

TILLAMOOK COUNTY ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CRAC)

DATE: November 10th, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Bob Reed, Vice-Chair Curt Schonbrod, Marlin Clark, Ray Streeter, and Larry Kiser

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jack Brooks, Bill Howard, Ray Robinson and Gloria Gass

STAFF: Aaron Suko/PW Director, Pat Oakes/Engineering Project Supervisor, Bob Willhite/Operations and Jeanette Steinbach/Recorder

GUESTS/PUBLIC: Gus Meyer, Dora Norwood and Commissioners Hurliman/Hanneman and Leeann Neal were present for a portion of the meeting.

Item 1 Call meeting to order, review agenda: Meeting called to order at 3:08pm. No agenda changes.

Item 2 Review minutes of 10-13-03: Larry Kiser moved to accept the minutes as written, Ray seconded, unanimously approved.

Item 3 Road Department Status:

- | **Report on Maintenance & Repair:** Bob Willhite reported that the crew are working on blading, shoulder work and patching. Discussed the mower - the new mower is working well, but the old mowers are costing a lot of money in labor and parts.
- | **Report on City of Bay City, 4th Street Project:** The paving is completed, striping to be completed during the 2004 striping schedule - marking tape has been placed. Aaron mentioned that Commissioner Hurliman announced at the BOC meeting that the City of Bay City Mayor Jim Cole passed away on Saturday.
- | **McCormick Loop Road:** The unsafe issues have been taken care of and the overlay to be accomplished in the spring 2004. It was reported that the Farmer is still hauling on this route. Commissioner Hurliman, Aaron and Bob W. are scheduled to meet with the Farmer on Thursday at 10:30am. Aaron to extend his thanks to the Farmer for giving the Road Dept. the right of way to solve this issue. If limitations were placed on him, the BOC would have to implement this for all Farmers. Aaron said that he has not received a recommendation from the Agriculture sub-committee that could be taken to the BOC for implementation. The Farmer believes that others have used this area in the past and the road was not in the best condition. Aaron agreed that the road was not in good condition. Commissioner Hurliman said that he would like to come up with a solution with the Farmer before an ordinance is created. This issue has to be addressed professionally, he added, with the best solution in mind. Bob W. said that with the widening of the road, the Farmer should be able to stay in the lane. Bob W. reported that he received a lot of feedback from the public. Some indicated they were happy that this was being done, but unhappy that the Farmer did not contribute to the cost or this would set precedence that if enough damage were done, the county would fix the road.

- | **Culvert Priority List:** Bob stated that Gist Road Culvert has been replaced. Commissioner Hurliman said that this list would be used as a coordinated effort with the Watershed Council that will look at Fish Passage issues and Road Dept. concerns. The Road Dept. will complete priority #1 on the list.

Item 4 Project Discussion:

- | **Laneda Road - City of Manzanita:** Pat reported that the BOC approved the Intergovernmental Agreement with the city for the in-kind work that the Road Department would be undertaking. City will receive the contractor's schedule 11/11/03. A public meeting is planned for 11/12/03. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled 11/17/03. Every Monday at 9am a construction update meeting is scheduled for the public.
- | **Sandlake-Galloway Road:** Paving is completed from the store to Derrick Road. The beams are being transported today to Tiger Creek Bridge. Ray Streeter said that the paving just completed was not up to par according to one of the construction crew. Apparently it did not pass the test. Pat Oakes to follow up on it.
- | **Blaser Bridge:** Contractor requested a completion inspection, which was conducted 10/29/03. There is still work to be done, but the bridge opened Friday 10/31/03 2:45pm.
- | **Johnson Bridge:** The BOC will review a load limit order on 11/13/03. Anticipation of permitting details and questions warranted OBEC to be retained to work through this process. This bridge has been submitted for potential funding from OTIA III. Johnson Bridge is on Long Prairie Road near Trask River Road.
- | **Gist Road:** Fish passage project with the TEP where by the County would handle the administration of the contract and receive reimbursement from TEP. The corps still has not given approval, so the project is at a standstill.
- | **Blaine 2 Project:** Federal Highway Administration indicated that they would like to meet onsite to discussion roadway ditchlines. As soon as agreement with the basic design is completed then right of way acquisition would occur.
- | **Maxwell Mountain Road & Grand Avenue issues:** These are roadside hazard issues. BOC has scheduled a Public Hearing process on January 21st, 2004. Notices will be sent out.

Item 5 Report on Forest Revenue Questions raised by the Forest Sub-

Committee: Aaron gave a copy of the questions that were brought up by the Forest Sub-Committee to the BOC. He handed out a copy to the CRAC. The questions were:

1. How much money does the county receive from timber revenue?
2. Where does it go/who gets it?
3. How was this determined and by whom?
4. Who would have authority to alter the current arrangement?

Aaron read out Tim's response. "Answers to the 4 questions. State Timber revenue: The County General Fund budgeted to receive \$1.8 ml. This figure has been revised to \$2.09 ml. The first two quarters are in and we have

received \$1.67 ml. The total of all taxing districts, which includes the County General Fund and schools for the first two quarters is \$5.46 million. Expenditure of these resources is determined by the budget committee.

BLM safety net revenues (O&C Land) budgeted: \$520,000, which goes to the County General Fund. Expenditure of these resources is determined by the budget committee.

U.S. Forest Service Safety net Revenues: The budgeted amount to be received is \$1.7 ml. These funds are expended by the County Road Department as determined by state and federal law."

Paul Hanneman said that he is just finishing a paper on state timbers revenues and where they are distributed. He said that the numbers given by Tim were correct. The revenues will increase for 6-7 years until the harvest of the Swiss Needle cast is finished. Less than 100 ml. board feet a year is being harvested and the best estimate is that the forest is growing over 300 ml board feet a year which is estimation done by studies and computer formats. The question was if the trucks are using the roads to a greater extent and causing damage to the roads why can't some of the state timber revenues be given to the Road Department. The Budget Committee makes this decision how the revenue is distributed. 25%-30% of the County budget is from timber sales, so an increase in timber revenues does not overall increase the county budget that much. He hopes that more overlays could be done especially on Trask River Road and roads where the timber sales are. Paul gave Curt a copy of a draft paper he is working on that indicates how state forest revenues are distributed and the obligations of the county. Paul continued that the county receives about \$9 to 10 mil. which is then distributed to the local districts, schools, forest management and mandated services. Paul introduced LeeAnn Neal who happened to be in his office; she is the staff person at North Coast Citizen.

Commissioner Hurliman added that Title II monies are for inner structure. He indicated that the State Forest Advisory Committee would have to determine if monies could be set aside prior to a sale so repairs could be done to the affected roads. BLM does not have that many issues with county roads. Hurliman agreed with Commissioner Hanneman's earlier take on the distribution. Bob Reed suggested that the Forest Sub-Committee could look at the projected plans and see what are roads are tributary to the Trask River road, and then approach the Forest Sub-Committee if there is a possibility that a certain percentage could be set aside for damages done to the road. There was an estimate given by the staff at the Road Dept. that it would cost \$287,000 just to overlay 4.6 miles. Aaron said that approximately 1.5 miles were added to the summer 2003 paving program because that area needed it done. Aaron also said that in the 2001 budget the Budget Committee did choose to make available \$140,000 of the BLM O&C funds to the Road Department, since then no monies have been received from that source which is an option that could still be used. Hurliman said it probably won't be used because of the budget constraints, other avenues need to be looked at. He felt that it would be better to get the monies from the Forestry. Curt said that Paul Hanneman's article states that Tillamook County does pay for the State's reforestation of Tillamook County, which is \$4,626,278.11. There was also an accounting error made a few years ago, and it was concluded that

the County still owes the Forestry \$960,071.00. The Forest Development Fund was used for the Tillamook's Headquarters Project. The cost is \$6.5 million. The new Salem compound is financed with certificates of participation (COP). The biennial debt service on the COP's is \$3.2 million, of which \$1.2 million comes from ODF's other funds including the Forest Development Fund and the Common School Lands Funds. Curt assumed that this money comes out before distribution of Forest monies to the County. Tillamook County has also committed \$150,000 to the Interpretive Center. Commissioner Hurliman said due to the Needle Cast issue the county agreed to a 10-year reduction in timber revenue in order to accommodate the higher costs involved with harvesting Swiss needled cast stands. Aaron thought it was a significant percentage. Hurliman was not sure.

Discussed the Swiss Needle Cast and whether it was being controlled. Curt read Paul Hanneman's article said that "since 1997 school districts within the Clatsop-Tillamook State Forest lost 60% of the revenue from timber harvests. Under the provisions of ORS 327-008 and 0.13(9)(f), the State School Fund grants are minus revenues from state managed forestlands." Curt said that Paul Hanneman's article also talked about the Tillamook Rainforest initiative. "Most of the lands burned 50 to 65 years ago were in Tillamook County. The reforestation debts much are paid - mainly by Tillamook County, Other obligations exist. The initiative prevents harvest on 50% of the land even after nearly 40% is already in is "no harvest" zones." Curt said that bottom line if we have to pay for reforestation; it would take a big chunk out of the revenue, if this initiative would pass.

Curt said that he still would like to know how the monies are distributed locally, i.e. agencies and county departments. Aaron suggested contacting the Treasurer for the detail.

Aaron suggested inviting Mark Labhart to the next Forest Sub-Committee meeting for his input on the OAR's and ORS's that govern the management of distribution of forest funds. Larry K. said that the BOC should take a public stand on the Rainforest initiative. Aaron said that they are engaged in taking a public stand on this initiative. Aaron said that outgrowth of having this sub-committee is that the BOC would receive input from the industry about what the Road Dept. deals with. The sub-committees as well as this committee are trying to gain an understanding of the funding picture and he hoped that further meetings are scheduled. A funding alternative needs to be sought and he hopes that CRAC as a committee put the bulk of their effort to this task because services cannot be lost.

Aaron commented on the article that was in the Headlight Herald last week. "This article noticeable adversely affected the morale in the department as a whole, and me personally as the Public Works Director. I take a certain amount of offense at the Commissioner's statement in the paper that he is building his whole campaign for another four years of service on the reason that he is going to straighten out my department, which he has not been able to straighten out in his first four year term. Now, maybe that newspaper article did not impress some of you in the same way it impressed me when I read it, but again, I would appeal to you all not to lose sight of the revenue picture. If dramatic improvements are to be made to the road and be able to withstand floods, windstorms that may or may not come upon us in the

next year or two, we are not going to be able to do that from the standpoint of cutting back further because there is no free meal in this business."

Larry K felt that the Commissioners are eluding or ducking the issue, as they did not answer the question as to whether the Forestry would give the road department any money. He asked if the Forestry could put in a user fee. Curt indicated that the Forest Sub Committees concern was that if the road department received the money - how much of it would go on the road.

Marlin said that the Agriculture sub-committee was not available for another meeting. He apologized to CRAC for giving them erroneous information. He thought that the farmer who previously used McCormick with his Oversize tractor was not using it, but he is. The farmer indicated that he is bending backwards to help the road department and would drive on the right side of the road and not hold up traffic. The Farmer said that he could not use flaggers as was suggested by Commissioner Hurliman because he does not have enough manpower. Bob Reed thanked Marlin for all his efforts and appreciated his commitment to the CRAC. Marlin suggested that out-of-work loggers could be used to do some roadwork if needed. Aaron responded that the Road Department has the same weather related issues as the loggers. He added that there is not enough money to hire sub-contractors as the major portion of the budget goes to payroll. If the trend is to keep on cutting back instead of alternatives for additional revenue then the study that was done earlier this year shows ways that this could be done. If one of the alternatives in the study were chosen that would substantially reduce the payroll, money would be available to employ seasonal or temporary help. The experience of the staff would be lost which would affect the response time during storms and related issues.

Ray Streeter said for a bypass route to avoid Johnson Bridge, the trucks could use McCormick Loop.

Item 6 Funding Alternatives: Covered in Item 5.

Item 7 Public Comment: Gus Meyer said that the Soil and Water Department made a presentation to BOC today to take over two fish passage improvement projects on Samson and Green Creek culverts on Trask River Road. Curt mentioned that the culvert was replaced a few years ago on Green Creek.

Bob Reed commented that Ray S, Larry, Ray R, Bob, Gloria and Bill CRAC terms are expiring. Renewal letters have been sent to each member. Aaron encouraged the members to return the letter in the affirmative. Bob Reed added that the experience of each member is valuable. Election for the officers will be held in the January meeting. Bob Reed hopes to have the forest sub-committee meet in the next 30-40 days.

Item 8 Next meeting, date and agenda: It was suggested that the next meeting be held in January due to potential storm issues. Aaron would like to discuss the striping contract. The State will not be providing the striping for county roads. Aaron will be bringing in some alternatives, i.e. subcontracting with another county or looking for bids. Dora asked the reason that the State is terminating the contract. Pat said that their equipment would not fit on the County roads. Aaron said it would be very

time consuming to put out a bid, but contact will be made with various counties for sub-contracting. Bob Reed said \$117,000 was budgeted for this line item and in the previous year \$97,000 was spent. Next meeting January 12, 2004 at 3pm.

Item 9 Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm