

COLUMBIA COUNTY
Transportation and Road Advisory Committee
January 20, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Order:

Rosemary Lohrke called the Columbia County Transportation and Road Advisory Committee (CCTRAC) meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. on Thursday, January 20, 2022, via GoTo Meeting.

Present:

TRAC Members: Nita Greene, Pat LaPointe, Rosemary Lohrke, Sabrina Moore, and Karl Webster.

Columbia County Staff: Mike Russell, Public Works Dept. Director; Mike Whitfield, Public Works Dept. Assistant Director; Scott Toenjes, Engineering Tech I; Julie Wheeler, Administrative Assistant II

Introductions:

We “went around the room” and introduced who we were and our positions.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Pat LaPointe and seconded by Nita Greene to approve the October 21, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Open Forum for Guest Comments:

- Nita Greene stated that she was impressed with how the Road Department handled the snow event in December. She didn’t hear of any complaints.
- Rosemary Lohrke said that Chapman Road wasn’t plowed during the December storm.

Old Business / Updates

- No issues were brought up.

New Business: Mike Russell

- December/January Snow, Ice, Rain event (12/26 through 1/7)
 - A week in advance NOAA had started giving us notifications concerning the potential for a snow event. The EOC also sent out alerts via Everbridge to those signed up to receive them. Notifications are sent for Watches and Warnings.
 - December 26th is when the event started. We plowed snow for 5-6 days. There was continuous snow for an extended time. Because of this, Scappoose/Vernonia and Apiary were the primary roads plowed first and continually until the snow stopped. Then the secondary roads were plowed. Unfortunately lack of man power and equipment issues affected how quickly the smaller roads were plowed.
 - By December 27th we were able to get to our secondary roads. The roadways were then packed snow, so it took a lot of effort to get down to bare pavement, which is our goal.
 - The rest of the week we worked on snow removal and tree hazards on the roads. We then were able to get to our smaller roads. Lack of enough sand on Scappoose/Vernonia was an issue. This will be reviewed at a Public Works debriefing.
 - Next we dealt with heavy rain, snow melt, and flooding problems. Columbia County received 2-3 inches of rain during this time.
 - Olson Road at Perkins Creek was a major issue. We never really closed the road, it was down to 1 lane traffic only. Evenson Logging and the Clatskanie Fire & Rescue worked

New Business: Mike Russell (Continued from Page 1)

- to open a logging road for a detour route. We will be working on fixing the annual problems with the Perkins Creek crossing.
- Fishhawk Bridge: The bridge wing wall is having issues with wash out occurring behind it. We aren't able to make immediate fixes at this time due to the salmon spawning season. The bridge and road are fine, but this problem must be fixed before further problems occur.
- Colvin Road at Tandy Creek has been an ongoing issue for us. About 1,000 feet of the road was taken over by Tandy Creek. The adjacent property owner hasn't allowed us to make the fixes necessary. Now that the property is in foreclosure and is owned by the County, the plan is to reroute the creek utilizing the available property.
- Apiary Road: Two culverts are needed to be replaced. We are looking for a funding source to get this done.
- Sheely Creek Road is experiencing scouring issues from the Nehalem. The road is okay, but the river is starting to compromise the road.
- Highway 47: A culvert failed and took out part of the road. Apiary Road was the designated detour route. ODOT took over temporary maintenance of Apiary while this detour was being utilized.
- Mike R. will be sending a PDF file to the TRAC members so that they may be able to get a good look of the storm event.
- Nita requested that presentations be emailed out ahead so that we can all see the pictures as presented.
- Rosemary Lohrke is curious about the overall health of our County Bridges. Per Mike Russell, we have around 100 bridges. In the last few years we've really focused on getting any that need attention taken care of. We have a couple that need help, but overall we're in pretty good shape.
- New Projects:
 - Culvert Replacement Bundle, 2022:
 - Hoping to go to bid opening in October 2022. We have a consultant helping with this project right now.
 - Meissner Road Slide 2022:
 - We're hoping to go to contract with this in the summer of 2022.
 - Fernhill Road Slide 2022:
 - The scope of work to be completed here will be to fix the bank instability, dig out and replace a failed culvert, and install guardrails.
 - ODOT Bridge Replacement Funding 2022 into 2023:
 - The bridge at MP 2 on Scappoose Vernonia is safe, it just has a few issues that need to be addressed and fixed before getting any worse.
 - We have funding now for getting this bridge replaced. The State will cover 88% of the costs.
 - ARTS Program:
 - The two roads involved in this project are Scappoose Vernonia and Apiary.
 - Our next step in this project will be removing trees that are in the ROW. This will be quite an improvement on the roads as we will be clearing out 18 feet on either side of the road ways.

New Business: (Continued from Page 2)

- Annual Bridge Inspections – Mike Whitfield
 - Our bridges are inspected every two years.
 - We will be doing some repairs of the bridges in-house. These are smaller repairs such as replacing pilings.
- Fleet Replacement Project – Mike Russell and Mike Whitfield
 - Mike Whitfield has worked extensively on this project. He will be going before the BOC within the next two weeks.
 - Mike W. gave a Power Point presentation of the Fleet Replacement Plan – final draft. This is what he will be presenting to the BOC.
 - Our most used equipment are our dump trucks. They're used year round for snow plowing and hauling of material and equipment.
 - Some of the fleet replacements will be paid in cash. The higher end equipment will be purchased through a lease to own contract. This will be a ten year contract.
 - Condition assessments will happen yearly, and in five years the whole plan will be reevaluated.
 - The goal is to spend more time out on the roads maintaining the roads as opposed to making vehicle repairs.
 - Sabrina Moore asked for clarification on the colored chart in the Power Point presentation. Discussion was had on how we maintain and track the equipment. We're hoping to do a better job on record keeping of the maintenance of our vehicles. Sabrina noted that some of her equipment are from the 80s and are still in good running order. It's all about how the trucks are maintained.
 - Rosemary would really like to take the time and look more thoroughly at the Fleet Replacement Plan. Mike will be sending the actual plan to all who may be interested in it. It's about 75 pages.
 - We're still entering into Inter Government Agreements whenever possible to use other agencies equipment.
- NEXT Renewable Fuels – Mike Russell
 - Yesterday was the open forum with the BOC. The Board will more than likely approve of the expansion plan. It's about a ten million dollar project just for the road itself. Total project cost is one billion dollars.
 - This is a rather controversial project. In the end, Mike believes that the County will approve this project and Hermo Road will be completed.
 - Rosemary noted that it's been hard to keep up on all of the Public Forum meetings now that they're not in-person.

Round Table Discussion:

- Rosemary asked about the Bonnie Falls slide on Scappoose Vernonia Road. The slide appears to be rather intimidating and scary. It looks like the whole hillside could end up on the roadway.
 - Per Mike Russell, this slide continues to be monitored. The slide is pushing the road up and creating a bump. In order to actually fix this slide area, millions of dollars would need to be spent in excavation alone. It's actually a pocket slide

Round Table Discussion (Continued from Page 3):

that continues to move and wreak havoc with the road. What we're doing with the road by putting on at least a foot of asphalt on the road to help weigh the road down and in keep it in place.

- Rosemary wasn't sure if the planting of a few trees up at the top of the slide is helping to keep the slide from happening or not.
- Per Mike, the slip plain is quite large and is out of our capabilities to deal with.
- Nita commented that in years past, if Scappoose Vernonia was having issues then drivers were able to use an old logging road as a detour. Now that it's the CZ Trail, it would be very difficult to use as a detour for any length of time or at all.
- Rosemary was very appreciative that the fence has been replaced. Work was done by Oregon Fish and Wildlife. She stated she was disappointed that it didn't hold a car.

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 21, 2022.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pat LaPointe, seconded by Nita Greene. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie Wheeler