



MEETING NOTES

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

MEETING NAME: Historic Mitigation of EWEB's College Hill Reservoir

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, October 24 from 9-9:45 a.m.

ATTENDEES: Stakeholders from the UO Historic Preservation Program and UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History; Natalie Perrin of Historical Research Associates (HRA); EWEB Staff: Laura Farthing, Jennifer Connors, Claire Wray

NOTES:

Project Background and Overview

Representatives from EWEB and HRA provided an overview of the historic mitigation work done to date, including the initial stakeholder meeting, public meeting, and community survey. The team then provided a brief project overview covering the elements of the College Hill Reservoir System and why they are significant under Criterion A.

Discussion

A stakeholder asked what historic mitigation options were suggested during the first stakeholder meeting. The team referenced the meeting notes from that session and briefly touched on each major suggestion. The stakeholder expressed interest in the idea of exploring the **evolution of water in the region** as part of the mitigation. The stakeholder mentioned a book called "Allen Eaton: Dean of American Crafts" by David B. Van Dommelen that talks about the important transition from private to public ownership of water assets and how that helped curb the spread of water borne illnesses in Eugene in the early 1900s.

A stakeholder asked if **interpretive panels** were being considered. The team said the public expressed mild interest in panels but were also concerned about potential vandalism, so the option is still being evaluated.

A stakeholder asked if a **hardscape** was being considered as part of the project. The team said those decisions would be made under a separate landscaping planning effort starting next year. We confirmed we would solicit public input to help inform the approach for shared spaces not occupied by water storage tanks.

A stakeholder asked if **Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation** was being considered. The team said the reservoir is already very well documented in drawings, photographs, and records, so this will likely be unnecessary.

A stakeholder asked what historic mitigation was done with Mt. Tabor and Mt. Washington reservoirs in Portland and if those projects were relevant to this effort. The team said there are key differences in the asset types (the reservoirs were uncovered in Portland; they are covered at College Hill). There is also a big discrepancy in budget. The Portland projects were over \$200 million, while the College Hill project is budgeted at \$24 million. Keeping project costs low for all ratepayers in Eugene is a core value of EWEB and goal for this project.

A stakeholder again expressed support about somehow memorializing the **evolution of water in the region** as part of the mitigation. Another stakeholder said the City of Eugene attempted to create a water-related exhibit as part of a 5th Street Market expansion project, but that they struggled to find records with historical context. The team confirmed that EWEB has ample documentation of historic water system assets to inform an evolution of water piece.

The team asked the stakeholders if they could envision **engaging students** in this historic mitigation process. The idea would be to provide a hands-on learning experience for historic mitigation using a real-world example. This could help build local historic mitigation capacity and enrich the process for this project.

A stakeholder mentioned a different UO professor who is standing up a new program around Cultural Resources Management (CRM). The stakeholder also mentioned that there will be a spring class around historic preservation. The team said that depending on the timeline, the students could either sit in on mitigation meetings or the team could potentially present the project as a case study to students. The team agreed to continue the conversation over email.

The meeting was adjourned.