

APPENDIX H: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Series of Meetings - Dickenson County
Haysi Meeting



APPENDIX H: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – SERIES OF MEETINGS

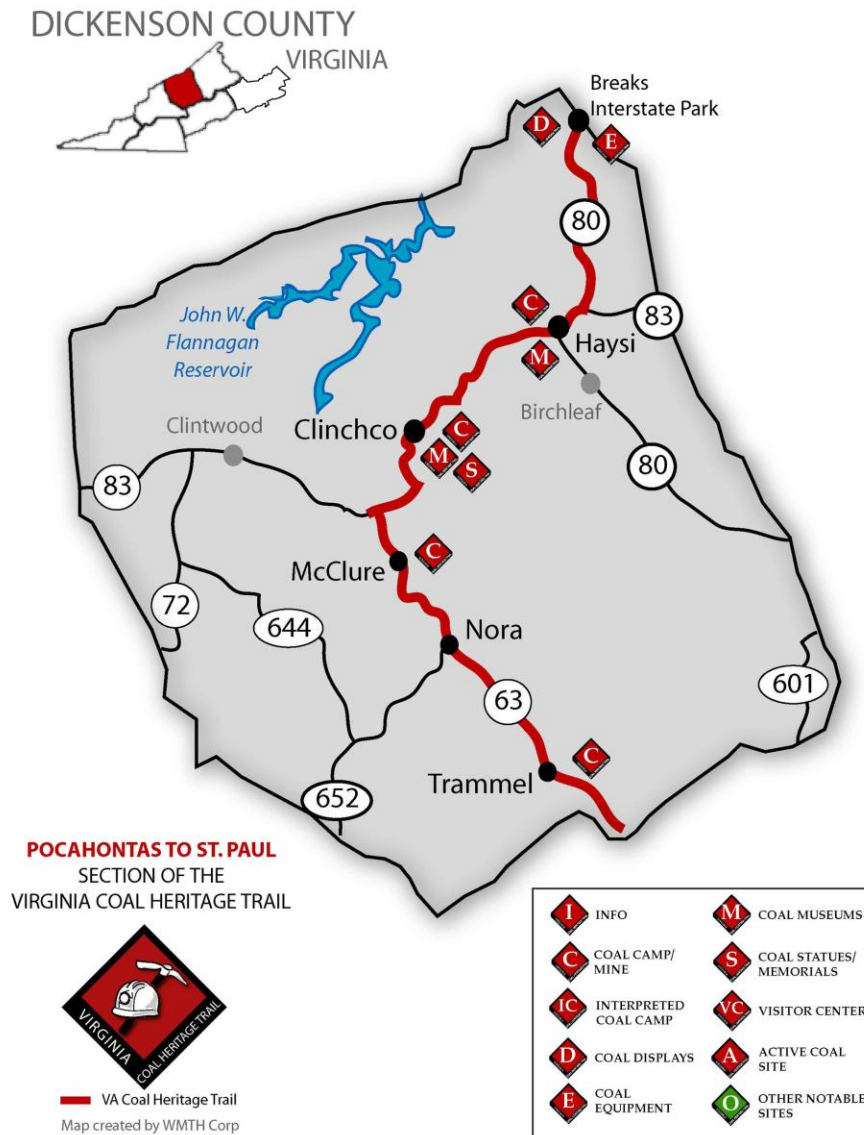
Virginia Coal Heritage Trail Corridor Management Plan Meeting
 in Haysi on the Dickenson County portions of the Pocahontas Trail
 September 23rd 2010 at 6:00 pm

Attendees:

- Kate Owens, Haysi
- Wade Rose, Dickenson Star and Coalfield Progress
- Matt & Jordan Owens, Belcher Insurance
- Charlotte Mullins
- David Yates,
- Rita Surratt, Dickenson County Chamber and Virginia Coal Heritage Trail Advisory Committee
- Dennis Reedy, Historian & Museum Curator
- Dreama & Earl Latherow, McClure
- Loyall & Sophia Hay, Haysi
- Larry D. Yates, Mayor of Haysi



Below is the section of the Byway discussed in the Dickenson County meeting.
 Primary coal sites are noted on the map.





APPENDIX H: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Series of Meetings - Dickenson County Haysi Meeting

As one enters Dickenson County from Buchanan, just past Breaks Interstate Park, there is a pull-off that includes a “Dickenson County” welcome sign, an interpretive sign for the Crooked Road Music Trail which starts at this location, and a tourist information kiosk.



Please Note: The Kiosk will be an excellent location to feature a map of the Coal Heritage Trail along with brochures and information about the byway.



There is also a walking trail down to Mill Rock Point Overlook, a breathtaking view overlooking the site where many millstones were carved out of the layered sandstone found at its base.

Haysi:

- Foundation remains next to the New People’s Bank in Haysi of Splashdam Lumber Company
- The Italians cut the stone for the building just past town hall.
- There are rock carvings above Haysi. *Need to find out more.*
 - *Recommendation: Use the pavilion to provide interpretive displays describing the lumber camps, Splashdam Coal Camp, and the multiple floods in this area. Also include a list of the businesses that have stayed despite the flooding.*



Downtown Haysi



Pavilion overlooking the river

Splashdam:

- Splashdam Coal Camp once included a company store, church/school, barber shop, community center. *(Dave Yates is looking for photo of Splashdam camp)*
- Row of houses along the river then two more rows up the side of the hillside.
- A number of low water bridges and a railroad trestle.
- Gas explosion in '32 killed ten people.



Splashdam Mine #6

APPENDIX H: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Series of Meetings - Dickenson County
Haysi Meeting



IMMEDIATE ACTION:
Efforts should be made immediately to purchase these items and keep them in the area.

The Coal Trail Railroad Museum & Red Caboose B&B provide wonderful information on both rail and coal as well as a unique lodging experience. But both are in the process of being closed. Items in the museum are already being sold and the Red Caboose B&B is currently open but if an offer is made to purchase the cars, it too will close. This would be a tremendous loss to the region and, in particular to the Byway itself. Action should be taken immediately or both will experience a similar fate as the Dennis Reedy Coal Museum as noted below.

Steinman:

- Located 1 mile before Clinchco, the Steinman Camp had a bucket line in which the mine was high up on the mountain. The crews would fill up buckets and send them down the cable and across the river to the tippel. Sometimes they would put a man in the buckets to grease the cables. Was that ever a site to see.

Recommendation: An interpretive sign needs to be added either at the site or a site nearby providing photos and telling the story.



Coal Museum now closed

Clinchco:

- Dennis Reedy Coal Museum in the original post office now closed and all sold on Ebay. This is a terrible loss for the Byway.
- The mines brought in workers from all over the world including Italian, Portugese, and Germans.
- Old Post Office, also used as the Coal Company offices, still stands but barely. It recently sold at auction.
- There is an oven the Italians used to bake bread behind a home in Clinchco. Two beehive ovens are buried nearby.



Clinchco Company Offices

- The Appalshop in Whitesburg has interview video on Clinchco completed a number of years ago.

New Camp:

- New Camp – Old mining camp built in the early 20's. Excellent example of coal camp homes. Railroad house of the Depot agent also remains.
 - Recommendation: Interpretation of this mining community should be added. Ample room for pull-off and interpretive sign.
- Just past New Camp is a railroad tunnel on the left. This needs a coal heritage site location sign drawing people to look to the left.
 - May need some vegetation cleared periodically to ensure visibility of the tunnel.



APPENDIX H: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Series of Meetings - Dickenson County Haysi Meeting

- Riverside Grocery Store – Owned by the Molinary boys
- Three generations of the Molinary's, an Italian family, owned the Store.
- The store has everything and is a must stop along the route.
- Prior to this, it was the 3rd Piggly Wiggly built in Virginia. *The first was Kenny's Piggly Wiggly in Wise and the second was the Piggly Wiggly in Norton.*
- Miners often paid in silver dollars – Stories of bringing bags of payroll by train and having the bags split as they were unloaded due to the sheer weight of the coins.



- *Recommendation: Ask the Molinary's if some interpretive information might be located at the Riverside Grocery which includes photos of the old store and all the other businesses that once were located nearby.*
- This community also had the 1st television store in the region, 2 car dealerships, a hardware store, restaurant with pool hall in the basement.
- Just past the store and around the bend is an excellent example of a swinging bridge. There were once many that crossed the river. Excellent location for interpretive information on the swinging bridges with photos of some that still exist along the route and their locations. Ample pull off to park and take photos.
 - *Recommendation: Ask if we might add interpretive sign at this location.*



McClure:

- In McClure, The old Binns Conts Community Center which opened in the 80's was considered neutral territory during the strikes in the 80's. Miners used it as their base. During the strike, one of the sisters was arrested when she was only delivering food and water to one of the miners? Check on story.
- McClure Mine 1 exploded in the early 80's killing 10 people including the first woman miner to be killed. *Can one take the 1 mile hike up to the mine, and if they do, is there anything to see?*
- Photos of both the strike and Cat, the first woman miner to be killed are located in building which is now being used as the McClure River Valley Development Center.
 - Recommendation: This should be a site on the tour to interpret the strikes taking place in the 70's and 80's.
 - Contacts: Gay (276)835-8774, Mary, Loyall Hay (276)865-4959 **NOTE: Call Loyall on upcoming meeting in Buchanan**
- McClure was also the home to the Ritter Circle Lumber Supply Company.
 - The entire region is rich in logging history. Could be a location to tell the story of before the railroad, logs were cut and sent down the river to Elkhorn and Catlynburg.
 - A few of the logging towns included Haysi, Bartlick and McClure.
 - Interesting stories of how they held the logs back by a dam then opened the dam (often dynamiting it) to release the logs and send them down river where they were caught in Elkhorn and loaded on the trains.
 - Contact: Carl Rose on history of the lumber.

APPENDIX H: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Series of Meetings - Dickenson County
Haysi Meeting



Stratton:

- The Stratton Mining Camp was a mile past McClure but not much remains.
- Past Stratton were the Nora and the Wakenva mining camps.

Fremont:

- Fremont Railroad Depot was moved from its original location and has now been converted into the PSA office.
Interpretive sign?
- Also believe there is a sign Fremont Company sign nearby.



The Fremont Depot

Trammel:

- A coal mining town that was built by the Virginia Banner Coal Corporation in 1917
- Entire town was sold at auction. Many of the coal miners bought back their homes at that time. Still remaining are numerous coal camp homes, the Coal Company Store, Superintendent's home, and boarding house.



This area has the potential to be renovated. Wait much longer and the buildings will no longer be standing. Highly recommend preserving and interpreting this coal camp.

- Also site of the last spike laid on the Clinchfield Railroad in 1915 – Dennis Reedy may have more on this.
 - Spearheading efforts to save community - contact Charlotte Mullins
- *Recommendation of people to interview about the region for oral history:*
 - *Dennis Reedy*
 - *Annetta Belcher (276)865-5401*
 - *Mary and Gay in McClure about the strikes in the 80's*
- Cultural: The many coal company plays that were put on throughout the mountains.