

**YAMHILL COUNTY
ROAD IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

Thursday, July 8, 2021

PUBLIC WORKS ZOOM

6:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF PRESENT
Gordon Cook, Chair Jeff Brown	Dave Hanson Rocky Losli	Mark Lago, Director Casey Kulla, Commissioner
Michal Wert Adam Zabinski Bruce Hubbard		Catherine Lindberg, Recording Secretary
Tony Roos		

Opening of Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair, Gordon Cook.

Roll Call

Members were present as noted above. Guest Philp Higgins, and Public Works Fleet Manager Russ Heath, attended.

Approval of May Minutes

Approved as circulated.

Sheriff's Report

None.

Commissioner's Report

- Commissioner Kulla stated that there had been "cooling centers" in all Yamhill County cities during the unprecedented heat wave. He encouraged a "buddy system" for elderly residents who may not have internet or means of travel.

Director's Report

- Dr. Paul Hammond, who has annually surveyed Yamhill County for Fenders blue butterflies pursuant to the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), reported this year that Yamhill County's butterfly population is flourishing due to its maintenance of Kinkaid Lupines. He will present his findings and recommendations in August at the HCP Implementation Committee meeting.
- The February ice storm was declared a federal disaster, triggering a FEMA claim which may net the department between \$25-30K for repair to damaged county roads.
- McDougall Road cracked from the extreme heat.
- Knife River (CIP paving contractor) has been moving expeditiously through the list of county overlay projects and should be finished in August. Fort Hill and Red Prairie are already completed. The department is considering doing night paving for Lafayette Hwy, Kuehne and Hendricks due to the current congestion caused by ODOT's paving on Hwy 99W. The increase in cost of the project is approximately \$20K, but the department budget will accommodate that increase.
- Chip seal projects will start at the end of August and ditching will follow.

- The department paid for dust abatement on Old Railroad Grade Rd because of the increased traffic due to the construction detour.

Unfinished Business

- After discussion that no new applications had been received when the BOC directed that recruitment for the RIAC vacancy be reopened for two weeks, Ms. Wert moved that the Committee reaffirm their recommendation to the BOC that Phil Higgins be appointed to fill the vacancy. Motion seconded and carried.

Roadside Vegetation TAC report by Ms. Wert from the 6/30/21 meeting:

- Dr. Hammond recently completed survey. Some sites thriving, others not. Fender's blue butterfly being considered for downlisting (not endangered). HCP TAC will meet soon to review Hammond report, which will then come to RIAC and then to Board.
- Steve retiring October 22. Mark would like to have replacement hired by end of August.
- Invasive species subcommittee – Countywide annual weed meeting - 6 weeds of highest priority in YC:
 - Mouse-ear hawkweed – could be eradicated – only infestation in Oregon is on Gopher Valley Road
 - Garden yellow loosestrife
 - Water primrose
 - Knotweed – cannot be eradicated but can be controlled
 - Garlic mustard – one spot in Newberg, along Cozine in McM, along Baker Creek
 - Italian thistle – hard to treat but trying hard
- Native plants subcommittee
 - Talked before about NPSO digging *Delphinium menziesii* plants to be cared for at Miller Woods. Plants doing well and Sonja will collect seeds. Plants and seeds will be planted after PWD work done later in the fall. Unusual approach so will be interesting to see if this works.
 - Milkweed and butterfly protection signs in place and property owners notified
 - Kincaid's lupine sites are being inventoried as part of the roadside veg inventory. Paul Hammond counts butterflies, but this will document the lupine plants in the SMZs.
- Roadside erosion demonstration project
 - PWD, SWCD and private property owner in Amity working on a project for erosion control with native and pollinator plants. Linfield students doing documentation of results. Everything was going well, but there was radish in the seed bank and it flourished after the May rains. Looking at documenting lessons learned.
- Roadside Veg Inventory
 - Program done end of July. Presentation to TAC in early August and maybe presentation to RIAC at next meeting.
 - Issue of erosion control on Old Moores Valley Road in a Kincaid's lupine SMZ. Susan wanted to fill with dirt and plant to manage erosion. Expensive and not a fix. Steve suggested putting biobags to stop erosion, let soil collect, and then plant in the collected soil. They will work together for a solution.
- Implementation of Roadside Veg Mgmt Plan – The policy document was completed in 2016 and it is timely to review to recognize successes and areas of improvements. Steve will review and present his perspective at our next meeting.
 - Fleet Manager Russ Heath gave the committee an inspection tour of new equipment.

Additional Items

- None.

Next Month Proposed Agenda

Roadside Vegetation Inventory Presentation by Interns

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on motion by Michal Wert, seconded, carried. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. August 12, 2021 in the Public Works building unless notified otherwise.