

**TILLAMOOK COUNTY ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (C.R.A.C.)**

Date: February 22, 1999

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jack Brooks, Norm Myers, Diane Waldron, Marlin Clark, Bob Reed, Mary Cramer, William Howard, Bob Rieke, Michael Wissenfluh, Rich Gitschlag, Curt Schonbrod

**STAFF:** Jon Oshel/Director, Pat Oakes/Engineering Project Supervisor, Bob Willhite/Operations Superintendent, Gayle McMullen/Education Committee, and Jeanette Steinbach/Recorder

**PUBLIC:** Dora Norwood

**ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 3:00PM by Chair Jack Brooks

**ITEM 2 INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS:** Members introduced themselves and welcomed two new members Michael Wissenfluh and Marlin Clark.

**ITEM 3 MINUTES:** November 30, 1998 was accepted as written.

**ITEM 4 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR:** Bob Reed nominated Mary Cramer as Chair and Curt Schonbrod as Vice Chair, both motions unanimously accepted.

**UNSCHEDULED TIM JOSI:** Mary welcomed Tim Josi, Commissioner. Tim suggested that CRAC come up with a direction and recommendation on additional monies that this department needs now and at least through 2002. He added that there is a proposal in the legislature that may generate some money but it will not be sufficient. Efficiency is the key to buy accountability and credibility from the voters stating that although Jon has previously maximized his dollars there is always a possibility that changes can be made. Tim also suggested that merging services with ODOT could save some money adding that Jackson County had been merging some services for 3 years and he and Jon hope to visit them soon. Jon commented that Jackson County shares stockpiles, equipment and location but the big issue will be dealing with different pay scales with the two agencies. Tillamook County also shares stockpiles and equipment with ODOT.

Marlin Clark asked Tim if he would be willing to go to the legislature to get money from the State. Tim stated that he cannot write legislation but he would do all he can to get money for the County.

Rich Gitschlag asked Tim how CRAC should define ways to show people that the Road Department is efficient. Tim answered that going through the process is a story that needs to be told. Jon added that the Road Department is not perfect and although efficiency has been improved every year there is always room for improvement.

Dora Norwood (Public) stated that Trask River Road has a lot of potholes and the Road Department has been very slow in filling them adding that perhaps the road department wants sympathy or has a design to get the public vote for passage of a tax. Tim suggested that CRAC should look at this issue and see if this is true or not. Jon responded that chuckholes are not a budget

issue, the priority is reopening roads, cleaning up slides and then chuckholes. Jon added that he is not happy with the current situation at all, the best situation would be to overlay the roads soon enough so chuckholes did not form.

Tim Josi concluded that the members of this group should not have their road as their criteria for being part of this advisory group. He added that he hoped to get a recommendation from the Committee whether the Road Department should go out for a tax or not.

Curt Schonbrod asked if the prevailing wage could be suppressed for this County. Tim and Jon both replied that it had been put through the legislature and the prevailing wage is adjusted in heavily populated areas which has resulted in Tillamook County paying higher wages.

**UNSCHEDULED AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS:** Jon stated that paving projects with long hauls could be shared with ODOT. The Road Department shares stockpiles, ODOT does the County paint striping and the efficiency could be that ODOT could do the State and County roads at the same time.

**ITEM 10 EDUCATION PROGRAM:** Members commended Gayle on the recent articles in the paper. Gayle said that she would be doing a factual information piece on a weekly basis with topics to include road mileage, geographics etc. Jon mentioned that he and Tim Josi met with Linda Shaffer of the Headlight Herald and she is thinking up a contest of "Bad Roads" in Tillamook County. Jon added that he was not in favor of this type of publicity. Members agreed that emergency services should take precedence over potholes. Jon stated that there are a lot of bad roads in Tillamook County and to convert a paved road to gravel will cost a lot of money and manpower. Gayle would appreciate receiving feedback from the CRAC members on suggestions for news articles. Brochures will be looked at again; the Education Committee has one, as does CRAC. She also suggested inviting Sara Charlton or Ed Armstrong /Library and Sharon Kaszycki /Transport System to the meeting to discuss how citizens can be approached for a tax. Mary Cramer also suggested getting with Barbara Trout at KTIIL for further publicity and education. Jon stated that he has been making presentations at the Chamber of Commerce and Community Clubs and he felt that he received a positive response this time. Education should also focus on who are CRAC and their responsibilities.

**ITEM 5 COMMITTEE GOALS:** Efficiency, Program Priorities, and Education/Public Process, Budget 1999-2000

Jon reiterated that any other goals or tasks that the Committee wants to take on in addition would be welcome.

**ITEM 6 & 8 BUDGET 1999-2000:** Jon explained how he derived at the Budget with the handouts given. He would like feedback from the Committee on changes or suggestions. Committee would like the following to make a decision: Budget status 1998-1999 update; reflection of actual cost of employees with all the benefits, comparison of employees wages with other Counties and with BOLI. The CRAC agreed that last year additional monies needed for maintenance was \$1.2M, this budget year it would be more. Mary Cramer asked Jon about the intended plan of last year to layoff 6 employees. Jon said it was a 5-year

plan and presently down 5 employees by attrition. Discussed the effect of performance and maintenance being hard to ascertain. Conclusion was that to aid the public awareness there is a need to quantify the implication of differing the tasks to show its impacts on the roads.

**ITEM 7 WORK PRIORITIES:** Went through the funding program priorities list handed out. Suggestion was made that cost should be associated with the funding priority list.

Bob Willhite stated that he was concerned that the CRAC is not taking on its responsibilities. It is expecting the Road Department to continually do all the footwork, which is correct, but results are not evident adding that he had hoped this Committee would have already started the education process since it has talked about it for over a year. Bob Reed reiterated that CRAC helped at the fair and budget presentation and went through all the paperwork submitted for equipment, budget and priorities coming up with recommendations and approval.

**ITEM 9 LOCAL OPTION FUNDING:** CRAC discussed the revenue needs and decided to broach the tax issue with all the positive and negative impacts; Jon mentioned to the Committee that monies from a tax source will take 1 or 2 years to take effect. Mary Cramer suggested that she meet with Jon and discuss a timeline and proposal to bring to the next meeting. Diane Waldron stated that she is in favor of money for the Roads but the waste of money by the Commissioners on the \$50,000 skylights on their Conference room would turn citizens away from any additional taxes.

**UNSCHEDULED:** Jon gave an update on Sandlake road stating that it will cost \$300,000 for a temporary road and \$2-3M for a permanent fix. We are waiting for approval from the Federal Government to do permanent repairs.

**ITEM 11 CITIZEN CONCERNS:** None

**ITEMS 12 ADJOURN:** Meeting adjourned at 4:55 by Chair Mary Cramer. Next meeting March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1999.