



RROMAC MEETING MINUTES
September 15, 2011

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: Robert Ewers
Denny Hruby
Eldon Jossi
Jim Burns
John Malnerich
Lars Wahlstrom
Doug Riedweg
Gary Virgin

Absent: Matt Pihl
Dave Vanasche
Wendy Mortensen

Staff: Greg Clemmons
Keith Lewis
Victoria Saager
Dave Schamp
Janelle Lockbeam
Gary Stockhoff
Todd Watkins
Stephen Roberts
Terry Lawler
Commissioner Bob Terry

Welcome

Bill Ewers called the meeting to order. The August minutes were reviewed. Doug Riedweg motioned to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Lars Wahlstrom. All were in favor.

ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES UPDATE

Gary Stockhoff updated the group on capital projects. Boones Ferry, Bethany overpass are coming up soon thanks to MSTIP. Evergreen project will be up for bid soon. Scholls Ferry roundabout is under way. Construction speed on Glencoe Road drops to 25 miles per hour North of Evergreen. A lot of speeding in a construction zone tickets have been issued.

Dave Schamp mentioned that construction costs are going up. This summer the asphalt escalation costs went up \$100K on Road Fund and \$66K for URMD projects.

MINOR BETTERMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Lars Wahlstrom and Doug Riedweg attended the recent Minor Betterment Selection Committee meeting. Progress has been made and a lot of work was done. Next year \$500K funding will be available up from \$150K just a couple of years ago. The committee is trying to spread the locations of these projects throughout Washington County over time.

Commissioner Terry said pressure continues from Metro to take over all road maintenance for the whole region. This issue will be brought up again in February.

The next step of the Minor Betterment Committee is to select the top 20 projects and provide more information for each, post to the website and get public input.

Victoria added that the Board has decided to expand URMD to allow funding for construction of safety improvements.

Commissioner Terry is looking at options for bike paths. He is interested in placing bike paths on the outside of the sidewalk for bike travel.

FILL SITES FOR DIRT

Stephen Roberts, LUT Administration (formerly of Current Planning) and Terry Lawler of Current Planning were in attendance to discuss the process and requirements of fill sites.

Stephen said that there has been concern from CPOs and Commissioners in response to the recent Intel project fill permits staff is listening and recognizes that there is room for improvement. There is a fine line between protecting the land and protecting the rights of property owners to use their land.

Terry thanked RROMAC for their interest. She reviewed the process starting with the property owner's application for fill. Staff does the initial screening of applications and reviews whether codes for special areas apply. Exclusion criteria for accepted farm practices includes: 5,000 cubic yards or less is exempt and nursery farm exemption. Terry distributed the list of Exclusions from Permit Requirements sheet. If it exceeds 5K cubic yards, a Land Use application (either Type I or Type II), public notice and staff report. A grading code is applicable if the development is in the urban area but it also impacts rural areas.

Because of the Intel project, about a million cubic yards were to be dealt with. Many sites stepped up including quarries and a high profile area on Victory Lane. Some sites were problematic; the Cornelius Pass site got a "cease" order from Department of State Lands due to wetlands that were not in a flood plain. They got mixed messages from the State; first they said they were not interested in rural fills, but now they have more interest.

Eleven grading exemptions have been approved; four Type I or II, and four were submitted but not followed through by the property owners.

A meeting held last week had very lively discussion, and the group will meet again in October. Some ideas for discussion were:

- Look to urban area to find places for their own fill excess; proximity to UGB is important.
- Deeper fill for junk/rock like quarries.
- Monitoring mechanism.

The next meeting is October 24. Terry will let Victoria know and Victoria will notify RROMAC.

Who monitors the 5K cubic yard fill limit? Trust is replied upon from the applicant and reports are to be submitted by the applicant. There is no other monitoring other than reports from property owners, when a complaint is received they will investigate. It was suggested to request topo with the application and then periodically during the fill process to monitor the fill amount.

Does the county prioritize fill site locations? No, the county is the recipient of the application and does not suggest locations.

Can fill be removed from Victory Lane? If this fill site is found to be a wetland, the fill would have to be removed.

Dave Schamp identified the need to collect funds for enforcement and damage to roads caused by heavy loads of fill traveling county maintained roadways. Stephen is interested in input.

Commissioner Terry expressed concern regarding RROMAC's bylaws and role with this issue. He also expressed how expensive these committees are (staff cost).

ODOT CHANGES

Dave Schamp distributed a memo regarding changes to the ODOT Maintenance District boundaries for the Northwestern Counties. They are downsizing and changing their business plan. Washington County services will be split in half with Hwy 47 being the divider. The east side will be Region 1 and 2b with their headquarters located in Portland; Rural Region 2 headquarters is at Salem with a satellite office in Astoria.

Ron Kroop resigned his position at ODOT. A new District Manager will be selected for the East side and a new set of folks will be on board for the west side. Manning now reports to the Astoria office. ODOT will send representatives to a future RROMAC meeting.

The Sheriff's Office is concerned about winter maintenance; ODOT assured Schamp resources to Region 2 will increase.

MISCELLANEOUS

Greg Clemmons is monitoring dust abatement products (magnesium chloride and lignin sulfonate) application. The application has been monitored during the dry weather and will now see how it does when the weather turns wet.

Bill Ewers adjourned the meeting.

NEXT MONTH

Minor Betterment Committee Update
ODOT Representatives Introduction
Next year Gravel Road Upgrade candidates