

**Valley County Road Advisory Board
Valley County Commissioner's Chambers
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2021**

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

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

Meeting was called to order by board chair, Paul Hefner at 2:05 pm.

Approval of meeting minutes: Kirby Robertson made a motion to approve October 6, 2021, meeting minutes, Steve Hull 2nd, motion carried by unanimous approval.

Current Road Projects Update: Jeff McFadden gave following updates-

- Patching and blading Big Creek Summit.
- Distributed willows for snow plowing.
- Farm to Market shoulder work.
- Installing new grader wing.
- Sand and salt are mixed and ready.
- East and West Lake Fork are complete.

Commissioner Maupin stated that Jeff would be meeting with McKenzie Kramer soon to discuss getting the work accomplished this summer out to the public.

Review Recommendations: Paul opened the discussion with confirmation that the Board is on the Valley County Commissioners agenda for November 15th at 1:00 PM. There are specific motions made which need to be in the document which is sent to the Commissioners along with the priorities. Board requested Mary remove the discussed motions resend.

Priorities for the Coming Year: Paul worked to combine Kirby and Gary's lists. Kirby explained the reasoning behind his list and requested that Gary's document be the one that moves forward to the Commissioners. Kirby feels that Commissioners already have the tools in place with human resource issues. Paul made the request to add backcountry maintenance to the priority list adding that a cost analysis of maintenance of these roads is needed before we can make a decision.

Paul would also like to add removal of vegetation at intersections. Jeff stated that he needs more assistance from the public and to let him know of areas for vegetation removal through email or phone.

Jeff stated that Sarah McFadden has started her position and assisted in reviewing the new FIXX software. Software will enable total inventory management including cost, tracking, and reporting.

Backcountry roads were discussed. Paul stated that a cost per mile to rebuild the roads is needed to maintain properly. Ed would like to see a plan with a budget for back country road maintenance. State fuel tax funding is paid per mile of road. Kirby stated that they need adequate information on costs from roads. However, there needs to be a plan for current maintenance until the cost analysis is completed. Contracting out the backcountry maintenance may be the best option. Jeff discussed the cost of

maintenance of backcountry roads. Commissioner Maupin suggested getting on contractor's radar. Ed stated that there should be a way to obtain baseline costs. Contracting out may be the most proactive approach. Lorraine stated there was only one pass in Yellow Pine this summer. Needs maintained in Spring and Fall in addition to once in the summer before the Harmonica Festival. The mag chloride that was applied already has bad spots. Commissioner Maupin suggested the board request time from the Commissioners to get permission for Grant Writer to assist in locating grants.

Paul Hefner made a motion to recommend to the Valley County Board of Commissioners that Valley County Grant Writer explore potential recreation grants possible for rebuilding of eligible roads. Kirby Robertson seconded the motion. After hearing no discussion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Maupin reported on the latest information on SRS funding. There was a discussion on the cost of herbicides and pre-emergent.

Kirby Robertson made a motion to present Valley County Board of Commissioners with the Seasonal Priorities list created by the Valley County Road Advisory Board as a recommendation for Valley County Road & Bridge Department. Paul Hefner seconded. Hearing no further discussion. Motion carried.

Kirby Robertson made a motion to recommend to the Valley County Board of Commissioner that Valley County Road & Bridge Department bid out backcountry maintenance to determine if 3rd party contracting is most efficient. Lorraine Munn seconded the motion. After no further discussion. Motion passed.

Break – Returned 3:45

Paul requested a discussion on the list of priorities document. The document was reviewed, and suggestions were made. Mary will work with Paul to update and distribute before the Commissioner meeting.

Funding: Commissioner Maupin stated that there would be funding opportunities coming for transportation. Mary gave a review from the LHTAC grant training workshop.

Kirby made a motion to close the meeting, Steve seconded. Meeting closed by unanimous decision at 4:15 PM.