

Flathead County Road and Bridge Advisory Committee  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
August 21, 2008 – 7:00 pm  
Solid Waste District Board Room – County Landfill

1. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Charles Lapp – Chairman, Karl Schrade, David Hilde

Committee Members Absent: Mike Schlegel-Vice Chairman, Dan Siderius

Staff Present: Public Works Director Dave Prunty, Operations Manager Guy Foy, Commissioner Dale Lauman, Recording Secretaries Juanita Nelson & Patti Vernarsky

Public Attendees: Paul Abel, Mark Gluth, Tom Gorton, Miral Gamradt (MDG Consulting)

2. Introductory Remarks

No introductory remarks at this time.

3. Comments from the Public (15 Minutes Maximum)

Mark Gluth, 1068 McMannamy Draw – He stated that the lower mile of dust abatement put on McMannamy Draw by Stoltz only lasted two weeks with the heavy truck traffic. He asked about the progress of the letters that were sent out for the rebuild of McMannamy Draw. He asked if the standard of clearing the 60 foot wide right-of-way couldn't be reduced for that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. He felt a 42-44 foot clearing of right-of-way is far more reasonable, since most of the county roads don't have the standard 60 foot clearing anyway.

Paul Abel, Farm Road – He brought in a bag of gravel from his road in front of his residence. He stated that the Bigfork Sewer District is causing the road to be pulverized and then the fine dust particles become air born by other traffic. He referred to the comments posted online about the articles in the Daily Interlake from readers stating that the residents on gravel roads knew they were gravel when the properties was purchased. He continued to state that the Bigfork Sewer District has only been out on Farm Road for about eight years, also the district has tax exempt status. He stated the county has approved more subdivisions in the Bigfork area, creating more trips for the sewer districts trucks down Farm Road. He said he is affected by about the county green box site off of Highway 82, that people use Farm Road to access. He stated that Farm Road is the only road off of Highway 82 that is not paved, but is the only road that is impacted by public

services. He knows there are other roads with higher traffic counts, but feels Farm Road has a higher traffic count for public services.

Dave Hilde asked Paul how many trips a year the Bigfork Sewer District makes on Farm Road. Paul replied the sewer district hauls approximately 100 loads a year, but there are also the maintenance people for the plant besides the trucks.

Dave Hilde asked Paul if he felt the gravel on Farm Road is different than any other gravel in the county. Paul replied no he thinks it's pretty much the same. Dave Hilde asked if Paul felt that when the weather gets dry like it is this time of year that all the gravel in the county is going to look the same. Paul replied yes, but if a road has a lot of residents driving on the road then the residents should be responsible, but Farm Road has a lot of traffic caused by public services and the county should be responsible.

Dave Hilde asked Paul what his definition of pulverized is? Paul replied crushing it into fine particles that become air born.

Tom Gorton, Mennonite Church Road – He retrieved information off the internet about the expenses for applying the magnesium chloride on Mennonite Church & Jensen Road. His understanding was the county was going to use some left over magnesium chloride from last year on these two roads. He also stated that the cost for someone to apply magnesium chloride is approximately \$3500 per mile. He produced a copy of the bill from Schlegel & Sons for applying the magnesium chloride on Mennonite Church was \$9300. He felt the committee should be concerned with the expense. The section of road with the new gravel of 5-6 inches deep is holding with the magnesium chloride, so he felt it is working. He stated that yesterday it rained enough that those roads should have been graded, but he did not see any graders out, and he felt a grader should have been on Mennonite Church. He was curious why the county was more concerned about a gray paved road and not the gravel roads. He feels the committee needs to send a letter to the commissioners to stop the overlays, and that magnesium chloride is only a band aid. He asked about the work being done on Holt Stage and the 18 inches of pit run being placed. He stated he is not an engineer, but feels that is way too much material.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes – **Action Required**

**Dave Hilde moved to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2008 meeting. Karl Schrade seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed, minutes approved.**

5. Action Agenda – **No Items Requiring Action**

6. Director's Report

a. July Operations Report

Guy Foy briefly reviewed the report to the committee on July's overlays, chip sealing, grading of gravel roads for maintenance and dust oil requests, and the beginning of the rebuild on Holt Stage. Dave Prunty stated the design for Holt Stage was done by Jackola Engineering, using the Flathead County Road Standards Book. He stated the county needs to follow the standards as well.

Dave Prunty informed the committee that with the rain that was received yesterday, today we had ten graders working and tomorrow there will be seven graders and three water trucks working. He stated all the gravel roads were in tough shape with as dry as the weather has been.

b. Exposure Draft – MDG Consulting

Dave Prunty introduced Miral Gamradt of MDG Consulting regarding the review of the cost accounting system for the road department.

Miral started with the overview of why MDG Consulting was contracted as a third party review, to see if the road department was effectively tracking their costs.

He continued that the county utilized PubWorks for their cost account of their services. Miral explained that he did various tests to audit the truth of the reports generated from PubWorks and found the tests to be true. He felt the findings of PubWorks (cost accounting) and the County Budget (fund accounting) were reasonably close.

He stated that after the previous meeting that the department needed to implement cost categories, which have been broken down into 11 different categories.

Miral informed the committee that fund accounting system is not a cost accounting system. The PubWorks system is not a fund accounting system; therefore the two systems are never going to be exact.

He continued to comment that the Flathead County Road Department is one of the only local governments in the state that is doing a cost accounting system. No other department within Flathead County does a cost accounting system.

Miral went on to explain the differences between cash financing and debt financing.

Overall Miral felt with the various tests he did to prove the systems to be reasonably accurate, and should be considered accurate to balance within 10%.

7. Comments from the Committee Members

Dave Prunty stated the next regular scheduled meeting on August 28, 2008 is cancelled. He continued that the meeting scheduled for September 11, 2008 is cancelled also, due to him and Guy both being on vacation.

Discussion was held for a tentative date with the County Commissioners being either September 16 or September 18.

Karl Schrade and Dave Hilde both would like the committee to meet briefly together before they meet with the commissioners.

8. Adjournment

**Karl Schrade made the motion to adjourn, Dave Hilde seconded, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.**