

Meeting Minutes - Approved

Call to order by Mark Pearson

A Special meeting of [DHRID Advisory Committee](#) was held at [La Plata Fairgrounds](#) on [10/19/2022](#).

Attendees

Committee members present: [Mark Pearson](#), [Tom Hill](#), [Alan Shupe](#), [Matthew Jacobson \(Matt II\)](#), [Matthew Juntunen \(Matt I\)](#), [Dan Featheringill](#), & [Nicole Baillis](#).

Visitors: [Genie Shupe](#), [Estelle & Bob Keonig](#), [Charles Berglund](#), [Scott & Chandra Fowler](#), [Michelle Featheringill](#), [Steve Barton](#), [Jim Bolton](#), [Brian Corbett](#), [Michelle Driscoll](#), [Evan Blumberg](#), and [Rodney Davis](#).

I refer to [Matthew Juntunen](#) as [Matt I](#), and to [Matthew Jacobson](#) as [Matt II](#). Apologies if I put any words in the wrong mouth - [Genie Shupe](#)

Approval of minutes

Minutes of the Sept 21 meeting were reviewed. Mark & Tom had submitted edits before the meeting, that been sent to the committee. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes, with the edits, and they were approved by voice vote.

Review recent logging operations on BLM land

Mark explained that there is a 40-acre parcel of BLM land that is surrounded by our District and Edgemont. BLM contracted for fire mitigation logging, and the contractor took in heavy, tracked equipment via lower Nussbaum, damaging the road in the process. Mark spoke to James Savage with BLM, who apologized and confirmed that the contractor should not have driven this equipment on the county and district roads. He said that the BLM will make it right and pay for Waldo to do the repairs to our road. BLM also stated that there are lots of large size logs still to be removed to be used for lumber and firewood. There is no plan at this time for how that would be done, but it would not be via our road. Jim Davis and Chuck Stevens of La Plata County had been very helpful in resolving the situation. Waldo was to look at the work this week.

Discussion of Culvert Maintenance Proposal

Kurt is getting an estimate to bring up a HydroVac to unclog several culverts. He has identified and marked a few locations, which need to be done before winter. Alan moved to approve up to \$8000, with the actual amount to be confirmed by phone when it is known. Matt II seconded, and the motion was approved by voice vote.

Jim Bolton related that his neighbor's culvert is a problem, and he asked how to get them to take care of it. Matt I and Mark are to get together on an informational FaceBook post about the issue.

Code of Conduct

The meeting was turned over to Nicole. She asked the members to speak about their ideas about this topic.

Tom said that the committee meetings have been respectful and all have an opportunity to talk. Matt I is confident that “we are a good bunch” and good problem solvers. Members are also “a bunch of characters” or we wouldn’t live here. Matt II wants to help out to make things better for all. Mark wants to talk less and listen more. The district is odd and special in the county. Nicole says the committee is respectful, and all are neighbors. Dan said that the members are very diverse people. Alan said that spirited and respectful conversation is important. We need to follow the path and understand what was set up for the district.

Why We Serve

Matt II said when interviewing for the position, he stated that he wanted to meet and know the community, he wants to be a part and contribute and to help in any way he can. Matt I said he has served his country, and has lived his life with the attitude to serve others. He wants to contribute in a positive way. Tom Hill wants to learn more about the community and the roads. He thinks he would like to see the district expand and serve the community. Alan has been on the board since the beginning, contributing to the community. He was personally involved with the roads even before the district was formed. He believes it is important to follow the original intention and rules. Dan - has a background as an architect and in construction; he has a history of serving on committees. It’s what he does and what he likes to do. Nicole learned from Jim Rockelmann; since there is no HOA this is a good way to help. She has served on HOA’s and with county governments in other places. Mark serves because he represents Clear View, which has its own HOA. He feels it is important to have robust representation geographically.

Overview of DHRID - history, division of power, roles and responsibilities of committee members

Mark spoke for background. Information about the District is now part of the county website. There are documents from the original resolutions up through recent meeting minutes.

In 1972, the plat that was approved for the initial subdivision included that the roads would be dedicated to public use. No mention of, or plan for, maintaining the roads, which have grades up to 16%. For the years until about 1989, various residents took up collections for snow removal. In 1990 a petition was presented to and approved by the county commission, to establish the District as a taxing district. 5 roads were specified to be maintained. An advisory committee was formed; the county commission is the legal authority for the District, and the committee members serve as advisors.

Mark explained that the county collects taxes, does the bookkeeping, issues the contracts for maintenance; the committee manages the budgeting. Every 3 years, and RFP (request for proposals) goes out. The committee has input for the RFP, and which contractor is selected. The committee meets and decides with the contractor where material is to be used. The committee monitors the overall quality of the work. The committee meets about 4 times per year routinely, and it is subject

to the Colorado Open Meetings Law. Residents can get on the mailing list for meetings, access the website, join the Durango Hills FaceBook page, watch for signs, etc. Regarding the division of power, the county has all the power.

Matt II asked about the history of the BLM land; Mark explained that as the area was settled, that parcel was never sold for development. It is an inholding of federal land, surrounded by residential development.

Tom said he recently found out that since the district is a state taxing district, these tax dollars are allowed as a deduction on one's income tax.

Chandra Fowler asked about an election. Mark said that the mill levy is about 20, which is what it has been. We would only be able to increase the mill levy/taxes with an election held during a normal election cycle. Alan said that at the time the district was established, only eligible Colorado voters could vote or sign a petition; he does not know if that is still the case.

Outline Discussion Framework

a. Why are we having this meeting?

Matt II - to determine if funds can be allocated differently.

Matt I - to see if we can get more money.

Tom - It's been 30 years, a lot has changed. Have those changes been addressed, and how could they be addressed.

Alan - to define changes.

Matt I - to ensure we are getting the best level of maintenance we can achieve. How to use the snow hours more efficiently and reallocate to secondary roads.

Mark - are we getting "fair share" appropriately and fairly serving the district.

b. What do we hope to achieve?

Matt II - good roads that all can be happy with and proud of.

Matt I - The next 3-year contract - we should evaluate the snow removal portion of the contract.

Alan - Could we have a goal of doing maintenance 2 times a year "fully" instead of partial maintenance 1 time per year.

Tom - Allocation of resources that everyone feels is fair and equitable.

Matt II - Finding outside sources to help fund the District - Forest Service? Grants? Highway Use Tax funds (state and federal dollars) as a possible source.

c. What are the current issues we need to tackle?

Nicole - summarizing previous discussion: 30 year changes, identifying others to pay a share, which roads to plow, is there a way to do more with existing funds.

Alan - explained that the snow removal portion of the contract had originally been for 160 hours, then was increased to 184 hours by the county. Can we get more plowing done for the existing contract amount/hours?

Matt I (?) - re: culverts - how to inform and motivate homeowners to maintain their driveway culverts, or to figure out another way to get it done. Can we reinstitute the ability to get cars towed? When roads are slick it's always a problem to pull out cars from ditches. One problem is that the sheriff and state patrol won't come. What could we do?

Tom - safety is an issue; emergency vehicles should have access to all roads.

Jim Bolton - wanted to thank the committee for their work, and that it has made a positive difference.

Public comments:

Is there a way to enforce (culvert issues?) like a form to report a neighbor, to put teeth in enforcement? Could allocation of hours (snow removal?) be used to get other work done?

Rodney Davis - thanked the committee; he works for the Forest Service and was upset about the logging operation damage to the road.

Alan - More and more commercial traffic on the roads, including tower site users. How can we communicate better with those users?

Genie - Maybe a letter should be sent -

Mark clarified that the district does receive some funds from some of the users; the amount is about \$3000 per year.

Tom - Could committee meet with the county commissioners?

Mark - Jim Davis would be happy to come to a meeting

d. What would be the most ideal DHRID? "Disneyland version"

Internet with new roads.

Reduce 16% grade to 4% and then pave.

Own our own equipment and insurance.

Blade the roads 4x per summer.

Second egress for emergency.

The county would take over the road maintenance.

All roads get serviced.

A bar at the bottom and traffic monitor.

d.1 "get real/actual ideal DHRID"

Matt I - Restore all roads to baseline maintenance shape.

Matt II - in Baby Bear, a contractor did some road maintenance.

Scott Fowler - There are trees near the road that need to come down

Alan - At least one utility pole, near Pfeiffer's, is right at the edge of the road.

Michelle Driscoll - All residents getting services on their road.

Charlie Berglund - Standards for construction & maintenance where major trafficked roads have higher standards.

Tom - a 5 year plan for each section of road.

e. What constraints are we facing?

Money/Tabor/election

Contractors / competitive / capable / having an understanding of the needs of the District

The terrain and the grades / steepness of the roads

Rising costs / inflationary pressure

Houses / driveway culverts issues

Existing plats of various subdivisions within the District

Current contract (2023 is the 3rd year of this contract)

f. What information is needed?

Tom - How the district has changed, such as more information on occupancy (population?) and number of houses.

Matt I - Repeat traffic counts, and refine placement of the counters for better accuracy. Identify payers and decision makers.

Tom - Talk to Waldo and get costs for different options. Collect information on specific HOA costs that people are currently paying.

Mark - Ask Waldo which roads if any are potentially possible to be maintained, based on grade and current conditions.

Alan - What about the Forest Service? Is there anything new there - Mark clarified that the latest word is that they consider the previous agreement to be void.

Matt I - If we can't stop people from coming up and getting stuck, how can we help them after it happens? The sheriff, tow trucks, and state patrol should have some authority.

Goal Setting & Next Steps

Next special meeting will be during the week of January 16, 2023.

Gather the information we need.

Identify what help is needed outside of committee members, and who could help - county employees, neighborhood members, fire department for mitigation and emergency access issues.

Tom and Matt II will work on pulling together data re: changes to the District - with Alan as a resource.

Matt I will research towing issues

Genie will get with Matt I on how to gather HOA intel, and collaborate on a FaceBook post and what questions to ask of area HOAs about their own road costs.

Possible election - as county attorney, would Sheryl Rogers act as the District's attorney to draw up a ballot question?

Adjournment

Matt I moved to adjourn the meeting. Alan seconded. Voice approval.

DHRID Meeting - October 19, 2022 Framework Notes from Facilitated Discussion & Flip Charts

Why Are We Having a Special Meeting?

- Define our intentions
- Figure out how best to allocate money and resources
- Ensure we're getting the best level of road maintenance
- Help people to feel that they are getting their fair share
- Determine how to address road/traffic changes the road district has experienced over the past 30 years

What Do We Hope to Achieve (High-Level)?

- Good roads overall
- Road maintenance twice a year
- Better allocation of resources

What Are the Current Issues Need to Tackle?

- Identify others (external/internal) to help pay for road maintenance
- Determine which roads to plow; how could we get more plowing done under current contract
- How could we build the road back up to where it needs to be
- Sit down with Waldo and brainstorm (winter maintenance, best use of \$\$, etc.)
- How to inform and motivate homeowners - culverts, speed, leaving cars in ditches/parked on the road
- How to get sheriff and/or highway patrol to pay attention to us when needed for removing cars
- First responders need access, what do we do about safety issues as they relate to road quality
- How to communicate with commercial trucks about speeding and overall driving behavior on roads
- County commissioners involvement - attend a meeting

What Would Be the Most Ideal and "Disneyland" DHRID

Disneyland

- Better internet
- Reduce road grade
- Own our own maintenance equipment and have insurance for it
- Paved roads
- Better fire mitigation with 2nd exit via emergency egress
- Traffic monitor person to enforce speed limits
- County take over the road with no committee
- All roads in the district get service
- Other resources (school, bar, etc.) in district to get better roads

Most Ideal

- Restore and get roads to manageable levels; get baseline level constructed

- More money for road
- Better quality roads (two tiers - high traffic roads, secondary roads)
- All residents getting road maintenance
- 5 year plan with capital improvements
- 2nd emergency access available

What Constraints Are We Facing?

- Nothing we can do about grade of road and the terrain
- The amount of money and resources available
- Limited contractors - need capable and experienced people that want to do the work
- Current contracts are already in place for now
- Houses built after road was in place
- Private driveway culverts can cause issues

What Information is Needed?

- Define 30 year changes (i.e. Durango hills occupancy, number of houses year over year, usage of roads and traffic counts, etc.) via data
 - Identify the people we could consider to help pay for road maintenance (i.e. Forest service, radio tower company, rural or highway grants, etc.)
 - Gather information about the different HOAs/co-ops within Durango Hills (i.e. how much \$\$ per month or annually do residents pay, what is included in cost, how many houses are part of it, what houses or roads are part of it, etc.)
 - Who has the authority to tow cars parked on the road?
 - How was the mill levy decided and what would be the steps to put the mill levy on the ballot if decided to do so?
 - What are the possible levels of service available to Durango Hills via Waldo (i.e. could the road be graded more often, what to do about secondary roads, what roads are possible for winter maintenance given the grade, etc.)
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Next Steps and Action Items

- Hold the next meeting sometime between January 17-19, 2023
- Nicole to type up flip charts for our documentation
- Future discussion to identify what help is needed outside of committee members, and who could help - county employees, neighborhood members, fire department for mitigation and emergency access issues.
- Work on getting the needed information
 - Tom/Matt II - Define, collect, and put together data on 30 year changes in the district. Use Alan as a resource as needed.
 - Matt I - Do research on towing and who has the authority to do this if cars are left in ditches, on roadways, etc.

- Nicole/Dan - Meeting with Cheryl, county attorney, and county clerk to get information on mill levy
- Genie (with help from Matt I for Facebook post) - Get information on the various HOAs/co-ops in district
- Dan - make a list of people we could ask to help pay for road maintenance (forest service, towers, etc.)