

**YAMHILL COUNTY
ROAD IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

This report summarizes the activities of the Yamhill County Road Improvement Advisory Committee (RIAC) for 2018. RIAC meets the 2nd Thursday of each month; it did not meet in September or October.

RIAC Purpose

RIAC was created in 1976 for the purpose of holding meetings as necessary to:

- develop a master plan for the construction, maintenance and improvement of County roads, considering traffic patterns and anticipated resources;
- to review crash rates on each of the County roads;
- to hear complaints about County roads and identify road deficiencies throughout the County;
- to consider petitions affecting any County road; and
- to study the existing location, condition, and use of the County roads.

The Committee is to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners (BOC):

- a priority for correcting road deficiencies identified by the Committee;
- criteria to be used in prioritizing road improvement projects;
- division of effort between paving new roads and maintaining the existing roads; and
- other such advice as the BOC may request.

Membership

Membership on the RIAC is intended to provide representation from all parts of Yamhill County to the extent possible. Stan Primozych is the BOC liaison; there was no liaison with the Sheriff's Office in 2018. Following is the RIAC membership for 2018:

- Adam Zabinski, Chair NW Yamhill County (Newberg-Yamhill area)
- Gordon Cook, Vice-chair NE Yamhill County (Newberg area)
- Philip Cleys (thru April) NE Yamhill County (Newberg area)
- Matt Dunckel SE Yamhill County (McMinnville area)
- Rocky Losli NW Yamhill County (Yamhill area)
- Donald Martsolf SE Yamhill County (McMinnville area)
- Tony Roos NE Yamhill County (Newberg area)
- Kristen Svicarovich (thru Aug) NE Yamhill County (Dundee area)
- Michal Wert NE Yamhill County (Newberg area)

2018 Accomplishments/Discussions

- Chair Adam Zabinski and Vice-chair Gordon Cook presented the RIAC 2017 Annual Report to the BOC.
- RIAC provided comments and recommendations on the Public Works Department (PWD) annual budget and priority Maintenance Improvement Projects (MIP) list.
- RIAC concurred with the Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee (RVMTAC) and recommended to the BOC that PWD partner with the

Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to share funding for a one-year position that can access ArcGIS and use the information to develop and manage a strategy for improving roadside vegetation management within the County right-of-way.

- Demolition of the old shop and construction of the new PWD building occurred in 2018. RIAC regularly reviewed status of the project and toured progress of the new building.
- RIAC members Tony Roos and Michal Wert and volunteers from the Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO) recommended modifications to the new building and parking lot plans to support landscaping the facility with native plants. NPSO has offered to develop and implement a plan to showcase native plantings for the site, with PWD providing support to purchase planting materials.
- RIAC concurred with the RVMTAC and recommended that PWD partner with SWCD and property owners to develop projects for three sites to demonstrate how better management of invasive plants and erosion control will benefit the County roadside as well as the adjacent landowner.
- PWD staff coordinated a tour of MIP project sites for RIAC and RVMTAC members.
- RIAC concurred with the RVMTAC and recommended that PWD hire two interns to survey roadsides for native plants during the spring blooming period and two interns to be hired for the summer to continue the roadside vegetation survey started in 2017.
- Sharing responsibilities and costs among County departments for a roadside dumping program and policy was discussed. This included discussion on possible policies for incentives to turn in those doing the dumping.
- RIAC recommended that the next tourism kiosk be located at Mineral Springs and Hendricks Roads.
- Erosion control, ditching issues, and maintaining culverts were routinely discussed, including adjacent landowner responsibilities.
- RIAC members solicited new members to replace Kristin Svicarovich and Phillip Cleys on the Committee and received several membership applications, and applicants were invited to attend a RIAC meeting. RIAC will recommend new members to PWD and the BOC.
- RIAC discussed guardrail evaluation and installation around the County for possible projects in 2018. The guardrail on Kings Grade Road is a good example of what can be done, but clear criteria will need to be developed for this potentially expensive program.

Informational Items

- Director Phelan and PWD staff provided information and regular updates to RIAC on several topics:
 - Tourism kiosk potential installation sites.
 - Updates on evaluations and ongoing status of actions to correct bridge conditions and deficiencies, including Palmer Creek, Ballston/DeJong Road, the Old Sheridan, Hill Road, Laughlin Road, and Deer Creek Park bridges.
 - MIP project bids and on-going status, including paving projects, budgets, schedules, striping, spraying, and signage.
 - Consideration of Hill Road as a bike path project.

- A petition of landowners to pave Ribbon Ridge Road.
- Installation of rumble strips on Cruickshank Road.
- Updating of the Yamhill County road map.
- County support of the Westsider Trail, as well as costs and oversight.
- Discussions with cities on potential to transfer maintenance on County roads within the city limits.
- Effectiveness of setting alternating 4 10-hour day workweeks instead of the standard 5 8-hour weeks to maximize time in the field and accessibility to the public.
- Continuation of the George Fox College internship program.
- The Newberg/Dundee Bypass project schedule and funding.
- Upgrading of software for the fuel island.
- Selection of an updated road viewer product to provide visual documentation of the County roadsides.
- Fees and management of the Cove Orchard Sewer System District.
- FEMA projects and reimbursements.
- New vehicle replacements and purchases.
- Partnering with Chemeketa Community College in the new shop building
- Personnel, management, and general PWD operations, including staff changes and new hires.
- In years past, the Sheriff’s Office (SO) provided reports on road and traffic issues. This office provides a good perspective on road safety and issues. The SO did not attend meetings in 2018 and will be encouraged to engage with RIAC in 2019.
- A weekly crew schedule and citizen request summary is posted on the PWD website and is emailed to RIAC members and the BOC.

Citizen Appearances/Letters

- Dennis Rogers of Sheridan attended to discuss maintenance of ditches and grading on Rogers, Savage, Gopher Valley, and Harmony Roads.
- Comments and suggestions for paving Kings Grade Road were received from road residents.
- Tom Hammer, Chris Mattson, and Eric Kuehne attended to present their opposition to the Yamhales Westsider Trail.
- Bob & Kim Taylor, Steve Harvath, Grace & Drew Bolliger, Joey Myers, Don Hagge, and Michael Doty attended to request paving of Hillside Road.
- Dan Warnshuis attended to request paving of Ribbon Ridge Road.
- David Burrink and Rhonda Brown attended to request ditching and tree trimming on Finn Hill Loop Road.
- Randy King, Kimberly Kahoot, Bruce & Pam Anderson, Lisa & Steve Holder, TJ Gray, Monica Hulbert, Dennis Craig, Erin Bennett, Scott Hart, and Mike Flynn attended to object to increased truck traffic on Albertson and Bald Peak Roads and to request reduced speed zones, to post driveway signs, and to prohibit jake brakes.

Presentations

- The George Fox University (GFU) senior design team made presentations on proposed improvements to the North Valley/Chehalem Road intersection. RIAC members provided suggestions for improvements to the design proposals.
- A second GFU senior design team presented preliminary plans for Stag Hollow Road, with the objective of eliminating or reducing recurring flooding and drainage problems and improving sight distance and safety issues. RIAC members brainstormed improvements to be made to the design proposal.
- Susan Aldrich-Markham, member of the RVMTAC, gave a presentation on the findings of the roadside vegetation inventories conducted during the spring and summer. The interns built on the protocol and continued surveys of invasive plants, significant native plant communities, and erosion within County rights-of-way. Although the interns completed more than anticipated, it is expected to require at least one more year to complete all the roads in the County.

Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee (RVMTAC)

RVMTAC Purpose

The BOC appointed the RVMTAC in 2014 to update policies and Best Management Practices to guide and assist PWD to manage roadside vegetation in a consistent, conscientious, and cost-effective manner. The RVMTAC reports to and provides regular updates to RIAC. The RVMTAC developed a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan that was adopted by BOC order in February 2016. Members were appointed for a second term in 2017 to help implement the Plan. An update on RVMTAC activities is included in this annual report since it is a subcommittee of RIAC.

Membership

2018 membership of the RVMTAC includes:

- Michal Wert, Chair Retired planning consultant, RIAC member/liaison
- Susan Aldrich-Markham Retired OSU Field Crops Extension Agent
- Dave Hanson Naturalist/land owner
- Vern Holm Retired Western Invasives Network Coordinator
- Mark Huff US National Park Service ecologist/vineyard owner
- Larry Ojua (thru Nov) Yamhill SWCD Executive Director
- Marie Vicksa (after Nov) Yamhill SWCD Conservation Planner
- Kareen Sturgeon Linfield College Biology Department Professor Emerita
- Sam Sweeney Yamhill County farmer
- Luke Westphal Greater Yamhill Watershed Council Executive Director

2018 Accomplishments

- Chair Michal Wert provided updates on RVMTAC activities and recommendations at each RIAC meeting.
- RVMTAC members recommended that a shared position to control invasive weeds be established by PWD and SWCD, recommended responsibilities for this position, and members Susan Aldrich-Markham and Michal Wert participated in the interview process.

- The RVMTAC recommended that PWD dedicate a staff position to roadside vegetation management, and a person was hired who could fulfill this need.
- The RVMTAC recommended hiring two interns for a spring wildflower roadside inventory and two different interns to continue the summer native plants/invasives/erosion inventory. The interns were supervised by member Susan Aldrich Markham and Justin Cooley, who was selected for the SWCD/PWD shared position. The Greater Yamhill Watershed provided a laptop for the interns to use, with the license paid for by PWD.
- The RVMTAC recommended that PWD and SWCD enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to allow Justin Cooley to do limited spot spraying of noxious weeds that he encounters during his work. This MOA was approved by the County.
- A presentation on the roadside vegetation inventories, coordinated by Susan Aldrich-Markham, was given to RVMTAC members and to RIAC.
- The RVMTAC recommended establishing a demonstration project to protect significant native plant populations for a limited area on Gopher Valley-Dupee Valley-Eagle Point Road roadsides. It also recommended establishing sites to protect and expand selected milkweed populations, which are used by the Monarch butterfly.
- The RVMTAC recommended establishing partnerships between PWD, SWCD, and adjacent property owners and identified three demonstration projects to address roadside erosion. Erosion costs a significant amount of public money for PWD to respond to each year and has negative effects on water quality. Effective methods to address erosion and coordinate with adjacent property owners will continue to be a priority for the RVMTAC.
- The RVMTAC began discussions on the pros/cons of establishing a formal Yamhill County Weed District and Board.
- The RVMTAC invited Brenda Sanchez, OR Department of Agriculture, and Roy Iwai, Multnomah County, to discuss erosion control, roadside vegetation management, and water quality initiatives in their organizations.

Approved by RIAC 10January2019

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