

**RURAL ROADS OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Approved Minutes of the  
Regular Meeting of January 12, 2023**



## MINUTES

### Members Present:

Loren Behrman  
LaBeth Dudley  
Marc Farrar

Mike Jamieson  
Slade Leahy  
Dave McCoy

Dan Morgan  
Gary Virgin

### Members Absent:

Kristine Kennedy

### Commissioners and County Staff Present:

Melissa DeLyser  
Chris Lueneburg  
Sherri McFall

Megan McKibben  
Chuck Schable  
Todd Watkins

Commissioner Jerry Willey

### Guests:

None

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### 1. Welcome and Minutes Approval (11:45)

Chair Behrman called the meeting to order at 7:43 a.m.

Member Morgan requested that the October minutes be changed as follows: under item 9, change subcommittee member from Dave McCoy to Dan Morgan.

Chair Behrman asked for a motion to approve the October minutes as amended. Member Virgin moved to approve the minutes. Member Farrar seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

All presentations and materials referenced in the minutes will be posted online and available to the public at <https://www.washingtoncountyor.gov/lut/road-maintenance/rromac-meetings>.

### 2. Guest Comments

No guest comments.

### 3. Report: Service Levels & Maintenance Priorities (14:50)

Todd Watkins presented information regarding service levels for road operations and maintenance in Washington County. He emphasized that the shared document is in draft form; it is not final and is not in use. He asked the committee to consider what the County's maintenance priorities should be. He referenced the University of Wisconsin's resource for municipalities and local governments regarding roadways, called the PASER system (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating). The PASER manual can be found here: <https://interpro.wisc.edu/tic/documents/paser-manual-gravel-pubpas04/>. Discussion among members ensued. Materials provided online.

**4. Report: Public Meetings and Ethics**

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

**5. Discussion: Purpose and Schedule of RROMAC Meetings (01:04:20)**

Member Farrar opened the discussion. He indicated that the purpose is defined in the committee bylaws. He shared the five goals listed in RROMAC's mission statement:

1. Support a resource-based economy.
2. Protect environment.
3. Encourage the provision of adequate funding to address transportation capital improvements and maintenance needs in the rural area.
4. Promote safety.
5. Improve the public's knowledge of rural road issues.

Member Farrar reminded everyone that it's good for members to continuously ground themselves in those goals. He asked if members wanted to reassess these goals and whether they reflect the current purpose of RROMAC. Members shared ideas, such as adding to the goals to address rural transit, urbanization of the rural area, change in industry; setting up a future model to work toward; preparing for tomorrow while designing for flexibility today; considering future technologies; and considering future development. Chair Behrman recommended a staff report about long-range planning in the rural area. There was no formal action to amend or reassess RROMAC's goals.

There was discourse about reducing the number of member seats in RROMAC from twelve to nine. It centered around whether twelve is too many and there are persistent vacancies, currently three. It was noted that URMDAC, which represents a significantly higher population, has only ten member seats, with one vacancy. It was also noted that bylaws state "up to nine members" and perhaps there is no need to formally change it in the bylaws, if members agree that nine members is sufficient.

One member indicated that he doesn't know the scope of the recently adjusted boundaries of the Board of Commissioners.

A question was posed whether a subcommittee should be created to address committee purpose. Another member shared he thought it a better discussion for the full committee.

Increasing the number of meetings from 4 to 6 per year was deliberated. Members generally agreed they wanted to meet more often, schedule a field trip during a summer meeting, and spread required topics across meetings throughout the year.

Chair Behrman moved that RROMAC move to a bi-monthly schedule for this year. Member Virgin seconded.

Reassessing the effectiveness of bimonthly meetings in November or January was discussed between motion and vote. Discussion began about requesting specific presentations from staff and measuring need for any given report by need for an official response or action from RROMAC. Meeting time and resources should be spent to report on items with policy/program impact requiring RROMAC recommendation or action. Members discussed that the benefit RROMAC provides to the Board of County Commissioners needs to be identified. They agreed to continue this discussion. Member Jamieson suggested an annual topic of vegetation management in the rural area.

Vice Chair Farrar called for a vote on whether to change meetings from quarterly to bimonthly at a schedule determined by the Chair and staff. Motion passed unanimously to change the meeting schedule to bimonthly.

The topic of number of committee members was raised again. Todd reminded the group that bylaws state formal changes must be approved by the Board of Commissioners. He floated the idea of recruiting a high

school student to join RROMAC as a youth member. The committee briefly discussed it. Chair Behrman expressed his preference that formal changes proposed for RROMAC also be proposed for URMDAC, so that the similarities in structure of the two committees continue. It would be a very limited position; the student would need a less-than one year term to accommodate their school schedule and would not be able to vote. No decision was made whether to proceed.

6. Discussion: Annual Meeting Topics/Matrix (1:35:00)

Chair Behrman opened the discussion. Sherri explained that required topics resulted from a vote several years ago by RROMAC. Member Farrar observed that with two additional meetings per year, we have flexibility to spread topics out more. Sherri affirmed this observation, noting the few exceptions of topics that are seasonally presented.

The Subcommittee on the Road Maintenance Program was brought up. It was discussed that type of work is the heart and soul of RROMAC and this subcommittee should reconvene each year.

Also discussed was the potential for RROMAC to meet at a field site in the rural area once per year in summer. The purpose of this field trip is to observe and discuss conditions in the field.

7. RROMAC Member Roundtable (01:45: 50)

Chair Behrman commented on detour issues for Roy Road.

Member Virgin commented on a mud event that occurred on Farmington Rd which resulted in not being able to see the pavement markings. Todd shared that the County and the quarry have an agreement for the quarry to sweep the road on a daily basis. Member Leahy affirmed this and described the challenges of keeping the roads clean from the perspective of those who do earth-moving work.

Chair Behrman recommended a February meeting to complete the Public Meetings & Ethics training.

8. Meeting wrap-up

Next meeting to be held in February.

Topics for upcoming meetings:

- Road Maintenance Program
- Continued discussion on purpose of RROMAC and what benefit it can provide to the Board and Washington County rural communities
- Inspection of non-maintained roads
- Future planning for roads in the rural area

9. Adjournment (01:59:04)

Chair Behrman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Farrar moved. Member Virgin seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Next meeting: February 9, 2023, at 7:30 a.m.
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