

**YAMHILL COUNTY
ROAD IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

This report summarizes the activities of the Yamhill County Road Improvement Advisory Committee (RIAC) for 2021. RIAC meets the 2nd Thursday of each month from 6:00-8:00 pm. April was the only in-person meeting. Because of Covid-19, all other meetings were virtual and accommodations were made at the Public Works Department (PWD) office for members who could not attend virtually. RIAC did not meet in August 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. 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 2021 included:

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

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS/DISCUSSIONS

- Adam Zabinski and Gordon Cook presented the RIAC 2020 Annual Report to the BOC.
- Provided comments and recommendations on the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) list for 2021-22, including support to focus on a bridge improvement program.
- Reviewed the ten County intersections with greatest safety concerns as identified by PWD road supervisors and how vegetation management has improved these intersections.
- Discussed a formal Adopt-A-Road program to recognize residents who pick up trash along the roadsides. The County has an informal program where PWD provides bags, grabbers, and safety vests, and retrieves bags when notified by residents but does not formally assign road segments or recognize residents by signs.
- Discussed ramifications of shutting down the Yamhelas Westsider Trail project and potential loss of revenue to the County to repay grants.
- A new “blue sign kiosk” was installed at Dewey Corners on Albertson Road. RIAC discussed concluding the kiosk project since readily available sign cluster locations have had kiosks installed. RIAC recommended that the annual fee for signs on the kiosks be reduced from \$50 to \$25 and be reviewed annually to ensure that maintenance costs are fully covered.
- Discussed intrusions into the right-of-way, whether temporary permits should be considered, and the need to focus on those which create a safety hazard.
- Discussed the lack of consistency for driveway culvert installation and maintenance and if the County should assume responsibility to ensure adequate roadside drainage.
- Discussed Director Lago’s survey of Oregon counties regarding dust abatement and whether Yamhill County should pursue this program.
- Provided opportunities for candidates to discuss their interest in joining RIAC to fill two vacant positions. One vacancy was filled by Bruce Hubbard and RIAC recommended Phil Higgins to fill the other.
- Discussed a progressive design-build contract program for bridge repair to expedite improvements as proposed by PWD.
- Discussed full depth reclamation for Albertson Road and other recently paved roads that need to be rebuilt.
- Discussed how to control speeding on several county roads.
- 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.
- Reviewed implementation progress on the 2020-21 RIAC Priorities – see attachment.
- Fleet Manager Russ Heath gave RIAC an inspection tour of new equipment.
- Gordon Cook and Michal Wert participated in candidate interviews to replace vegetation coordinator Steve Kindel. Andrea Vallejo, who interned on the roadside vegetation inventory for two years, was selected to fill the position.
- Discussed concerns about safety issues at Red Hills and Stiller’s Mill Road intersection with Highway 240, and brush on North Valley Road at Chehalem Drive.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Director Lago and Commissioner Kulla provided information and regular updates to RIAC on several topics:

- The status of Covid infections and protocols in the County.
- Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments worked with PWD to devise a mobile app with locations of protected species, special maintenance zones, and obstructions identified in the roadside inventories to assist with mowing and spraying.
- McMinnville Transit Department funding.
- Newberg/Dundee bypass phases and funding.
- Commissioner Kulla provided a list of constituent transportation concerns.
- PWD hired a consultant to address Upper Willamette Basin mercury total maximum daily load (TMDL) and the requirement to develop storm water plans by September 2022 to reduce mercury contamination.
- Contracting for maintenance and road construction projects, bridge projects, and progress on scheduled projects.
- Streamlining process for County Counsel review of PWD contracts.
- Tony Roos gave regular updates on the North Valley Road improvement project, including results of the virtual town meeting.
- Cooperative efforts between PWD and the railroad to improve Briedwell railroad crossing.
- Updates on County efforts to address the February ice storm and the July extreme heat wave.
- Dr. Paul Hammond conducted his annual survey for Fenders blue butterflies and reported that Yamhill County's 2021 butterfly population is thriving in some sites due to its maintenance of Kincaid lupine but is not doing well in others. Kincaid's lupine sites are being inventoried as part of the roadside inventory and this will provide additional information to Dr. Hammond's program. The butterfly is being considered for Federal downlisting from Endangered to Threatened.
- PWD held a meeting of the County Habitat Conservation Plan Technical Advisory Committee to present and discuss Dr. Hammond's 2021 survey results and to present an update on the County annual roadside vegetation inventory.
- Michal Wert gave regular updates on the Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee meetings and activities.
- Progress of the Athey project to reclaim ditches and improve the profile of gravel roads.
- Equipment condition and replacements.
- Coordination with City of Carlton on paving Meadow Lake and Panther Creek Roads after city water line installation.
- Meeting with Director Lago and Commissioner Kulla with Bald Peak Road residents to discuss speed issues, and requests to ODOT to help address speed on Bald Peak, Bell, North Valley, and Albertson Roads.
- Traffic studies evaluated sight distance issues and warranted installing all-way stop signs at the intersections of Bald Peak Road with Kings Grade and Albertson Roads.
- Personnel, management, and general PWD operations, including staff changes and staff rotations/summer hours.

- Director Lago provided videos of a staff rodeo and gave an overview of training programs for operations, safety, and leadership.
- Updates on culvert improvements, including need to address fish passage.
- Purchase of traffic control devices/solar radar signs to indicate motorist speed. Will be mobile to keep messages fresh for motorists.

CITIZEN APPEARANCES/LETTERS

- Patricia Farrell and Shanna Miller complained of dust on Dopp Road and requested that it be paved. Alternatively, a dust abatement program should be instituted.
- Marianne Paul requested that Schaad Road on Parrett Mountain be paved since it is surrounded by paved roads.

PRESENTATIONS

- The George Fox University (GFU) senior design team presented preliminary and final design recommendations to address the intersections of Willamina/Tindle Creek Roads and Mineral Springs/Gun Club Roads.
- Director Lago showed videos demonstrating the County’s planned ditch reclamation project.
- RVM TAC member Susan Aldrich-Markham and roadside inventory intern Andrea Vallejo gave a presentation on the 2021 roadside vegetation inventory results. A major effort was controlling Italian thistle in the Dundee Hills wine growing area.
- A second GFU design team presented options for intersection improvements at Webfoot-Stringtown Roads and Bell-Springbrook Roads.

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

The RVMTAC met virtually in February and in person in June and August in 2021, and several individual projects PWD were managed by RVMTAC members. 2021 membership of the RVMTAC included:

- 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 Vicksta Yamhill SWCD Conservation Planner

- Sam Sweeney Yamhill County farmer
- Luke Westphal Greater Yamhill Watershed Council Executive Director

2021 Accomplishments

- Chair Michal Wert provided regular updates on RVMTAC activities to RIAC.
- Michal Wert and Gordon Cook participated on the interview committee to replace Steve Kindel when he retired as the Roadside Vegetation Coordinator. Andrea Vallejo, who served as a Roadside Vegetation inventory intern for two years, was hired for the position.
- Susan Aldrich-Markham coordinated with Linfield College staff and students to inventory the Abbey/Kuehne/Hendricks intersection native plant areas. The intent is to document existing plants and develop protocols to enhance this native plant restoration area.
- A collaboration of PWD, the Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), the Greater Yamhill Watershed Council (GYWC), and Susan Aldrich-Markham focused on controlling and spraying Italian thistle and garlic mustard to keep them from becoming established in the County. This included a major outreach to vineyard owners. James Reidman was hired by PWD to spray invasive Italian thistle and other invasives identified through the inventory.
- Two interns were hired for the spring/summer – Andrea Vallejo and Jacob Rose. Jordan Anderson was hired to manage the program and Susan Aldrich-Markham provided oversight.
- Interns used County-furnished iPads to track the growth of native plant populations, protected species and invasive Italian Thistle and Garlic Mustard. They also added utilities and culverts to the database.
- All the County roads are now inventoried for major erosion, invasive plants, and important native plants/communities. PWD agreed to include an annual line item to hire interns every spring/summer to continue the inventories and the intent is for each road to be resurveyed on a 3-year rotation.
- Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments continued to load County infrastructure data into a comprehensive database. PWD intends to buy tablets for staff to use as they mow and do other work along the roadsides to identify areas of special concern or protection and obstructions.
- The County designated its first Native Plant Community Special Maintenance Zone (SMZ) to cover all of Dupee Valley and part of Eagle Point Roads. It is nestled among three SWCD conservation areas. After ditching is complete, PWD will contact adjacent property owners to solicit their support/cooperation and will post roadside signs.
- Menzies' larkspur (*Delphinium menziesii*) is an uncommon delphinium growing on the shoulders on Eagle Point Road that would have been eradicated with the County's program to reclaim ditches and gravel road shoulders. Members of the TAC, SWCD, and the interns dug and potted the plants to be stored at SWCD Miller's Woods and to be replanted in the same location after ditching is completed.
- Mowing and spraying protocols were developed for four milkweed SMZs on Peavine, Latham, Bayley, and Old Sheridan Roads. PWD posted signs and sent letters to

adjacent property owners to educate/solicit support so the populations do not get sprayed.

- SWCD partnered with PWD and property owners to rehabilitate erosion areas to reclaim them with native and pollinator plants. A demonstration project in the Amity area also included Linfield College students to help monitor the sites.
- Michal Wert and Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO) member Jeanie Taylor participated in the selection process to hire a firm to maintain the native plant gardens around the PWD building. The firm will maintain the 4,000 native plants (69 different species) in the 12 plant beds around the PWD building/parking lot.
- The Countywide annual weed meeting identified six high priority invasive weeds: mouse-ear hawkweed, garden yellow loosestrife, water primrose, knotweed, garlic mustard, and Italian thistle.
- Significant erosion in a Kincaid's lupine SMZ on Old Moore's Valley Road was addressed by PWD ditching and adding jute netting to hold the bank, and planting Roemer's fescue plants by TAC and NPSO members.

ATTACHMENT
IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF 2020-2021 RIAC PRIORITIES

1. Ditching/Culverts/Gravel Road Maintenance
 - Brushing
 - Two brushers are out on the roadways year-round until fire season
 - PW now has 3 brushers and extended parts inventory
 - Mowing
 - Two mowers are out on the roadways year-round until fire season
 - PW now has 3 mowers and extended parts inventory
 - Ditches
 - Started ditch reclaiming in late February on CIPs
 - Rented an excavator for a second ditching crew
 - 2020-21 budget will purchase a 2nd excavator for ditch reclaiming
 - A program is being developed for hydro-seeding in the fall
 - Culverts
 - Flushing/cleaning started in late February and will continue
 - In March repair and replacing culverts on CIPs
 - Shoulders
 - Ditching, dry weather, and CIP prep delayed start
 - Will start soon with Athey loader on gravel roads
 - Gravel Roads
 - Will start reprofiling after/during Athey work
 - Dry weather delayed start
 - Erosion
 - Working with Yamhill Soil & Water for demonstration projects
 - Is one of the most important items on the Mercury TMDL implementation
 - Vegetation Management
 - On-going year round
 - Working with Yamhill Soil & Water, Greater Yamhill Watershed Council, and Susan Aldrich-Markham on trying to get control of invasive weeds especially Italian Thistle
 - Continue to have roadside vegetation interns update GIS
 - Will get Steve Kindle position ready for advertisement (Applicator's license a must); goal for new employee to start is July 26
2. Capital Management System/Pavement Management (5-year plan)
 - Developed a 5-year pavement management plan through Capital Asset and Pavement Services (CAPS)
 - Reviewed by RIAC and the BOC
 - First year of projects will start this summer (overlays then chip-seal)
 - Will start preparing roads for 2022 overlays and chip-seals in the Fall
3. Safety
 - Intersections

- Have listed the top problem intersection and shown RIAC what PW has done to improve short term
 - Made some physical improvements to North Valley Road & Albertson (flashing beacon on stop signs, rumble strips on road surface, and looking at installing a two way stop sign)
 - Continue to work with George Fox University students to design and improve problem intersections
 - Spot Hazards
 - PW is always looking for spot hazards and dealing with them
 - The public calls and/or fills out a service request
 - Service requests are reviewed and scheduled for repair usually within a week or sooner
 - Corridors – Have not looked at
 - Project from TSP – Have not looked at document
4. Bridge Separation
- Looking into using steel sheet piles or guardrails (vertical or horizontal) vs wood for headwalls.
 - Backfilling with Control Density Fill (CDF)
 - There are several projects scheduled for this summer for headwall replacement (Kuehne, Geelan, and Stringtown Roads)
5. Public Communication
- We are working on sending letters to County residences before projects start and putting up sandwich boards at project sites
 - This will be a big part for the Mercury TMDL implementation
 - Need to update website
6. Contract vs In-house staff
- On CIPs we are contracting out traffic control and sub-base stabilization then using PW for culvert replacement and pre-levels
 - Contracting engineering firms for 30% plans on bridges to fine tune design and budget
 - Progressive Design Build RFP for bridges
 - Will purchase a bucket truck with chipper in budget 2021-22 for tree trimming
 - Looking to update the Vegetation Management vehicle
7. Geographical Information System (GIS)
- Worked with Mid-Willamette Valley of Council of Governments to develop PW GIS viewport
 - Mowers and spray applicator vehicles are using PW viewport on iPads
 - Roadside Vegetation Interns are using PW iPads but using Watershed Council's GIS
8. North Valley/Chehalem Drive Intersection - nothing