



# Rural Roads Operations and Maintenance Advisory Committee Meeting

February 18, 2016, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Walnut Street Center

1400 SW Walnut Street, MS 51, Second Floor Training Room 1  
Hillsboro, OR 97123-5625

## MINUTES

**Members Present:** Allen Amabisca, Bill Ewers, Michael Jamieson, Daniel Morgan, Matt Pihl, Doug Riedweg, Gary Virgin, Lars Wahlstrom

**Absent:** Denny Hruby, John Malnerich, Dave Sweeney

**County Staff Present:** Andrew Singelakis, Steve Franks, Keith Lewis, Dave Schamp, Gary Stockhoff, Todd Watkins, Victoria Saager, Jennifer McCollum

**Guests:** John Dummer, CWS

### Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes

Lars called the meeting to order. Michael Jamieson noted on page 5 of the January minutes, it was stated "Lars and Matt recommended putting..." however, it should read "Michael and Matt recommended putting..." Gary Virgin, not Larry Virgin, was present at the previous meeting.

Gary made a motion to approve the corrected minutes. Matt seconded the motion and all were in favor. The minutes were approved as corrected.

The committee discussed changing the meeting time. It was recommended to wait until the end of the meeting to discuss this topic.

Lars welcomed Mike Jamieson and Daniel Morgan as new members to the committee.

### Guest Comments

No comments.

### Engineering and Construction Services Update – Gary Stockhoff

Gary stated that the EPA audit performed recently went well. It involved CWS, Operations, and Facilities. The auditors pointed out a couple of water issues to address and two gas cans were left in the back of a truck that were sitting in the rain, but overall we did well.

Not much road construction is happening over the winter. A few projects are going out to bid this spring. They include [SW 124th Avenue from SW Grahams Ferry Rd to Tualatin-Sherwood Road](#), [SW Walnut Street from SW Tiedeman and SW 116th Avenue](#), and the [roundabout on NW Verboort Road](#).

Washington County is working with ODOT on the eastbound off-ramp on Hwy 26. David Kim with ODOT attended the February URMDAC meeting and he indicated ODOT is on board for this project but the agreement has not been finalized. Andrew said this IGA has not gone through the Board yet. Gary mentioned South Hillsboro projects are also queuing up.

Gary mentioned there have been a few problems with PGE getting poles and infrastructure moved for roadwork.

Lars asked whose responsibility it is to set up a detour while work is happening on SW Walnut Street. Gary said the contractor would coordinate with City of Tigard and Washington County. A detour will be set up and approved with input from all agencies involved.

The committee discussed issues that arise when collaborating with ODOT on projects within Washington County. When Washington County takes on a project with ODOT, getting through the agreement is the hardest and longest part of the process, sometimes taking up to a year. ODOT needs Washington County to complete some of their projects, and they have had problems keeping staff employed due to private sector competition. Dave said he spoke with David Kim from ODOT (see [Urban Road Maintenance District Advisory Committee minutes](#)) and he said 70% of their work is being contracted out to the private sector. Steve Franks said we are also dealing with employee changes, retirements, etc. and that is affecting our progress times.

## Operations and Maintenance Update – Dave Schamp

Scoggins Valley Road is open now after the December storms caused slide damage. The road was closed for about six weeks. Geotechnical work was performed before repairs were made. This ancient slide started moving after the excessive amount of rain we received in December. After the rain subsided, temporary repairs were made. The annual road maintenance program and operating budget allows some cushion for these types of repairs.

FHWA and FEMA looked at damage to our roads from the flood events. FHWA has agreed to reimburse Washington County 100% for all storm related work performed. For on-system and off-system roads, we rely on FEMA for reimbursement. Federal money will possibly be offered by FEMA and accepted by Washington County for Beef Bend Road repairs due to the high cost of those repairs.

Grading work on gravel roads is on course for the season. We are experiencing perfect weather for that kind of work. Brush crews are working on Springville Road removing trees for an upcoming capital project.

Mount Richmond bridges are on the short list for replacement. Two out of three bridges are weight limited. This creates long detours. We should know by this fall if we can replace these bridges.

Mike mentioned he noticed a decrease in shoulder and ditch work in the county. Dave responded we used to re-ditch on a schedule of every 5 to 7 years. Crews have seen a significant change in the type and amount of ditching work; now we only ditch when and where it is needed. There have been changes in procedures due to environmental issues associated with vegetation removal in ditches as well.

Mike asked about Reed Canary Grass being an issue in ditches. Dave spoke about the Integrated Vegetation Management Program (IVMP). Dave said we used to spray and kill everything in and behind the ditch. Now we only spray the shoulder but not in the ditch because of environmental issues, although vegetation in ditches causes issues with drainage.

Lars extended the committee's appreciation for the county working to attain federal funds to help pay for storm damages and all the hard work County employees performed during the flooding. Lars recommended sending a letter from the RROMAC committee to all the employees involved in the storm responses. There were no objections from members.

Lars mentioned a mattress was dumped on Clark Hill Road. Victoria noted this information and will enter a service request to have it removed.

### **Save the Road – Low PCI Roads Preservation Policy**

Dave apologized for not having Chairman Duyck here. He will make sure he is available for a future meeting to discuss this item.

CWS/Bureau of Reclamation - Scoggins Dam Plan – John Dummer

John provided a [presentation on the Scoggins Dam](#). The Scoggins Dam was constructed in the 1970's. The dam is safe; however, seismic issues need to be addressed to secure the regional water supply. A joint project will balance reclamation alternatives with CWS alternatives. Reclamation is looking at all dams and reviewing them to determine if they meet standards. Scoggins Dam does not currently meet those standards.

The dam is located in the Cascadia subduction zone, and if a magnitude 9.0 earthquake were to hit (which we are due), it could last up to 200 seconds with devastating consequences. The message is to be prepared. Everyone should have a plan for water, food, know your neighbors, and have a plan to contact family.

Several options to upgrade the dam to the required standards were discussed. One option would create the need to relocate the Stimson Mill. They are willing to look into these options to maintain jobs and safety of employees. Communication is key with stakeholder groups, staff, neighbors, and others involved. The interactions with all those folks so far have been very positive.

Congressional authorization is required for this joint project, including property assessment and appraisal, environmental issues, unknown site conditions, engineering costs and schedules. The hope is to bring together ideas from both groups in the hopes to have a plan by next year.

### Miscellaneous

The committee discussed the benefits of gravel road vs. paved bike paths.

It was decided that Bonnie and Lars would co-chair the joint meeting in March.

Andrew requested the RROMAC meeting time be moved to the 2nd or 4th Thursday. Gary made a motion to move the RROMAC meeting to the second Thursday from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. Doug seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Lars commented on a letter received from a citizen living on Finnegan Hill Road. Victoria wrote the citizen a letter last year answering similar questions from the same citizen. Lars said the letter Victoria wrote to the citizen explaining the funding process for gravel roads was excellent.

Lars told Andrew he doesn't think the Road Fund video will be enough to answer future questions citizens will have. Lars thinks we need more information sent out and available to the public about our funding. Andrew mentioned Washington County only has one news reporter so we have to find different ways to get information to the public. The committee discussed additional ways to get funding options out to public.

Victoria will schedule a meeting with new committee members, Dan and Mike, to give them the background of transportation funding.

### March Joint Meeting with URMDAC Agenda:

- Operations and Maintenance requested budget – Dave Schamp
- URMD requested budget – Victoria Saager
- Draft Annual Road Maintenance Program – Todd Watkins
- Public education on transportation funding – Melissa De Lyser
- South Hillsboro – Don Ottermott

### Future agendas:

- Integrated Vegetation Management Plan
- Environmental issues – ditch maintenance, spraying
- Maintenance issues – funding options, how to educate the public in addition to the video
- Gas tax-increase in cost to maintain each maintenance issue
- MSTIP update – per Andrew
- Chairman Duyck – low PCI roads strategy

Meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting:** March 16, 2016, 4:00 p.m., Joint URMDAC/RROMAC Meeting