

**Valley County Road Advisory Board
Valley County Commissioner's Chambers
Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2021**

Members present - Ed Allen (TEAMS), Steve Hull, Kirby Robertson, Paul Hefner, Gary Swain, Lorraine Munn

Nonmembers included – Jeff McFadden, Commissioner Sherry Maupin, Mary Rosen, Doug Miller

Meeting was called to order by board chair, Paul Hefner at 2:00 pm.

Approval of meeting minutes from May 19, 2021: Steve Hull made a motion to approve May 19 meeting minutes per revision, Kirby Robertson 2nd. All approved and motion passed.

Communication Plan: Paul Hefner asked if there were any further comments on Valley County Road Communication Plan. Hearing none, Kirby Robertson moved to recommend the Valley County Road Communication Plan for approval by Valley County Commissioner's. Paul Hefner 2nd. All approved and motion passed.

Current Budget: Paul Hefner opened the discussion stating we need to know what funding we have currently to identify funding gaps. Clerk Miller stated that the FY22 Road & Bridge Department budget has been prepared which he presented to the group along with previous years budgets. Clerk Miller explained the types of revenue received. Gary Swain commented on carry over funding. Discussion centered around Secure Rural Schools funding and how even though it is a significant funding source for the department, it is not secure. Commissioner Maupin stated that this funding is not projected for 2022 and work is being done to emphasize the importance of this funding to the Idaho Legislature. One time funding was discussed, and Kirby Robertson asked the group if Old State Highway could not simply be patched and hold this funding in reserves and use as match to leverage grants for future federal grants. Jeff McFadden stated that the road is in extremely bad condition and needs resurfaced. Commissioner Maupin agreed that that project was a priority. Jeff stated that he puts additional funding in the budget for match and will continue to do so to build a reserve for grant match. Kirby Robertson stated that roads need to budget for unexpected expenses but needs to be transparent in the process and needs matching funds. Kirby requested the FY21 and FY22 Road and Bridge Department budgets be emailed out to the committee. Commissioner Maupin said that a long-term strategy needs to be adopted to secure road department funding to address all the priority projects. Committee agreed to research GARVEE bonds and CUP zoning process and report back next meeting.

Break: 3:28 pm. Meeting resumed 3:37 pm.

Funding Opportunities: Paul Hefner opened the discussion on funding-stated that he was curious if there were BLM funds to use. Commissioner Maupin stated that mineral funding goes to the state, none to counties. Lorraine Munn said that Perpetua puts money into roads around Yellow Pine and wondered if there was any wildfire funding for thinning and road improvements. Gary Swain inquired about the foregone funding. Commissioner Maupin explained the funding distribution and more budget information is needed at this point but should have it by 1st August. Paul Hefner stated that priority projects could be used included in levee. Discussion on creating local highway districts included

Commissioner Maupin stating that she had reached out to several highway districts and explained some of the pros and cons. Gary Swain commented that a previous county wide survey had shown little interest with citizens in the county. Paul Hefner stated that it may be beneficial to a backcountry area such as South Fork Salmon River area. Discussion on LID's included Gary Swain stating that LID's have been successful in Nampa. Commissioner Maupin stated LID could be obtained in a subdivision for roads and requires a 60% vote. Impact fees were discussed, and Commissioner Maupin stated that there were questions about fee structure since new construction would make sense but should not have an impact on locals. Paul Hefner noted that there are different levels of funding in different states. There could be more opportunity in fire funding. BARE funding availability was questioned. Commissioner Maupin stated that county cannot pass a gas levee. Local option tax could be an option which is being investigated. Different funding options were discussed. Kirby Robertson wondered when the computer system would be up online for roads. Commissioner Maupin stated that IT Department looking at programs now and should have up and running by February. Paul Hefner stated that he would take taxing districts off the list. Commissioner Maupin stated that we needed grant amount to keep in budget for grant match. Kirby Robertson suggested that roads department go back 5 years to get an idea of the average needed for the match. Important to keep reserve funding but be transparent about it. Need to showcase the projects and move forward with public relations to get a levee passed.

Action Items and Follow up: Paul Hefner asked the boards opinion on meeting schedule moving forward. It was decided that meetings would go back to original schedule of 1st Wednesday of every month. Kirby Robertson reminded group that they needed to look at roads budget information. Commissioner Maupin will keep board informed on current legislation activities centered around road funding.

Paul Hefner made a motion to adjourn. Kirby Roberson 2nd. All approved. Meeting closed at 4:56 pm.