

COLUMBIA COUNTY
Transportation and Road Advisory Committee
June 23, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Order:

Rosemary Lohrke called the Columbia County Transportation and Road Advisory Committee (CTRAC) meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. on Thursday, June 23, 2022, in Healy Hall.

Present:

TRAC Members: Nita Greene, Pat LaPointe, Rosemary Lohrke, and Sabrina Moore in person. Karl Webster, Bill Goodwin, and Paul Langner via GoTo Meeting.

Columbia County Staff: Mike Whitfield, Public Works Dept. Assistant Director; Scott Toenjes, Engineering Tech I; Ryan Allen, Crew Lead Worker for St. Helens District; 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 Paul Langner to approve the January 20, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Open Forum for Guest Comments:

- None.

Old Business / Updates: Mike Whitfield and Scott Toenjes

- The Fernhill Culvert Replacement has been removed from this years’ project list. Out of budget to complete the project.
- Scappoose Vernonia Bridge 20 Project
 - The design is currently being worked on.
- Millard Intersection
 - State is paying for the project from Highway 30 to the railroad tracks.
 - Columbia County is responsible from the tracks to Old Portland Road.
 - The road is currently being realigned on the east side of the highway.
- ARTS Project: Mike Whitfield, Scott Toenjes, and Ryan Allen
 - A lot of mowing has been recently occurring on Apiary Road.
 - Vegetation will be removed 18 feet from the fog line on either side of the two roads. This will include some larger trees. We haven’t begun to remove these yet. Trees on banks won’t be removed.

New Business: Mike Whitfield

- We’ve dealt with lots of rain and snow due to the current La Niña weather pattern since our meeting in January.

New Business: Mike Whitfield (Continued from Page 1)

- Colvin Road at Tandy Creek:
 - We are currently working with environmental regulators to determine a permanent fix at this location. The streambed has filled with sediment and caused the creek to run across and down the road. We have been told to wait until the in-water work period (July – September) to do any work and that a permanent fix is desired rather than the periodic temporary fixes that have been going on for some time in this area. Depending on authorizations to do the work, we want to get this cleaned up before the fall.
 - Tandy Creek is considered a fish bearing water way.
 - We will be clearing the road and creek of debris and cleaning the ditches out.
 - At a later date, we will be obtaining permits upstream to create pockets of areas that will allow the crews to clean out silt build up.
- Fishhawk Bridge B-117:
 - This bridge approach suffered some undermining during the storm season this year and we need to do some emergency repairs. The bridge structure is fine, but the road approaches need to be backfilled as the water running under the bridge has scoured out the soil.
 - We hope to be working on a first phase fix sometime in August. This phase will be to create a coffer dam and secure the road.
 - The bridge serves 30 residents.
 - The permit process has begun. The Corp of Engineers and DEQ are involved. We will not proceed with work until all of the required permits are in hand.
 - Next year our plan is to go upstream and do bank stabilization.
- Scappoose Vernonia Road – Bonnie Falls Bump:
 - We need to finish our road stabilization and re-profiling work we started in the fall 2021. We are waiting for a good weather window to get in there to dig out the other lane of traffic and stabilize the road base. Once that is done, we want to bring in a grinding machine to reshape the profile of the road so that it smooths out the bumps and banks the road for safer travel. This will happen over time as workload permits within the next couple of months.
- Patch Paving Program:
 - We will be performing approximately \$180k worth of asphalt patch paving on segments of the following roads starting mid-July through mid-August depending on the weather.
 - St. Helens District
 - Smith Road
 - Sykes Road
 - Gensman Road
 - Blaha Road
 - Rainier District
 - Lentz Road
 - Vernonia District
 - McDonald Road
 - Clatskanie District
 - Swedetown Road

New Business: (Continued from Page 2)

- Mike Whitfield is putting together an Invitation to Bid so that paving companies can do some of the paving for us over the next three years.
 - Some portions of the following roads would be included in this contracted paving:
 - McDonald
 - Siedleman
 - Swedetown
 - Alder Grove
 - Alston Mayger
 - Apiary, MP 14-19
 - Rosemary Lohrke inquired as to how the Road Department determines what section of roads are put out for bid. Ryan Allen informed the group that anything over 1 mile patches has to be sent out to bid. The limit is set by BOLI.
- FY 2022-2023 Budget Review – Julie Wheeler
 - Since Mike Russell wasn't in attendance, Julie spoke on the price increases of nearly all of the materials purchased. One instance is striping paint. Last year a truck load of paint was \$36k. This year that same load retails for over \$50k.

Round Table Discussion:

- Nita Greene requested more information concerning the Fleet Replacement Plan
 - Per Mike Whitfield, the Board of Commissioners approved three new dump trucks and snow plow attachments for each.
 - There will be \$150k per for lease of the dump trucks and another \$150k for smaller pieces of equipment.
 - The average age of our current fleet is 19 years old.
- Sabrina Moore stated that she didn't like the fact that her email requests for a Schedule F weren't answered
- Mike Whitfield:
 - Explained that at this time the Road Department doesn't have a preventative maintenance program in place.
 - We are currently working on getting a rotation of maintenance established. Sabrina voiced her concern that pre-trip vehicle inspections are required by CDL and should be occurring prior to every time a driver gets into their equipment.
- Sabrina Moore voiced her concern about the incident with the mower blade coming off last summer and going through the windshield of the mower behind mower 1. Is the equipment being inspected properly before operating?
 - Per Ryan Allen, the bolt in question broke where an inspection wouldn't have seen it.
 - Per Mike Whitfield, certain repairs that require welding are currently being done out of house until the mechanics are certified for such work.
- The TRAC members requested to receive reports on near misses/incidents when they occur.

TRAC Committee Meeting Minutes

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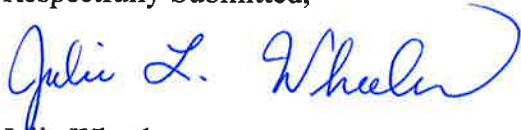
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Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 15, 2022.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:06am.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie L. Wheeler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Julie Wheeler