

## TILLAMOOK COUNTY ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 8th, 2009

*MEMBERS PRESENT:* Chair Curt Schonbrod, John Gettman, Gary Hanenkrat, Gus Meyer, Stephen Macartney and Jerry Dove

*STAFF:* Commissioners Labhart and Hurliman (portions of the meeting), Liane Welch and Jeanette Steinbach

*GUEST:* Kathleen Newton (a portion of the meeting)

*PUBLIC:* Robert Van De Grift, Esther Van De Grift, Dallas Pfeiffer and Dora Norwood

**Item 1.** Meeting called to order at 3:05 pm by Curt Schonbrod.

**Item 2. Minutes Approval:** May 11, 2009 minutes approved by John Gettman seconded by Gary Hanenkrat, unanimously approved.

**Item 2-Local Access Roads (LAR):** Mr. Pfeiffer resides on a LAR, and has some concerns about the county not maintaining LAR's per Board Order. He read from his note, attached for the record, and asked that the county consider reimbursing him for the costs of mix used to fix the pot holes. He also expressed his concern about the condition of Bewley Street which is a county road. Liane said that depending on funding, the county in partnership with the City of Bay City, the City owns half the road to the west, and also widening of county portion of McCoy and then do a jurisdictional transfer. Liane suggested getting together with the neighbors and discuss how to go out about fixing the road. Curt suggested getting the mix from S-C Paving since it is cheaper. Talked about how the county could help with this process, but accounting and regulating might be a problem. Jerry Dove suggested that they vote for a road dept. levy.

Mr. & Mrs. Van De Grift shared their concern about the dust issue caused by speeders on Misty Drive in Cloverdale. They would like the speed reduced from 35 MPH. Jerry Dove recommended signing a petition and taking it to the BOC for recommendation. Dove also suggested writing a letter with their concerns. Liane to respond with the process once the letter has been received. Jerry Dove suggested that they vote for a road dept. levy.

**Item 3. Presentation by Tillamook County Citizens for Sustainable Roads Group – Kathleen Newton:** Attached for the record Preliminary Report to Tillamook County Board of Commissioners. Kathleen explained that members of the group were contacted to discuss how the Road Dept. could come up with funding after the road tax levy went down 2:1. At the first meeting it was decided that feedback from the county citizens was needed to determine what options might be acceptable and to gather new ideas. The Headlight Herald distributed the survey to its readers, and boxes were placed during the Tillamook County Fair in August 2008 to collect completed surveys. September 2008 the 400 responder results were tabulated. Demographics reflected participation from all areas of the county. 92.4% indicated that the roads needed to be improved, 7.6% said the roads did not need improving; 82% don't convert roads to grave. The primary reason given for voting against the May 2008 tax road levy was because the cities were not included. 56% said they might vote if the cities were included, 42% opposed if they were included. Another option was a 5-year tax – 46% opposed, 49% approved. 59% favorable for transient room

tax, 41% opposed. Bond measure indicating what roads would be fixed 43% favorable, 43% opposed. Gas tax received a 46% approval with 48% opposed. Sales tax received a 28% approval with 69% opposed; Flat fee road maintenance received a 38% favorable with 49% opposed. One-time building fee approved 57% with 35% opposed. The group decided that due to the economic turbulence and various funding stimulus packages that an interim report should be presented to the BOC with the survey comments. The group hopes to reconvene in the fall. They are a lot of politicians working on different funding options. Commissioner Labhart explained that if HB 2001 passes the counties would not be able to go for a gas or vehicle registration tax for 2 years.

Comm. Labhart has met with the Sustainable Roads group, the city mayors, the chambers and the community to introduce a Lodging Room Tax (LRT). A LRT would be a lodging tax on motels, RV Parks, State, County & federal campgrounds (operated by a concessionaire), and the estimated 1,500 vacation rentals. Tourists and county residents would be paying the LRT if they stay in one of these facilities. According to Dean Runyan & Associates, eight counties have a county-wide LRT. They are Baker County, Clackamas County, Klamath County, Lake County, Multnomah County, Union County, Wallowa County and Washington County. Six other counties, Clatsop, Lincoln, Lane, Deschutes, Hood River, and Jefferson have a county-wide lodging tax that only applies in unincorporated areas. The State presently collects a 1% LRT from the same sources and according to Scott West from Travel Oregon that amounts to \$235,000 in 2008 which is used to promote the state of Oregon. According to Comm. Labhart, Scott said that he would support a LRT with a 70% tourism and 30% road distribution. Comm. Labhart said that this is more than the county roads get now, and the money would be used to pave roads. The Chamber of Commerce's would work with the cities if they are incorporated to share the percentage assigned to tourism. Comm. Labhart said that even though the other Commissioners are aware of this effort, no decision has been made. Comm. Labhart plans on going to civic groups and the community to gauge their reaction. The ballot measure would state 30% to be dedicated to the roads. Curt Schonbrod said that he would support this measure if the roads distribution was higher. Gary Hanenkrat agreed. Comm. Labhart said that 60% of the survey supported a LRT. Kathleen said that she was not sure if those surveyed knew about the percentage split. Committee discussed about imposing a special tax on second homes.

**Item 4. Construction Project Update – Johnson Bridge - ARRA:** Bids open July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The road crew continues to repair the approaches. Leftover OTIA money and the \$626,000 from ARRA will be used to fix the approaches and pave Long Prairie Road as far as funding allows. County forces will be working on some preparation work on Long Prairie Road.

**Item 5 FEMA/FHWA Projects:**

- **Salmonberry Bridge:** Three proposals were received with different approaches. The team chose W H Pacific as the consultant because their proposal will meet the needs of the community and the Port of Tillamook. This project is below ordinary high water that would need big rock with wooden debris for structure and environmental concerns.

**Item 6 Road Dept. Update:**

- **Utilities:** Liane said due to vegetation covering the phone pedestals it is very difficult for the mower operators to see them. Ordinance #28 states that areas must kept clear; this ordinance pertains to utility permits on the right of way. The phone

company wanted OUNC to be contacted, but OUNC said that this is not required because it is an underground utility. Liane is working on trying to get the utility companies to clear the areas around the pedestals.

- **FDR:** Full dept reclamation to be done on portions of McCormick Lp, Kilchis River and Brookfield Roads. This consists of rebuilding the road, grinding, adding cement, shaping it and then paving it. In partnership with PMAT obtained a water truck for a limited time for free, local bids was \$74/hr. Asphalt prices at this time are \$55 from S C Paving. Lincoln County will pave Savage Road; this is a great partnership opportunity.
- **Boulder Creek:** This design contract was awarded to OBEC.

Curt asked if the age demographics have changed. They are still about 50% of the staff that are within five years of retiring.

**Item 7 Future Meeting topics:** Funding; Storm water Management; Projects: Current and future; Invite other agencies, i.e. Port of Tillamook.

Jerry complimented the outreach and public relations being done, it is much appreciated. John Gettman said that the City of Bay City is still trying to bore the water line waiting on inform from other agencies.

Hydrologist letter. Stephen to send the letter for signature to Curt, and then present it to the Board of Commissioners. There is still concern about the water issue in this county, and a Hydrologist is needed.

Gus reported that DEQ is working on a Storm water report, Liane is to be on the Stakeholders group.

Liane presented the farm access issue to the Farm Bureau, gave them the ordinance, and shared some issues relating to accesses. The concern is sight distance and damage to approaches on county roads.

The Port of Tillamook according to Jerry Dove is upgrading their buildings, purchasing school district property in conjunction with the college, working on the digester, rail car storage, and hoping that Senator Betsy Johnson will get match money. This is a first for FEMA so hard to get answers.

**Item 9. Public Comment:** None

**Item 10. Next Meeting:** Next meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2009 Conference Room B. Agenda items to include: meeting schedule.

**Item 11 Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.