources with new, earthquake-resistant tanks. The presenter noted that the current reservoir structures cannot be retrofitted to meet seismic standards and confirmed that new storage must be built at this location due to its specific elevation of 607'.

Stakeholders

An EWEB staff member presented the list of invited stakeholders and asked if there are others who should be included. A participant suggested EWEB invite: 1) UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History and 2) UO Historic Preservation Program.

Brainstorming

A stakeholder emphasized that SHPO wants historic mitigation to be a stakeholder-driven process; SHPO will then memorialize the process and mitigation in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). They emphasized that SHPO sees mitigation as a three-step approach: 1) documentation of the resource; 2) making that documentation available to the public; and 3) ensuring the mitigation is commensurate with the impact. They suggested that the **WPA/PWA history be considered as part of the mitigation strategy**. The stakeholder then mentioned a few creative mitigation strategies this group might consider. Ideas included: **Storymaps,** which show the project location and history and suggested this method could be used for College Hill and perhaps expanded to show other areas of the water system; 2) **Digitization of records,** which includes scanning of photos and other project assets and posting them online; the Northwest Heritage Hub is a potential platform; 3) **Presenting at a conference** like the Oregon Heritage Conference to share information on resources and mitigation approach with broad audience of historical societies, museums, etc.

A stakeholder suggested that **indigenous design elements** could be incorporated into the

mitigation in the form of artwork, to help express indigenous history specific to the resources (i.e., utilizing the chevron pattern, a symbol for water, that was sometimes incorporated into basketry of the Willamette valley). Indigenous symbols and artwork could also be integrated into the design of a project website or other mitigation product. Related to the catacombs and fallout shelter, the stakeholder suggested that **digital photogrammetry** could be a good option. This method scans a building interior, and the resulting imagery is used to simulate the space virtually. Users could explore the inside using VR software. Related to general education, the stakeholder praised the entrance area to the McKenzie River Ranger District. There is a map and info station in the entry that is engaging and informative. They encouraged EWEB to consider something similar at headquarters.

An EWEB staff member said that EWEB's headquarters is not open to the public. However, the staff member said EWEB has developed a **history book** related to water resources that might be a good reference during this process.

A stakeholder brought up the idea of developing an educational piece about the **evolution of water use in the area over time**. The piece could start with how indigenous people engaged with water and how water was transported and moved and how that evolved over time. The stakeholder suggested that the piece could cover how water moves from the McKenzie through the city.

Three EWEB staff members voiced support for the water system evolution idea. They added that the expansion of the water system could be mapped to the expansion of the city itself and industry, which captures important significance of the advancements in water system design. They were enthusiastic about the idea of showing how water storage and transport evolved from indigenous times to now.

A stakeholder mentioned that there is not much of a parallel in terms of indigenous water transport/storage. The stakeholder said indigenous people were connected to the land and lived in places with ready access to water resources ("seasonal round"), so they did not need to gather and store water but rather utilize water as it was needed. This stakeholder also mentioned one more potential approach. This could be a smart phone game. There is a version that kids and young adults can take on hikes that prompts them to be aware of their surroundings. E.g., in spots where Oak Savannah is present, the app will ask "How many Oaks do you see around you?" It is a nice way to raise interest and awareness in surroundings. [The stakeholder later provided a link to the Adventure Labs app, and specifically the Columbia Springs "Follow the Salmon" adventure game: https://labs.geocaching.com/goto/6f9a2fed-d928-405c-90ff-254ae2d96a56.]

The team thanked attendees for their ideas. The team added that the next step was holding a public meeting and gathering other ideas via a community survey. All that input will be used to develop an initial mitigation proposal that we will share later this fall.

The meeting was adjourned.