



# WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

## RROMAC MEETING MINUTES January 17, 2013

**The purpose of RROMAC is to study rural road operations and maintenance concerns in Washington County, work with County staff to develop program and funding alternatives and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.**

Members: Mike Chombeau  
Robert Ewers  
Denny Hruby  
John Malnerich  
Jim McCulloch  
Matt Pihl  
Doug Riedweg  
Dave Sweeney  
Gary Virgin  
Lars Wahlstrom

Staff: Shelley Oylear  
Victoria Saager  
Dave Schamp  
Stacia Sheelar  
Andrew Singelakis  
Gary Stockhoff

Absent Tom Duyck  
Eldon Jossi

Guests Larry Virgin  
Larry McKinley, ODOT  
Kelvin Kohanes, ODOT

### Welcome

Bill Ewers called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Gary Virgin motioned to approve the December minutes, Jim McCulloch seconded the motion. Minutes were approved. Dave Schamp introduced Andrew Singelakis, Director of Land Use and Transportation.

### Guest Comments

None

### Engineering and Construction Services Update

Gary Stockhoff provided an update on Engineering and Construction Services projects:

- Bethany – underway, traffic shifted to the west side, also the overpass, 25 mph.
- Cornelius Pass – open now, 25 mph strictly enforced (double fines), two lanes have been open since December 31, making progress, will finish paving as soon as weather allows.

- Dealing with Intel and the City of Hillsboro to coordinate Intel projects. All buildings they announced in October are now going through the permitting process.
- Boones Ferry – bids are going out in the next two weeks, want to avoid bids due on the same day as the ODOT Hwy 8 project (paving the remainder of Hwy 8 from the bridge near 17<sup>th</sup> out to River Road).
- Scholls Ferry – Teal to Roy Rogers
- Glencoe Interchange – going a bit long (ODOT project).
- Brookwood Interchange – going to bid soon (ODOT project).

### **Operations and Maintenance Update**

Dave Schamp provided an update on Operations and Maintenance:

- Hagg Lake – plans to raise the dam would inundate most of the roads, the County has not made much of an investment in the roads while waiting to hear about the potential of raising the dam, roads are now in a bad way. It would likely cost \$2.5 to \$3 million to overlay the entire roadway. Last summer a culvert was replaced at Tanner Creek, the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of Scoggins Valley Road is only 49 and will likely require reconstruction, West Shore Drive has a PCI of 58 and there is currently a large slide near Hankins. There are five active slide areas around the lake. A private geotechnical contractor reviewed West Shore Drive ten days prior to the slide and said the road was fine. A current plan being considered is raising the dam 10 feet instead of the original 40 feet because the water is needed. Andrew and Dave are meeting with the CAO to review the situation and will brief the Board Chair and Commissioner Terry.

Gary Virgin had heard there was some discussion about the dam being raised 40' and still not being sustainable in an earthquake situation. Dave Schamp said this is an issue whether you raise the dam or not. Gary also said there was some discussion a while back about building a second dam below the current dam. Dave's understanding was the location they were considering would have resulted in the same capacity as raising the dam 40'. Gary asked if that would inundate the roadway and Dave Sweeney (Stimson Lumber) said yes it would.

- There is currently an evaluation of the pavement program being done by an outside contractor (AP Tech). They are looking for efficiencies; currently surveying other agencies and county staff will share their findings with RROMAC.
- Intel impact on county roads is pretty significant. There are a lot of trucks on freezing roads and that can cause damage to the overall road condition. Intel is working with us to coordinate their efforts and minimize the impacts.

Lars Wahlstrom and Gary Virgin expressed their concerns with Baker Rock and the mud on the road in their area. They have talked with Baker and Dave will be meeting with Mark Bauer and Todd Baker tomorrow. Dave will discuss this issue with them as well.

- Several of the high tech businesses in the Evergreen/Cornelius Pass/Brookwood area are creating a microclimate when they inject moisture into the air from their facilities it falls as snow on the roadway. We are continuing to apply additional Mag Chloride to the area.

### ODOT Update

Larry McKinley and Kelvin Kohanes from ODOT attended the meeting to provide an update on their current projects.

- Hwy 26 – Wolf Creek to Hayward paving will be done some time this year.
- West Fork Dairy Creek Bridge work coming this summer.
- Beaver Bridge on Hwy 47 toward Vernonia near milepost 69 will be replaced in 2014.
- Test from junction at Hwy 6 and Hwy 26 through Banks down to Timber – trying to chip seal, but the climate may not be dry enough. They will test a 1” thin lift overlay in the area.
- ODOT is pushing the legislature for a bill to use photo radar in construction zones. The radar is on 24-hrs a day, pictures are taken and drivers are ticketed. Hoping to draw gas tax dollars from the electric vehicles – 2015. There would be several different options for owners to pay (card insert into the car, flat fees, etc.).
- Jim McCulloch asked if there were flood plain issues with Dairy Creek and Larry said they are just jacking up the bridge so no.
- Gary Virgin inquired about the plans for high speed rail. Larry said ODOT is buying brand new rail cars for Amtrak; this is a federally funded project. ODOT will not use Road Fund dollars for this.
- OTIA lessons learned about out sourcing and bonds are being paid back with gas tax.
- Gary Virgin said ODOT’s project on Hwy 18 “excites him because it is a glaring waste of money”. Larry said it was strictly apolitical decision.
- Andrew asked Larry for an update on the STIP process. MAP 21 (Moving Ahead for Progress) was recently approved. Local agencies can apply for money along with ODOT, applications are all in now and decisions are coming in March by ACTS; only one from the west side of Washington County was Forest Grove turn lane on Quince. The others are in a different ODOT region so he did not have that information.
- Kelvin Kohanes, Maintenance Manager said it has been a challenging winter so far with a lot of snow this year. They are currently using a lot of deicer and have used 25-30k gallons so far.

- Larry said there have been a couple of slides this year. Big slides now, ODOT does an engineered repair to deal with the issue instead of quick fixes.
- Matt Pihl said it doesn't seem like the community resources are being used when things need to be cleared up to open roads. Seems like the community could help during those times and get things cleared up more quickly. Larry said they call contractors right away when there are big issues.
- John Malnerich lived on Vesper Road back in 1996 and the farmers used to open up the road because ODOT didn't do anything. Larry said it's much better now and they use other agencies to assist as well. Kelvin said budgets are limited and they do what they can to get the roads open quickly.

### **Election of New Chair and Vice Chair**

- John Malnerich nominated Lars Wahlstrom as the new Chair of RROMAC and Matt Phil seconded the nomination. All were in favor. Bill Ewers nominated Doug Riedweg as the Vice-Chair and Jim McCulloch seconded the nomination. All were in favor.

### **Miscellaneous**

John Malnerich said they have been trying to get a stop sign (right turn permitted on to Golf Course Rd.) on Tongue Lane at Golf Course Rd. and have the stop sign reversed on Nursery Rd. where it hits Hergert Rd. He suggested the stop signs be placed on Hergert Rd. instead of Nursery Rd. Stacy Shetler will look into these areas and report back to the committee in March.

Doug Riedweg said there is a stop sign at the end of Riedweg and no one stops, they treat it as a Yield sign. Stacy will look into this as well.

Gary Virgin – solar powered light on Clark Hill Rd. has a very small solar panel and on cool, dark days it doesn't gather much energy. This creates quite a time span between flashes. The efficiency of those batteries deteriorates quickly and they don't perform well. Stacy said the batteries were changed, but it is possible the solar panel is undersized or dirty. Gary feels the solar panel is about half the size it should be and thinks it should be twice the size. Stacy will look into this.

Larry, ODOT – CPO meeting was held last night with Fern Hill area residents. He was asked when a speed study was done on Hwy 47 and he was unable to find one. He has agreed to make that happen and get back to the County. For Gary's information they are testing solar panels in Astoria and have had 98% success rate in solar panels operating the lights on the bridge. Gary said the Clark Hill system worked well for a couple of years and then started to deteriorate. The Astoria Bridge is always warmer than it is here so the battery capacity curve is affected by the cooler temperatures. ODOT is also using them on the chain up signs and they are working well.

Doug Riedweg said last year he was on the Minor Betterment Committee and there was a project nominated to put a turn lane on Rosa Rd. Gary Stockhoff shared that will be done this summer.

John Malnerich said at last night's CPO meeting there were complaints about the school buses coming out of Taylor Way on to Fern Hill Rd. and then they have a conflict with the railroad. Could someone talk to Kerr about putting a road through their property to the west and having the buses enter on Elm St. instead of Fern Hill Rd.? Stacy will look into this.

Victoria Saager has volunteered to captain a SOLVE IT project this April and is looking for ideas for locations for litter pickup, vegetation cleanup, etc. If you have any ideas please let her know. She needs to submit her project suggestion by the end of January. Past projects have included cleaning up pioneer cemeteries.

Doug Riedweg told the group the first Saturday of every month he is collecting cans and anything with a refund as a fundraiser for Farmington View Elementary School in their parking lot.

Shelley Oylear reported on the question raised last month about property owner liability when a trail goes through someone's property. She shared a handout from the Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) citing Public Use of Lands 105.668.

Scenic Bikeway meeting this week went well. There is another workshop coming up on February 5 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in Forest Grove. Some time in May the actual designation would take place of the Scenic Bikeway and this would be the tenth one in the State of Oregon. Jim McCulloch said in the meeting they brought up the criteria they used to select the roads and safety was not a focus. The focus seems to be the sensory experience as opposed to safety. When safety issues were raised they did not appear to be interested. Denny Hruby said bicyclists need to follow the rules as well. Shelley said they did not focus on safety they focused more on the economic impact. Larry, ODOT, they have a Scenic Bikeway in their area and they have never received any money to help. Citizens will be encouraged to use the Banks Vernonia Trail and a future trail may be established where the Port of Tillamook Bay railroad runs and it would reach from Banks to the coast.

Victoria said there is a bicycle manual on ODOT's website for the cyclists to read.

Matt Pihl said the Adopt-A-Highway Program he has been involved in was stopped because of safety concerns and he would like to know if there are ways to reduce speeds or have an officer available during litter patrol to increase safety of the volunteers. Larry, ODOT, will take this back to his work group.

Guest, Larry Virgin said URMDAC has an advantage over RROMAC as far as funding is concerned. The URMDAC roads are in excellent shape and Larry would like to see something like this in the rural area.

Andrew shared the impact of the decrease in gas tax is an issue and we really need to find other ways to fund maintenance.

Gary Virgin said there has been a note circulated with his neighbors regarding the roundabout at Scholls Ferry and River roads area and the citizens in that area want to beautify the area. He is not supportive of adding vegetation to the roundabout.

The question was raised to the group about the frequency of the RROMAC meetings. Dave Sweeney would like to see us meet every other month. It was decided there will not be a meeting in February and meeting frequency will be discussed at a future meeting.

Larry, ODOT, offered to send other ODOT staff to future meetings if requested.

**March Agenda**

Meeting Schedule – frequency  
2013-2014 Surface Treatments  
Transportation Plan Update