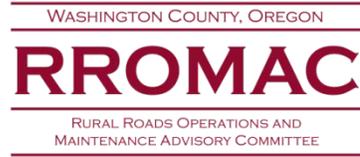


RURAL ROADS OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Unapproved Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 10, 2020



MINUTES

Members Present:

Loren Behrman
Dan Morgan
Ken Moyle

Marc Farrar
Mike Jamieson
Dave McCoy

Matt Pihl
Doug Riedweg

Absent:

Jeff Hindley

Denny Hruby

County Staff and Board Members Present:

Melissa DeLyser
Steve Franks

Sherry McFall
Michael Nemeyer

Todd Watkins
Commissioner Jerry Willey

Guests:

No guests present

1. Welcome, Introductions and Approval of July 2020 Minutes

Chair Jamieson called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. He welcomed members and staff.

Member Morgan moved to approve the July 2020 minutes. Member Behrman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Guest Comments

There were no guests present.

3. Update on Operations and Maintenance Division Activities, Including FY 2020-21 Road Maintenance Program Work

Todd Watkins reviewed Road Maintenance Program work for the fourth quarter, FY 2020-21.

Chair Jamieson shared a concern about the hazards created when roadside mowing occurs late in the year. Todd indicated that there are many miles of roadside vegetation to clean up, and though vegetation maintenance is a planned maintenance, it is also request-driven and we frequently respond to these types of issues. He shared the map for the roads that receive shoulder mowing and brush cutting.

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4. Discussion of Bridge Removal (Not Replacement)

Todd presented options, costs and consequences for repair, replacement and removal of the bridge on South Road (bridge #1266).

Chair Jamieson asked about objective repeatable standards for bridge removal within the county. Discussion ensued about the benefits and challenges of standardizing bridge options, as conditions and factors vary so widely between the 185 bridges in the county. The importance of emergency response and economic impact were discussed.

Commissioner Willey asked what the timeline for removal of South Road bridge would be. Todd responded that, at earliest, it could be a summer 2021 project. The bridge would be closed soon after a decision is made to remove it.

Member Riedweg commented that the Washington County population believed that the Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF) that was passed a couple years ago would guarantee enhanced road maintenance and that many people would thus likely be unhappy about this bridge removal. Todd replied the VRF is dedicated solely to road maintenance, not for maintenance of bridges. Melissa shared that the difference between the \$30 VRF that was enacted versus the \$43 VRF that was another option was that the larger \$43 VRF would have funded bridge maintenance.

Chair Jamieson asked if there was anyone interested in making a motion to encourage staff to proceed down that road of analysis and outreach.

Melissa suggested that a loose timeline be placed with any motion made for this to give time for the implementation of a communication/outreach plan.

Member Farrar moved Chair Jamieson's recommendation to encourage staff to move forward with staff to do further research and perhaps do community outreach for the potential removal of South Road bridge. Member Behrman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Sherri asked for clarification of the specific language of the motion. Member Farrar clarified the motion to state that the committee recommends staff to pursue further research on the options for addressing the problems experienced with the bridge and to bring the findings of that research back to the committee after it has been completed.

Todd recapped that staff will develop a plan to move forward and create a communication plan which includes public outreach to notify residents.

5. Open Forum – RROMAC Members

Chair Jamieson asked Todd to describe any recent unusual service requests. Todd shared that staff is working to support the firefighting effort in the county.

Chair Jamieson asked Member Behrman about his recent meeting with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding roundabouts on Highway 47. Member Behrman replied that he and Joe Younkens did meet with ODOT in Astoria. The outcome of the meeting is that some minimal improvements will be done; not those suggested by RROMAC members, but he believes the improvements planned will suffice.

Member Morgan asked about cyclist and pedestrian legal usage of Parsons Road after a landowner blocked it. The landowner is physically approaching cyclists trying to use the road and telling them not to use it. He observed evidence of a fire that had been started and put out on the road and understands the landowner's concern. He'd like staff to determine if cyclists and pedestrians can use the road; also, whether signs stating who can use the road should be placed on it. Chair Jamieson wants to determine appropriate signage and clear direction optimizing and indicating use of the right-of-way.

Todd clarified that there are two types of roads that the County has jurisdiction over: County Roads and Local Access Roads. County Roads are roads established through formal action by the Board, which the County has an obligation to maintain. Local Access Roads are roads which are dedicated to the public but for which the County has no maintenance obligation.

Steve noted that staff had looked into the issue of bicyclists' ability to use Parsons Road and had responded to Dan Morgan, who raised the issue outside of a meeting with staff. Staff, including Scott Young, the County Surveyor, determined that Parsons Road is open for use of bicyclists.

Member Jamieson requested that this issue of providing signage on County roads indicating who can use the road be tabled for a future agenda, to include staff findings.

Todd requested a RROMAC volunteer to participate on the interview panel for the vacant Maintenance Supervisor position. Members Farrar and Morgan volunteered. Sherri will contact them directly post-meeting.

Member McCoy stated that he has a potential conflict of interest on any discussions about gates on county roads.

Steve stated that there are currently two RROMAC vacancies and it would be good to fill them by the end of 2020. He will send vacancy details via email.

Member Morgan shared that he would like to see speed limit enforcement on rural roads, as people are going far in excess of the speed limit.

6. Meeting wrap-up

- Discuss future agendas

The following future topics were mentioned:

- ✓ Winter forecasts
 - ✓ Road maintenance reports
 - ✓ PCI update
 - ✓ Service requests (SR) and SR mapping
 - ✓ Road restrictions, gates and allowable signage
 - ✓ Budget for next fiscal year
 - ✓ River/Farmington Roads intersection update
 - ✓ South Road bridge update
 - ✓ Speed limit enforcement
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- Schedule next meeting

Not discussed.

7. Adjourn

Chair Jamieson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Morgan moved and Member Behrman seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Next meeting: October 8, 2020 at 7:30 a.m.
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