

**YAMHILL COUNTY
ROAD IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

This report summarizes the activities of the Yamhill County Road Improvement Advisory Committee (RIAC) for 2020. RIAC meets the 2nd Thursday of each month and voted to meet from 6:00-8:00 pm. Because of Covid-19, no meetings were held in April, May, or June; a virtual meeting was held in December.

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. Casey Kulla was the BOC liaison; the Sheriff's Office is encouraged to attend meetings and provide input on road, bridge, and traffic issues. RIAC membership for 2020 included:

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| • Adam Zabinski, Chair | NW Yamhill County (Newberg-Yamhill area) |
| • Gordon Cook, Vice-chair | NE Yamhill County (Newberg area) |
| • Jeff Brown | SW Yamhill County (Willamina area) |
| • Dave Hanson | SW Yamhill County (Sheridan area) |
| • Rocky Losli | NW Yamhill County (Yamhill area) |
| • Donald Martsolf (thru July) | SE Yamhill County (McMinnville area) |
| • John Mercier | SW Yamhill County (Grand Ronde area) |
| • Tony Roos | NE Yamhill County (Newberg area) |
| • Michal Wert | NE Yamhill County (Newberg area) |

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS/DISCUSSIONS

- Chair Adam Zabinski and Vice-chair Gordon Cook presented the RIAC 2019 Annual Report to the BOC.
- Provided comments and recommendations on the Maintenance Improvement Projects (MIP) list for 2020-21, including support to focus on a bridge improvement program.

- Recommended that the Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee (RVMTAC) remain active for at least two more years to continue the inventory and management work in cooperation with Director Lago.
- Discussed erosion concerns, including the existence of a spring in the middle of King's Grade Road.
- Discussed the need for litter control along County roadsides.
- Recommended that the Director evaluate the quality of striping paint and quality control for the striping contractor.
- Reviewed the proposed North Valley Road Improvement Project between Ribbon Ridge Road and Albertson Road. Member Michal Wert participated in evaluating proposals and Kittelson & Associates was selected to conduct the design and environmental work.
- Recommended continuation of the Roadside Vegetation Inventory. Jordan Anderson was contracted to manage the inventory for 2020; Michal Wert participated in virtual interviews to select two interns to complete the 2020 inventory.
- Discussed identifying a project(s) on County roads to use dedicated bike funds.
- Discussed requirements for repairs to County roads disturbed by City projects, including Carlton and Yamhill water lines.
- Recommended that the Sheriff's Department and PWD crew help identify and prioritize improvements to bridge decks that are degraded at the bridge/road interface.
- Reviewed the proposal to contract for an evaluation of pavement condition on all County roads, and recommended scenarios for evaluation.
- Started a discussion on the ten worst intersections in the County as identified by staff. RIAC will consider developing criteria for safety projects.
- Members Dave Hanson and Michal Wert, also members of the Cheahmill Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO), organized and participated in planting native gardens throughout the new parking lot, coordinating with member Tony Roos as contractor project manager. With the demonstration garden in front of the building, about 4000 native plants and 69 different species were planted on the site, reflecting almost 300 volunteer hours for organization, planting, and maintenance.
- Tony Roos submitted the winning application for the new PWD building/parking lot as Project of the Year for the Oregon Chapter of the American Public Works Association
- . The award recognized reuse of materials, engagement of George Fox engineering students in preliminary design and surveys, and coordination with the local NPSO chapter to landscape with native plants throughout the site. The project will be entered into national competition.
- Discussed the Director's plan to create a dust abatement program to contribute to dust oil on roads that are not likely to be paved. RIAC will help formulate a priority list.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Director Lago/Commissioner Kulla provided information and regular updates to RIAC on several topics:
 - Personnel, management, and general PWD operations, including staff changes. Greg Haffner was hired as Engineering Manager replacing Bill Gille.

- ODOT program requiring Critical Lifeline Routes and seismic upgrades of Yamhill County bridges.
- Need for a County plan for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) compliance and corrective measures (relative to water quality standards for Willamette River) since roads are a source of mercury delivery to water systems.
- Status of tourism kiosk installation at Dewey Corners (Albertson/N Valley Rd).
- Updates on evaluations and status of actions to correct bridge conditions and deficiencies, including Laughlin bridge.
- Status of parking lot completion and landscaping.
- Oversize through-truck limitations on several roads.
- ODOT study of traffic volume/sight distance for Hwy 240/Red Hills intersection.
- Application for a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant to improve safety and add a ped/bike path on Westside Road.
- Scheduling and other efforts to ensure safety of PWD and County staff during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Transition of Steve Kindel to focus on vegetation management.
- First culvert update in over 15 years.
- ODOT discussions on Westside Road as an alternative truck route for Highway 47 through Yamhill and Carlton.
- Possible projects to submit for an ODOT All Roads Traffic Safety (ARTS) program grant.
- Regular reports on RVMTAC activities were provided by Chair Michal Wert.
- Coordination with Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (MWVCOG) to enter data from the Roadside Vegetation Inventory into the PWD database so it can be regularly used for management decisions.
- Applications submitted for five County bridges for 2025-27 ODOT local bridge program funding.
- Coordination with the Greater Yamhill Watershed Council, Corps of Engineers, Division of State Lands, and OR Department of Fish & Wildlife for design and approval of a fish passage culvert on Adcock Road.
- Brushing and mowing focused on reclaiming right-of-way and responding to citizen requests. The program will become proactive instead of complaint-driven.
- Equipment purchases and upgrades.

CITIZEN APPEARANCES/LETTERS

- Bruce Hubbard of Amity attended to express his interest in serving on RIAC.

PRESENTATIONS

- The George Fox University (GFU) senior design team presented final design recommendations to address the Stoller/McDougal Road intersection.
- A second GFU design team presented research and preliminary proposals for redesign of Mineral Springs Road at Gun Club Road and Willamina Creek Road at Trindle Creek Road.
- Jordan Anderson, manager for the 2020 RVM, and Susan Aldrich-Markham, member of the RVMTAC, gave a presentation on the findings of the roadside vegetation

inventories. All county roads have now been inventoried for erosion, invasive species, and native plants.

- Director Lago presented results of the Capital Asset Pavement Systems (CAPS) evaluation on the condition of County paved roads from 2010 to present. The intent of the program is to help identify where to focus funds to maximize limited resources.

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 and were reappointed in 2020. An update on RVMTAC activities is included in this annual report since it is a subcommittee of RIAC.

Membership

2020 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
- Marie Vicksa Yamhill SWCD Conservation Planner
- Sam Sweeney Yamhill County farmer
- Luke Westphal Greater Yamhill Watershed Council Executive Director

2020 Accomplishments

- A focus of the RVMTAC in 2020 was to complete the roadside vegetation inventories to provide PWD and SWCD with a management tool and data to make decisions on roadside vegetation management. The RVMTAC provided oversight and received findings and recommendations from the inventory program.
- Inventory of all roads in Yamhill County was completed in 2020.
- Chair Michal Wert provided regular updates on RVMTAC activities to RIAC. Jordan Anderson and Susan Aldrich-Markham gave a presentation on results to RVMTAC members, and Susan presented findings to RIAC.
- As recommended by RVMTAC, Steve Kindel is assigned full-time to manage roadside vegetation. He is becoming familiar with the database and starting to use it for management decisions.
- Recommended that the inventory be conducted annually to evaluate invasive species control and that all roads be reinventoried every three years on a rotation schedule.
- Two subcommittees were established – one to discuss funding and how to address invasive weed species, the other to develop maintenance protocols and to identify boundaries of native plant communities and milkweed Special Maintenance Zones.

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