

## Winona County Highway Department Road and Bridge Committee Meeting

Minutes for June 15, 2021

Attendance Commissioners: Steve Jacob, Marcia Ward  
Staff: Ken Fritz, David Kramer, Tim Fort, Troy Drath

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Jacob at 9:02 AM. This meeting was held in person in the Highway Department multipurpose room.

1. The agenda was amended with additions to Other and subsequently approved unanimously upon a motion by Marcia and second by Dave.
2. The April 20, 2021 minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by Marcia and second by Dave.
3. Tim gave a maintenance update that included information on completion of the contracted shouldering which included watering and rolling of the material once bladed with a motor grader, completion of maintenance rock hauling for gravel roads, dust control utilizing magnesium chloride, recent completion of contracted roadway striping, work on crack sealing and hot mix patching and near completion of 1<sup>st</sup> cut mowing. Additionally, discussed near future patching of other roadways, including CR 11, probably not using the “wedger” as the areas are larger and not just wheel rutting. Tim initiated a discussion regarding weed spraying timing and will work on timing to ensure best use of chemicals and funds.
4. Troy gave a construction update including the current work on Old Homer Rd CSAH 15/CR 107, bridges on CRs 5 and 30 and upcoming on CR 26, beginning of reconstruction work on CR 25 by Wyattville and reclaim and overlay with culvert work on CR 37 and culvert replacements on CR 44/Garvin Heights Road. Discussed lack of east/west travel across the county and other detours caused by our CR 30 & CR 26 bridge projects at the same time as TH 74 bridge work in Whitewater State Park and also work being completed in Wabasha County on their CR 26, which is an extension east of our CR 41 to Weaver.
5. Discussion was held regarding staff requests included with the 2022 budget submittal. Based on increase in the amount of work being done on the construction mostly as a result of the 50%+/- increase in the construction program from the sales tax, request is being made for 2 technicians which can aid in design as well as the inspection of projects, reducing use of outside consultants that typically bill at a rate of about 3x the amount of the cost of internal staff, plus charge for driving time coming from wherever they originate. Further discussions will be held upon review of the request by administration.
6. Discussed info forwarded by the DNR regarding a trail proposal in a small area of Saratoga Township on and near CRs 113 & 124 that would link existing and proposed trails in Olmsted and Fillmore counties. Discussion indicated support for this extension based on recreational value for ATV users.
7. An update on the results of the application made to the Local Road Improvement Program for our CR 1 project as well as other applications by other entities in the county. No projects in Winona County were awarded funds.
8. Dave provided information regarding the City of Utica planning to make application for USDA Rural Development funding for their water and sewer systems, including treatment facilities. This is similar to what the City of Altura has mentioned recently and is also working on. The Utica work would occur in 2023 or later.
9. Old Business:
  - a. CR 16/Rose Valley Otta Seal – information was briefly discussed, but with computer network system issues prior to the meeting information was not able to be printed out for review. Cost comparisons for this, and other non-hill gravel roads, were based on current cost of maintenance of the gravel including new rock placed yearly, blading of the roads to reduce washboarding and washouts as well as the use of magnesium chloride for dust control vs. the cost of a double Otta Seal.
  - b. CR 30 ROW and design– For a design fitting the topography without slashing through the valley, a 35-mph design will be met throughout the length, but will be greater in most areas. The curve at the junction with CSAH 31 will be an approximate 37-mph curve. We are at a point in design that the proposed ROW will be forwarded to DNR soon for their review and approval for purchase. The need for a federal review may delay the purchase, depending on the length of that review. Discussions also need to take place with affected private landowners.
  - c. CR 17/Homer Road & East Burns Valley Road – Previous discussion regarding improving safety of those wishing to cross CR 17 at this intersection which is directly across from the SE Tech entrance. This is a wide intersection without a median and just painting a crosswalk as requested by a citizen will be less safe than

having nothing at the intersection. Next step would be discussions with the City of Winona about their plans and thoughts on potential safety improvements at this intersection.

- d. CR 37 Fabian Corner – Discussions with affected landowners have been delayed by COVID-19 concerns.

10. Other Added Items:

- a. A resident has asked about roadkill deer – Mr. Mueller has asked about what is done with deer carcasses after hits that occur on county roadways. He feels that these are an opportunity for the DNR to do CWD testing without employing sharpshooters just for the sake of doing the testing. This was discussed during the maintenance update.
- b. A resident sent a letter to Commissioner Jacob regarding the poor condition of TH 74 between Elba and Beaver. While the condition in much of this stretch is quite poor, it is a MnDOT roadway. We can let MnDOT know, but they are aware as they have tried filling some of the potholes recently with gravel, to less than great results. It might be better for her to direct her concerns to MnDOT directly.
- c. There are a number of concerns regarding the current lack of open east-to-west roadways for travel in Winona and Wabasha Counties. CR 30 bridge west of TH 74 and CSAH 26 bridge east of TH 74 are currently both being replaced, TH 74 is closed at the south end of Whitewater S.P. and Wabasha CR 26 between Winona CR 41 and Weaver is currently closed for construction. There are a number of factors that lead to these all being under construction at the same time. Coordination was done for a number of years in an attempt to avoid this, but between needed funding all coming at the same time, delaying of the MnDOT project to celebrate the WWSP's 100-year anniversary and historical issues. While not preferred, we need to move forward with these projects. Although weather dependent, the Winona CR 30 & 26 bridges are anticipated to be completed with road open to traffic by approximately mid-September, MnDOT's bridge project on TH 74 has an expected completion of late October and the Wabasha CR 26 project should be open to traffic following reconstruction in the fall with paving to be completed in 2022.

11. Next scheduled meetings: August 17; September 21 has been scheduled for the Commissioner's road tour.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 AM following a motion by Marcia and second by Dave. Carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Troy Drath, Assistant County Engineer