

**YAMHILL COUNTY
ROAD IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

Thursday, July 13, 2023
PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF PRESENT
Michal Wert, Vice Chair	Adam Zabinski, Chair	Mark Lago, Director
Jeff Brown	Tony Roos	Janet Henderson, Secretary
Bruce Hubbard	Dave Hansen	Kit Johnston, Commissioner
Chip Mayes		Brian Young, Emergency Manager
Ryan Webb		

Opening of Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Mark Lago.

Roll Call

Members were present as noted above.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for May 11, 2023, and June 08, 2023, were accepted as circulated.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Kit Johnston stated that the Council of Governments transportation committee is creating a subcommittee to develop transportation goals and policies. He recommended that Public Works Directors and groups like RIAC would be more useful members of the subcommittee than elected officials, since they work routinely to address issues that need to be addressed.

Sheriff's Report

Brian Young provided the committee with crash reports from June 7th through July 13th, 2023.

- Brian is still working on how to prepare a map of crashes and/or where the vegetation may contribute to accidents that would be useful to RIAC and public works department (PWD).
- He requested regular updates on road and vegetation issues.

Director's Report

- The Fleet Manager resigned and 18 people applied for the position, seven will be interviewed with several strong candidates.
- Our new Roadside Vegetation Supervisor started work and will be interviewing for a Vegetation Management Technician on August 3rd.
- There were seven applicants for the Park Specialist position. Interviews will be July 20th.
- PWD is down 5 crew members; have lost three in the last four-six weeks. They are going to private business for better pay. We are advertising for Utility Worker(s) currently and may have to reevaluate lower-level positions.
- Update on Ribbon Ridge Rd: Jeff Meader was a guest at last month's RIAC, restating the commitment he felt was made by the county to pave Ribbon Ridge. He stated that he did all the maintenance on Ribbon Ridge - Mark's IRIS report review showed that the county spent \$26,000 last

year and \$161,000 between 2019-2023 on maintenance of Ribbon Ridge. Jeff stated he would submit a CRIP request to get into the queue in case paving monies become available.

- We have overlaid 5 out of the 11 roads with last year's budget, with 6 more to do on this year's budget. Albertson and Bald Peak Rds. will start soon.
- Chip seal will start on August 28th and go through August 31st.
- The Pavement Management Plan is revisited every three years.
- Striping was done with last year's budget. Marion County will do striping on the upcoming overlays.
- Annual bridge inspections start next week. Gopher Valley Road bridge replacement will begin on August 21st and go through August 27th. Patty Lane will be done in the future with a federal grant.
- PWD is working with AKS to start the pre-design on Walnut Hill and Hwy 154.
- Mark reviewed what other counties do for paving gravel roads. Gravel Roads Q&A from Marion County and Washington County's websites state they don't have funds or operational budgets to pave (public dedicated) gravel roads. A Local Improvement District is an option. Mark is considering adding a Q&A section to the PWD website to clarify for the public that the county has no money to pave gravel roads.

New Business

- Michal suggested we request a Transportation Plan Assessment from the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) program. She will prepare an email for Mark to send with a request for assistance.
- It was agreed that the state sets speed limits so there is no need for a county policy. The moveable signs will be moved around the county periodically, so drivers do not get accustomed to them.
- Michal stated that Nick Wilkinson, Vegetation Supervisor, and Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District have been working closely to address invasive species. Chip spoke about the lack of utility companies maintaining the vegetation around their poles and vaults. Unmanaged and poorly maintained vegetation can cause soil erosion, and workers are subject to large patches of poison oak. PWD should consider a policy to get utilities to pay for "fire mitigation" and safety to help fund clearing around poles and vaults. Bruce suggested that the county needs a program to address the spread of invasive tansy. Nick will be invited to attend a RIAC meeting in late fall to talk about the county roadside vegetation program and to discuss RIAC ideas and concerns.
- The county has maps of roads that should be turned over to local authorities. The intern will prepare information on these roads, including width of road, improvements, development density, and more.
- There was discussion on criteria for paving gravel roads. A meeting could be held on just this subject. This should also include discussion about mechanisms for funding to pave gravel roads, including CRIP. It was agreed that County Road Standards are adequate and do not need review by RIAC.

Next Month Proposed Agenda

- Gravel road maintenance and paving criteria; CRIP program
- Criteria and methodology to turn county roads over to local authority
- Tourism (traffic counts)
- Nov or Dec – Nick to talk about roadside vegetation management program

Additional Agenda Items

- Michal noted that there were recent incidents of large vehicles getting stuck at Bell/Springbrook Road and on Mt. Home Road. She suggested that the county consider more aggressive signing.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. on a motion by Michal Wert, seconded, carried. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on August 10, 2023, in the Public Works building.