

RROMAC MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2005

ATTENDANCE:

Members:

James Burns
Robert Ewers
Keith Fishback
Don Logan
Wendy Mortensen
Gary Virgin
Dave Vanasche
Lars Wahlstrom

Staff:

Dave Schamp
Kathy Lehtola
Victoria Saager
Keith Lewis
Greg Clemmons
Stacia Sheelar
Bob Morast
Greg Miller
Todd Watkins

Absent:

Mark Bauer
Eldon Jossi
Adam Mayer
Joe Rutledge

Guests:

Senator Bruce Starr

Welcome

Gary Virgin called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. and started introductions. May minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion to approve by Wendy Mortensen and seconded by Don Logan and all were in favor.

Senator Bruce Starr attended and the committee briefed him on several issues. Those issues follow:

Dave Vanasche talked about the increased traffic on Wren Road and increased speeds 55-65+, curves, hills, trees, etc. Farm equipment needs to travel slower and if they get off the road, they have a very difficult time getting back on the road. The traffic is commuter, cut-through traffic, not local. Bob Morast said that the state will not reduce speeds and the county doesn't have the authority.

There have been numerous accidents on Clark Hill, and at the intersection on Susbauer and Wren.

Gary Virgin feels that traffic is not being controlled, but being responded to.

Greg Miller said to change the speed there needs to be a speed study and then the State Traffic Engineer can make a recommendation. There are two options. Rebuild the road or ask the state to do a speed zone study. Senator Starr thought that enforcement would be an issue.

Keith Fishback said the perception for most drivers is they can go 10 mph over the posted speed without a ticket.

Dave Vanasche said that Susbauer Road is 45 mph heading out of Cornelius and should be 45 mph all the way to the Zion Church but it goes back to basic rule.

Gary Virgin said that Clark Hill has a lot of truck traffic and the sight distance is compromised with such fast speeds.

Bill Ewers drove Clark Hill and was concerned about the speeds especially once you get up into the trees and you meet a dump truck.

Senator Starr asked if it was possible to identify commuter roads and with state help, widen and stripe them. Keith Fishback mentioned that funding was a big issue.

Dave Vanasche says that the bigger issue is population. He suggested that counties over a certain population set their own speed limits. Senator Starr asked Dave Vanasche if other farm bureaus are experiencing the same thing. Kathy Lehtola suggested that counties be authorized to impose their own speeds, but not mandated to do so.

Greg Miller reminded the committee that other constituents want the speeds increased. Increasing the speeds is a political decision that the Board of County Commissioners may not want to take on.

Bill Ewers asked why the signs don't say "Speed Limit". They just have a suggested speed.

Don Logan said that Dixie Mountain Road is a shortcut from Hwy 26 to Hwy 30. The problem is population. Scappoose is building 450 more new homes. Cornelius Pass will eventually be a freeway. There have been 23 trucks overturned, blocked the road, or spilled their load on Dixie Mountain in recent months.

Senator Starr asked if anyone has looked into improving Cornelius Pass. Cornelius Pass is in both Washington and Multnomah counties.

Bill Ewers mentioned the Hwy 219 project at Grabel Road. The overlay is terrible and it's done in five sections. Bill suggested a merge lane since there is a lot of farm traffic.

Dave Vanasche suggested public education on agricultural areas, watching for "triangle signs". Maybe a handout on farm equipment. Something added to the driver's manual.

Senator Starr said he would check with DMV to see how often the manual is updated. Greg Miller said education should be statewide.

Senator Starr said that population growth, very little improvements in our infrastructure are all issues. If we were to increase the gas tax now it would take 5+ years to get the first projects completed.

Wendy Mortensen said that speed is the concern. That's what needs to be addressed. What about 45 mph in all agricultural areas? Senator Starr said that would not pass the legislature. The best option is to give authority to the local agencies to regulate speed. The BCC would make that decision. There is a better chance legislatively with that option. Senator will talk to people in Salem.

Kathy Lehtola asked the staff to study the difference between speed limit and suggested speed.

Gary Virgin said to bypass the environmental rules and quit taking money off the top. "Streamline the environmental process". Gary was reminded that the environmental groups are very vocal and well organized.

Bob Morast mentioned that the flashing light on the stop ahead sign on Clark Hill approaching Farmington has been installed. Material for the rumble strips has been ordered. Red post covers for selected regulatory signs are being installed. There are plans to install auxiliary flashers over the Farmington and Clark Hill intersection. They are waiting for materials.

Gary Virgin expressed his appreciation for the quick response from the county on safety issues at Clark Hill and Farmington.

Dave Vanasche suggests that a stop sign be added at Wren and Leisy.

UPDATE OVERDIMENSIONAL LENGTHS

Todd Watkins said that length restrictions do not currently exist, but they should. Dave Schamp suggested forming a subcommittee. Keith Fishback and Don Logan were interested. Eldon Jossi's name was also suggested. Todd will work with the subcommittee before mid-October.

CULVERT PROJECT UPDATE

Information sheet on all 12 culvert replacements was handed out. A copy is attached.

Bill Ewers asked why the Burkhalter culvert was being replaced after the overlay. Dave Vanasche also asked if we had checked the existing culvert on Leisy Road. It appears to be rusting. Keith Lewis and Greg Clemmons checked it and agreed it was rusting. Dave Vanasche asked why we couldn't use double wall plastic or concrete culverts. Greg

Miller said the reluctance to use the ADS pipe has been that CWS uses it for urban drainage issues and don't like it, but he will look at going to the Board to change the ordinance. May want to use for shallow installations.

WORK PROGRAM UPDATE

Dave Schamp let the committee know that the work program is at the printer and should be approved by the Board on June 28.

Budget 05-06 should also be adopted at that time.

UPDATE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Work program is on line. Road closure notice samples and ditch maintenance samples were handed out. Copies are attached.

MISCELLANEOUS

Greg Clemmons followed up with Glen Walters Nursery about their trucks traveling over the centerline and they will be more aware.

Bob Morast will be meeting with the state on site at Susbauer Road. Gary Virgin and Dave Vanasche would like to attend.

Thank you to the staff for inviting Senator Bruce Starr, Kathy Lehtola and Greg Miller.

Keith Fishback motioned to adjourn the meeting and Bill Ewers seconded the motion.

NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA

Truck traffic on Dixie Mountain Road
Yield signs on Narup

AUGUST AGENDA

Grading permit vs. Type II notice – Bill Ewers