



**RURAL ROADS OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Unapproved Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of November 4, 2021**



MINUTES

Members Present:

Loren Behrman	Kristine Kennedy	Matt Pihl
Marc Farrar	Dave McCoy	
Mike Jamieson	Dan Morgan	

Members Absent:

Denny Hruby	Doug Riedweg
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County Staff and Commissioners Present:

Aaron Clodfelter	Keith Lewis	Ken Schlegel
Melissa DeLyser	Sherri McFall	Todd Watkins
Deanna Kurtzbein	Michael Nemeyer	Commissioner Jerry Willey

Guests:

Lars Wahlstrom

1. Welcome, Introductions and Approval of September 2021 Minutes

Chair McCoy called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m. He welcomed members and staff.

Member Pihl requested the minutes be changed as follows: Remove the double negative in the sentence at the top of page three. Change Pottratz to Pongratz in the middle of page three.

Member Jamieson requested the minutes be changed as follows: Correct the tense with the word “accomplish” at the bottom of page two.

Member Farrar moved to amend and approve the September 2021 minutes. Member Behrman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Guest Comments

There were no guest comments

3. Emergency Management Update

Ken Schlegel, LUT Emergency Management Coordinator, shared an update. He indicated that over the last couple of years, the County has been working with the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) to update Emergency Transportation Routes (ETR), maps and systems. He shared the webpage to show results of the project: <https://rdpo.net/emergency-transportation-routes> and shared that RDPO began this project back in 2019 to update ETRs throughout the region. He stated that Washington County and all cities within it participated to review and validate existing ETR’s, add new ones, and delete those

that no longer met the criteria. At the end of Phase One (this phase), they made several presentations showing what the deliverables were and what went into assessing the ETR's. Several new routes were added. This information is available to all the cities and open to the public as well. Tables display statistic data including bridges, landslides and overlay the risks where the routes go through. Ken shared that Todd is currently working on a project assessing bridges for seismic availability and will probably share that information with you in the future. He highlighted the section on earthquake resiliency and susceptibility to liquefaction during an earthquake.

Phase Two of the project has been funded with another grant and is ready to begin. It will involve taking information from Phase One and tiering the routes, prioritizing locally, and also Identifying more infrastructure, more buildings and critical facilities along the transportation routes; essentially adding more information to what already exists. Washington County is doing a good job of identifying the routes, with not much change over time compared to other counties. ETR is published and is available.

Not related to ETR, Ken is also working on the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Project. Every five years Washington County has to go through a review process of our FEMA authorized and Emergency Management authorized Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan identifies natural hazards faced by the county, such as winter storms, windstorms, ice storms, flooding, volcanic ash, earthquake, etc. Taking those hazards, he identifies what is at risk within our critical infrastructure and key resources such as roads, bridges, wastewater treatment plants, watershed, communications systems, Emergency Operations Center, etc. Then they identify how to mitigate the risks when natural disasters happen, so there is less of an impact and quicker recovery. Washington County has some roads and bridges that are susceptible to landslides and earthquakes. Identifying these structures can allow them to be added to a list for mitigation actions; and makes Washington County eligible to apply for FEMA funding through their Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities Program (BRIC). Ken is working with Aaron, Todd, and other leaders to identify which external/internal strategies and funding to use. The current plan Washington County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, dated 2017, can be found at this link: <https://www.co.washington.or.us/EmergencyManagement/upload/WashCo-NHMP-2017-Plan-Summary.pdf>.

Member Pihl asked if there are ever case studies done on entities that previously had a catastrophic event and how their plans worked. Ken responded that there are. Part of the review process includes case studies, such as earthquakes in California and a flooding event in Colorado, as examples. The information from these events helps them incorporate lessons learned into the plan.

Member Jamieson asked about stream/water level monitoring. Ken said there are mitigation actions in the current Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan to address stream level monitoring by Clean Water Services. There are multiple agencies that monitor water levels and emergency management has links to the National Weather Service rain gauges. We are connected into other systems in the event of an emergency, so we can get a jump on flood responses.

Member Morgan asked about practice sessions and is there an order in which a hazard would be responded to first. Ken responded that they must face emergencies that are in front of them. The most common and frequent are windstorms and winter storms. Operations looks ahead a couple of months and anticipates needs. Training and practicing are done on a daily basis, and doing so it allows quicker response in the event

of an actual emergency. There is an exercise on the books for June involving Washington County and FEMA Region 10 for disaster response and damage assessment. Ken and Aaron are discussing how to participate.

Member Willey asked if Ken could possibly present this to city councils. Ken will be providing a link to the presentation he referenced earlier and is willing to participate remotely, as needed. January would be the soonest.

4. 2022 Committee Officers Pre-election Discussion

Sherri shared that there has been interest from committee members to form guidelines and structure regarding committee organizational and election practices. One member recommended a subcommittee be formed to discuss rules of elections and engagement for committee officers. Sherri asked if that was an interest for the committee and if so, asked for a volunteer to chair the subcommittee. Meetings would be held prior to the next RROMAC meeting. Member Behrman volunteered. Suggestions were made, including one from Member Jamieson that the Chair position be for two years (eight meetings). Also suggested was that since the committee would be meeting quarterly, they could rotate the chair position to give each member an opportunity. Todd mentioned that currently terms expire at the end of the calendar year, and the bylaws state that a Chair and Vice-Chair must be elected at the first meeting in January.

Member Morgan and Member Farrar volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Sherri stipulated that they meet twice before the RROMAC meeting on January 13 and bring their recommendations back to the January meeting. Sherri will facilitate these meetings.

Todd said that historically, URMDAC and RROMAC practices have mirrored one another, with some similarities and some differences. Right now, URMDAC is considering a change where their terms start in October and end in September.

5. Winter Forecast

Keith Lewis addressed this topic and shared winter forecast information from the Cooperative Public Agencies of Washington County (CPAWC). There is a good chance that most of our winter will be cooler than normal, with above average seasonal precipitation, progressing into a colder, wetter winter. This information can be found here:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f4fe4f812b27206a99b6731/t/61784e30e9f63a4db7bf944c/1635274318508/2021+PQR+Winter+Seasonal+Outlook+WashingtonCounty.pdf>.

Keith shared that the County's new magnesium chloride facility has been in place for a year. It has increased capacity by 6000 gallons. The County's magnesium chloride application is more conservative in both application rate and application time than ODOT's. We must have the right conditions and apply at the right time to be conservative and avoid waste. An application can last up to two weeks if the weather conditions are right. Last year we applied product to an additional 30% of Washington County's road miles. There are plans for another vehicle and some upgraded tanks to increase response efficiency. The sand shed is stocked and full, with a little over 3000 tons available for application. The County does not use salt, and has no plans to in the future. Available equipment includes six full size sanders and plows, as well as dump trucks. There are three road graders but we try not to use them on the major roads except in the event of a major storm. There are four Ford F450 trucks with small plows available to assist the large plows and sanders. There is also a small sander and under-tail gate sander to go with the dump trucks. A change to Barnes Rd has occurred: the center median on the grade has been removed in the snow zone to help our plowing and sanding

operations. There are three designated Snow Zones in the County, all identified by signage and remotely activated from our traffic operations center. They are:

- Barnes Road from 118th Ave east to the County line, adjacent to a City of Portland snow zone
- 175th Avenue from Scholls Ferry Rd to Rigert Rd
- Cornell Rd from Cedar Hills Blvd east to the County line

He reminded members that WC-Roads (<https://wc-roads.com/>) has the latest up to date information and recommends visiting the site to find out the latest weather and road conditions.

Melissa DeLyser informed the group that last year the County translated the snow zone information into Spanish and translated media releases as well as other information into Spanish. They have created a template for as many road emergency scenarios as possible in both English and Spanish for future use.

6. Round Table -

Member Jamieson described a truck crew with massive GPS equipment that he observed on the road, assessing gravel road signage and condition, and asked what they were doing. Todd shared that they were contracted by the County to collect information on county road assets. Traffic Engineering is spearheading the project, collecting information on signs, striping, shoulders, ditches, and guardrails; and using photos and Lidar to collect data for computer analysis. The results will be shared in the future.

Member Morgan mentioned NW Davis Ln and NW Harrington (that extends from Milne to Gordon to Vadis). All three roads exist on GIS system, but do not exist in reality. Aaron would need to look into this. Member Morgan will provide information to Aaron to assist with investigating this. Todd Watkins shared his screen to give the committee a visual of what Member Morgan was talking about.

Sherri recognized Matt Pihl's contribution to the committee, as this is his last meeting; his term ends December 31st.

Member Jamieson asked whether there is flexibility in the terms for committee members with expiring terms. Sherri shared that the County encourages committees to follow the bylaws, unless provided otherwise by the Board. She explained that one purpose of the term limits is to allow as many people as possible the opportunity to participate as a member of a committee. Member Jamieson asked who brings exceptions to the Board. Todd explained that anyone can apply for a new position on the boards and commissions webpage (<https://washco.granicus.com/boards/w/b7ebe19be8d33a24>). When a new application is received, the committee liaison – which for RROMAC is Sherri McFall - receives notification of the application via email. Current committee members interested in continuing to serve beyond their term expiration can express their interest to Sherri. It's not necessary for sitting committee members to reapply. The number of eligible applicants is what determines whether a sitting member with expiring term can retain their position. A recommendation would be made to allow someone new to fill the vacancy if there are multiple applicants. A sitting committee member needs to indicate their interest to their liaison; it is not automatic. If there is no one else applying for the vacancy, then it can be recommended that the sitting committee member continue for another term. The Board would make the final decision.

7. Meeting wrap-up

Sherri McFall reviewed upcoming January agenda topics and asked for any additions. No additions were offered. She asked members to contact her with topics that they feel should be discussed in January.

Topics for upcoming meetings:

- Anticipated Projects for Capital Projects – early 2022
- Asset Management update – early 2022
- Elections Subcommittee results - January

8. Adjournment

Chair McCoy asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Farrar moved. Member Berhman seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

Next meeting: January 13, 2022, at 7:30 a.m.
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