



WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

RROMAC MEETING MINUTES September 18, 2014

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: Bill Ewers
Denny Hruby
John Malnerich
Jim McCulloch
Jake Miller
Matt Pihl
Dave Sweeney
Gary Virgin
Lars Wahlstrom

Staff: Chairman Andy Duyck
Roberta Garcia
Victoria Saager
Dave Schamp
Stacia Sheelar
Stacy Shetler
Gary Stockhoff
Todd Watkins

Absent: Allen Amabisca
Doug Riedweg
Mike Chombeau

Guests: Todd Winter – Washington County
Parks

Welcome

Jim McCulloch called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Matt Pihl motioned to approve the July minutes and Lars Wahlstrom seconded the motion. All were in favor and the July minutes were approved.

Introductions were made.

Guest Comments

None

Fern Hill Wetlands Project Update

Clean Water Services (CWS) extended an invitation to all RROMAC members to attend a guided tour and answer questions. Members in attendance were; Jim McCulloch, Matt Pihl, Doug Riedweg, Dave Sweeney. Washington County staff Victoria Saagar also attended the tour. Membership felt CWS did not want to discuss the road situation. They may want to discuss the road situation in the future. CWS said the current project has been engineered so it should not change the current situation related to Fern Hill Road seasonal flooding. Matt felt they were prepared to defend the viability of the current project, but not discuss the road. The road, as he understands, was never at the top of the list because there

were too many barriers and it has been shuffled to the side of project lists. Had the road issues been coupled with this project there may have been opportunities to coordinate flood plain design plans and issues. There are too many flood mitigation issues. Jim said they asked CWS if they informed the road division about the project and Diane indicated they told the road division there was a project, but they didn't ever discuss impacts to the roadway or talk about ways to work together. Chair Duyck shared you can't commit dollars from one agency to another (CWS project can't force County to build a new road). Dave Sweeney clarified if there was something that could be done to alleviate the flooding issue this could have been a joint effort between agencies. John Malnerich asked what CWS is going to do when the road floods since they own both sides of the road.

Dave Schamp said extenuating circumstances make this situation unique. The County was aware CWS had grand plans for the Fern Hill Wetland Area and there were conversations with the County about traffic impacts to the Hwy 47 intersection; however we were not aware of any discussions regarding the road situation. All the land use permitting went through the City of Forest Grove, because the project actually falls within the city limits. Another CWS project further down the road falls within County jurisdiction and has been communicated with the County.

Lars shared with Chair Duyck the CWS presentation at the previous RROMAC meeting clearly indicated coordination with the County could have been done much better. Jim told Chair Duyck that there needed to be a better mechanism of coordination.

A meeting has been scheduled between CWS and the County to discuss Fern Hill Road. Todd is currently reviewing what the potential cause is for the flooding on Fern Hill Road and what any potential solutions may be. Dave will bring back additional information at the next meeting.

Hagg Lake Camp Ground and Maps – Todd Winter

[Power Point presentation – attached](#)

Todd Winter, Facilities and Parks Manager, said they are continuing to work on a feasibility report to present to the Board and permitting to move forward with a camp ground.

The proposed camping area would not be affected should the dam ever be raised. Any areas affected by a potential raise would be replaced in kind. Chair Duyck indicated the enthusiasm for a 12-foot dam raise continues to move forward in the legislature. Chair Duyck indicated chances are very real the raise could happen.

Jim asked what the likelihood is the 50-year lease with the BLM would be renewed when it expires. Chair Duyck said once the County has a better understanding of the condition and needs of the dam, a discussion of title transfer would become more feasible.

Dave Sweeney asked if the BCC is interested in pursuing title for the dam, Chair Duyck said the Board is currently agnostic. He also said he doesn't believe the irrigation district opposes the title transfer.

Denny Hruby asked if the campsites would be seasonal or year round. Todd indicated both options are included in the feasibility analysis.

New concessionaire on site is Hog-N-Dog. They also have boat rentals.

Engineering and Construction Services Update – Gary Stockhoff

Projects are on the lighter side this year, but will pick up substantially next year – should be a \$100+ million year.

Here's a brief summary of what's happening:

- Cornelius Pass – freeway south widening to seven lanes
- Widening Brookwood to seven lanes
- 124th Avenue
- Minor betterment projects
- Gain Share projects
- URMD safety improvements
- Jackson School roundabout – ODOT issues – Staffing changes at ODOT.
- Hwy 47 – Verboort and David Hill – both roundabouts – next fall
- ODOT widening Hwy 26 between 185th and Cornelius Pass – post cards have gone out to the residents on the north side. – Fast track for 2016 – county, City of Hillsboro and Intel all have a piece – Cornelius Pass ramps will be modified with additional lanes.

Making sure we have staff in place for upcoming projects.

Last week we received Tiger Grant \$13.5 million including matching funds – ITS (Intelligent Transportation System) traffic enhancements. Enhancing Murray from the freeway south to Farmington; 185th from freeway to TV Hwy; Cornelius Pass from freeway to TV Hwy; also enhancements along TV Hwy; adaptive traffic signals, informational signs. We write ODOT a check for \$1.5 and they make it happen. Stacy Shetler, Traffic Engineer, worked with the consultant, DKS, to apply for the grant.

Gary Virgin shared his appreciation for the variable message boards in Seattle; they are placed appropriate distances. Gary does not appreciate the ODOT message boards used in this area. He feels they are useless. He says, "Don't put up informational signs unless they serve a purpose." He doesn't feel they are placed appropriately.

Gain Share funding for bike and ped projects - \$3 million

\$1.5 – adaptive signal – ITS; finishing off area around Ronler Acres; looking at the possibility of automated gates for Fern Hill Road when the road floods; weather stations throughout the County; potential signage in other problem areas throughout the County.

Operations and Maintenance Update – Dave Schamp

All paving work and standard work program activities are on track except for our contract night striping activity; contract was late hitting the street, but is ready to go now.

Crews switched back to a regular five-day eight-hour-per-day work week this week. Once we get a good amount of moisture the graders will be out starting to grade again.

Schmeltzer Rd. was just upgraded to a hard surface from a gravel road. This road was done differently than we have done in the past. Todd Watkins has worked with the residents for the last year to find a way to improve the road and make the citizens happy. We agreed if the citizens provided the rock, we did the calculations, we would deliver the rock and prepare the road for a chip seal; issue them a no cost permit, and the citizens paid a contractor to apply the chip seal. The requirements we placed on the contractor for this work were the same that we place on contractors that do the work for the county. We assigned an inspector just like we would do for any other permit work. A pre-construction meeting was held, the contractor assured the county the rock was approved and they were ready to go to work. It turns out the rock was not approved, did not meet specifications, the equipment used did not meet specifications, the appropriate amount of rock and oil was not applied, most everything that could have gone wrong, went wrong, even though the end product looks good on the surface. The problem is now the county is expected to maintain the road and it was not constructed to county specifications. We have notified the residents and the contractor we will not maintain the roadway; nor will we allow this contractor to apply future chip seal in the county until county requirements are met. John Malnerich asked why the County didn't stop the project and keep it from being completed. Todd clarified we were not a party to the contract and did not have quality control on the contract. County crews did a great job on the prep work and the contractor was told not to wait until the last minute and they waited until the very last minute.

Lars asked what the length of the project was and Todd indicated 1300 feet with a cost to the property owner of approximately \$25k. We also approved a different product for this particular project which was slightly less expensive than the typical Lignin Sulfonate.

A bridge on Porter Road is in disrepair and we are currently preparing an analysis to see about closing the road to vehicular traffic. It is part of the Scenic Bikeway so it would remain open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Milne Road is currently in very poor shape. The residents were contacted and told if this road was to stay a hard surface, the residents would need to provide resources to maintain the road as a hard surface. These discussions have been ongoing for several years. We recently informed the property owners a decision needed to be made now. Property owners continued to indicate they would do something. The County asked for a response in

writing and recently received a letter from the property owners stating they will not be providing the funding to maintain the road as a hard surface so the County will proceed with reverting this road back to a gravel surface in the next month to two months. The letter from the property owner and Dave Schamp's response will be available on the committee webpage.

Miscellaneous

Dust Abatement Cost Comparison and Performance – Todd Watkins ([presentation online](#))

Property owners from Green Mountain Road approached the County and wanted to apply a dust control product to their road. They wanted to use a new product called Earthbind 100. The County talked with regulators and was given the exception approval to use this product as a one-time test product. Prior to the application the County crews prepped the road like any other road in the County. The product is a water and oil emulsion; you can apply it to the surface or use a Bomag to mix it into the surface. The first application looks very, very wet. The contractor had some extra in the truck so after the second shot they emptied their truck and applied a partial third shot in a small area. Within one hour of the first shot the road was dry and the road held up for the remainder of the summer. Once the material cures it doesn't wash away. Later in the season the material does begin to washboard and gravel begins to loosen. The product functioned a little longer and better than the typical Lignin Sulfonate. The product life was approximately 10 weeks after application.

Dave reminded everyone that our current 4d permit with the government is very important to the work we do and we are not going to do anything to jeopardize that permit. If it's decided we want to explore the opportunity to use this product we would need to go through the process of modifying that permit to include this product.

[Minor Betterment](#) Update – Gary Virgin, Committee Member

Selected 13 candidates and have collected nine pages of comments from the public. The next meeting is on October 22 at 4:00 p.m. The majority of the comments are supportive. The only criteria change was setting a specified distance of .25 miles instead of two blocks.

Larger candidates have been reviewed to see if there are any smaller segments that can be done as Minor Betterment projects.

Questions

John Malnerich asked about the [Proposed Vehicle Registration](#) Fee campaign. Dave shared that Chairman Duyck is the person with information and there is currently a presentation available that can be shared with any organization. There is also information available on the County webpage.

Matt Pihl asked if there is any type of advocacy to further the cause to get trails developed to get recreational bicycles off of County roads.

Winter Planning meeting will be held October 31 at 9:00 a.m. at the Walnut Street Center in the Training Rooms with several agencies coordinating winter activities. Dave told the committee they are welcome to attend.

October Agenda

Fern Hill Rd. Follow up – Dave Schamp
Update on Regional Bike Trails
Hillsboro Airport – Update on new roads
City of Hillsboro – 209th and TV Hwy
County Grading Permits

Gary Virgin will not be at the October meeting.