

**YAMHILL COUNTY
ROAD IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

This report summarizes the activities of the Yamhill County Road Improvement Advisory Committee (RIAC) for 2022. RIAC meets the 2nd Thursday of each month from 6:00-8:00 pm. After a year of Covid, meetings were again in person with accommodations available for virtual participation. RIAC did not meet in February, July, or August.

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

RIAC members serve three-year terms and are 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. Membership for 2022, with year of appointment, included:

- Gordon Cook, Chair/2002 NE Yamhill County (Newberg area)
- Adam Zabinski, ViceChair/2015 NW Yamhill County (Newberg-Yamhill area)
- Jeff Brown/2019 SW Yamhill County (Willamina area)
- Dave Hanson/2019 SW Yamhill County (Sheridan area)
- Bruce Hubbard/2021 SE Yamhill County (Amity area)
- Rocky Losli/1998 NW Yamhill County (Yamhill area)
- Chip Mayes/2022 NE Yamhill County (Newberg area)
- Tony Roos/2008 NE Yamhill County (Newberg area)
- Michal Wert/1997 NE Yamhill County (Newberg area)

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS/DISCUSSIONS

- Chair Gordon Cook and Vice-Chair Adam Zabinski presented the RIAC 2021 Annual Report to the BOC.
- Adam Zabinski was elected Chair for 2023-24; Michal Wert was elected Vice-chair.
- The Sheriff's Office periodically reported on road safety concerns expressed by deputies and sergeants and discussed possible solutions.
- Discussed intersection improvement needs and possible solutions, including Highway 240/Red Hills Road.
- Provided comments and recommendations on the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) list for FY2022-23, including a continued focus on the bridge improvement program.
- Provided comments and recommended support for the CIP budget proposal for FY2023-2024.
- Discussed the importance of providing public access for all RIAC meetings.
- Recommended reduction of Private Maintenance Agreement fees for property owners to maintain adjacent public roadsides.
- Michal Wert participated in candidate interviews to replace Office Manager Catherine Lindberg and Vegetation Coordinator Andrea Vallejo. Tara Williams was hired as the new Office Manager and the Vegetation Coordinator position is being evaluated to include management of the Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program.
- Discussed the 5-year plan for pavement maintenance and agreed to setting aside overlays for a year.
- The Habitat Conservation Plan Implementation Committee toured Kincaid's lupine and Fender's blue butterfly sites with consultant Paul Hammond. Dave Hanson and Michal Wert represent RIAC on the Committee and participated on the tour. Paul Hammond subsequently submitted his report for PWD/RIAC review.
- Reviewed a Native Plant Society of Oregon assessment of the PWD native plant gardens and associated "bee project" which is part of the OSU Bee Atlas.
- Discussed and provided information for the new PWD Facebook page.
- Discussed processes and opportunities to set/influence speed limits on County roads and state road signing.
- Provided opportunities for candidates to discuss their interest in joining RIAC to fill a vacant position. The vacancy was filled by Chip Mayes.
- Mark Lago and Michal Wert gave a presentation to the Yamhill AG Water Quality Advisory Committee on roadside vegetation management and water quality issues.
- Discussed concerns on parents lining up along County roads to pick up students at Ewing Young Elementary School. The Director reported on discussions with the School Principal to address this issue.
- Discussed new all-way stop signs at Bald Peak/Albertson Roads and Bald Peak/Kings Grade Roads.
- Reviewed the Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee (RVMTAC) update of the 2016 Yamhill County Vegetation Management Plan, and recommended adoption by the BOC.

- Discussed updating the 2016 Yamhill County Transportation System Plan (TSP), the process and timing for updating the Plan, and how the TSP can better support infrastructure funding. This project would likely be led by the Planning Department.
- Discussed a Cooperative Road Improvement Plan (CRIP) application on Kramien Road to upgrade the road with private funding.
- Discussed a new 5-year Bridge Capital Improvement Plan that will be used to assess and prioritize funding for County bridges.
- Discussed the Blue Sign Program and the need for this program to be self-supporting but not a revenue generator. The kiosk program has been paid for and is complete.
- Michal Wert gave regular updates on the Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee meetings and activities.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

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

- Bridge projects, including Deer Creek Park Bridge replacement, Ed Grenfell Park Bridge load limits, Gopher Valley Bridge design, and schedule for replacement of Patty Lane and Old Railroad Grade Bridges.
- Continuing efforts to streamline the County contracting process.
- Cove Orchard Sewer Service District (COSSD) master plan for improving the sanitary sewer system, including timing, cost, and funding.
- PWD staff retirements, resignations, and new hires.
- PWD equipment needs and purchases.
- Commissioner efforts to support County funding priorities of bridge repair, safety at intersections, and sidewalk safety before the Oregon Transportation Commission.
- “Stop ahead” signing to warn of new stop signs at Kuehne Road near Hwy 240, Bald Peak/Albertson Roads, and Bald Peak/Kings Grade Road.
- Updates on general maintenance activities, including rising costs of oil and lack of available crushed rock; bid programs for rock, contract hauling, and sweeping; and the chip seal program and striping.
- Analysis and installation of electronic radar signs.
- Updates on project to locate all culverts and their condition as a new layer on the County GIS system.
- The goal is for all PWD vehicles to be equipped with iPads.
- Transfer of Yamhill County Parks Department to PWD.
- Contracting to prioritize bridge capital projects with a focus on extending the life of bridges.
- Status of the next phase of the Newberg-Dundee Bypass project.
- Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funding opportunities, including replacing East Creek Bridge.
- Reconstruction of Albertson Road.
- Citizen concerns on gates across public roads and possible policy options.
- Update on the FEMA funding for 2021 ice storm costs.
- Development of a plan to comply with the state/federal mandated Upper Willamette Valley Mercury TMDL program.

CITIZEN APPEARANCES

- Leesa and Tim Novack raised issues on maintenance, policing, non-licensed vehicles, and high speed on High Heaven Road.
- Chad Krueger discussed the need to pave Old Yamhill Road to serve as a route for bicycles, to serve as a Carlton bypass to ease downtown traffic, and to address the dangerous Highway 47/Fryer Road intersection.

PRESENTATIONS

- The George Fox University (GFU) senior design team presented final design suggestions and conclusions for the Webfoot/Stringtown and Bell/Springbrook Road intersections. RIAC provided suggestions and recommended preferred designs.
- Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO) member Jeanie Taylor conducted a tour to discuss issues and opportunities for enhancing the PWD native plant gardens.
- RVMTAC member Susan Aldrich-Markham gave a presentation on the 2022 roadside vegetation inventory and results.
- TetraTech presented their report and recommendations on the mandated Mercury TMDL Plan to develop storm water plans to reduce mercury contamination.
- A second GFU design team presented options for intersection improvements at Cruickshank/Hwy 233, Stringtown/Hwy 233, and Red Hills/Hwy 240. Members discussed modifications and encouraged the team to consider how the Cruickshank and Stringtown intersection options impact each other along Hwy 233.

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 reappointed in 2017 and again in 2020 to help implement the Plan. An update on RVMTAC activities is included in this annual report since it is a subcommittee of RIAC. In addition to the work of the Committee, several PWD projects are supported by RVMTAC members.

Membership

The RVMTAC met in April and August. Membership of the RVMTAC in 2022 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 Retired US National Park Service ecologist/vineyard owner
- Keith Nasman Yamhill SWCD Conservation & Outreach Specialist
- Sam Sweeney Yamhill County farmer
- Luke Westphal/
Jordan Anderson Greater Yamhill Watershed Council Executive Director
GYWC Board Chair

2022 Accomplishments

- Chair Michal Wert provided regular updates on RVMTAC activities to RIAC, and participated on the interview committee to replace Andrea Vallejo as the County Roadside Vegetation Coordinator.
- Updated the 2016 Roadside Vegetation Management Plan to address regular updates, expanded guidelines for roadside management, guidelines for the GIS inventory process, ditch management practices, and a new section on implementation. It was forwarded to RIAC for approval to recommend to the BOC for adoption.
- Marianna Kemp was hired as a summer Roadside Vegetation Inventory intern. Two other applicants declined the second position. Susan Aldrich-Markham filled in for the second intern and managed the program.
- Marianna and Susan gave a presentation to the RVMTAC on the activities and results of the 2022 inventory.
 - Spraying for Italian thistle continued and it is important that this be an annual program for PWD.
 - The Abbey-Kuehne-Hendricks restoration site continues to be inventoried by the interns and students from Linfield College. There are many weeds, but also more natives. It was a late bloom year so the inventory may be less than actual for native plants.
 - The inventory protocol was improved for Kincaid's lupine sites so it is difficult to compare years. Some sites have expanded, some not.
 - Inventories of erosion were compared for 2017 and 2022 conditions. This is a valuable tool to visually see improvements or worsening erosion of roadsides. Significant erosion sites include Kuykendall/Clay Pit, Mineral Springs, North Valley, Ribbon Ridge, and Webfoot Roads.
- Susan 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.
- Italian thistle control continued in winegrowing areas. County spray equipment was updated to ensure maximum drift reduction, and more vineyard owners allowed the County to spray this year because of good results in 2021.
- Delphinium (*Menzies' larkspur*) plants were dug in October 2021 along Eagle Point Road to salvage before a county ditching project. Potted plants were kept at Miller's Woods native plant nursery and surviving plants and soil were replanted in 2022 in the same locations where they were dug.
- A 2021 fall erosion/Kincaid's lupine restoration project on Old Moores Valley Road included PWD reshaping the ditch for about 200 feet and placing jute netting to hold the soil. NPSO volunteers planted potted Roemer's fescue plants in the netting and spread seed in the ditch. Susan coordinated Linfield students to plant additional Roemer's fescue on the site in 2022.