

Durango Hills Road District Number One Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2016
APPROVED

Formal notice was provided to La Plata County via Jan Mayer-Gawlik, and subsequently publically posted at the county administration building and in three locations within the road improvement district, regarding a meeting of the Durango Hills Road Improvement District Number One Advisory Committee. The meeting was announced by La Plata County to be conducted on September 1, 2016, and start at 6 PM. The meeting was to be conducted at the La Plata County Administrative Building at 1011 East 2nd Avenue, Durango, CO 81301 in the Training Room.

Said meeting was conducted as announced.

Date: September 1, 2016

Start Time: Meeting called to order by Advisory Board Chairman, Richard Woodbury at 6:04 PM.

End time: Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Committee Attendees:

5 of 6 sitting committee members present:

- Dan Olson
- Mark Pearson
- Jim Rockelmann (arrived 6:15pm)
- Alan Shupe
- Richard Woodbury

1 sitting committee member excused:

- Russell Kimble

Members of the Public (who signed the sign-in sheet):

- Dan Featheringill
- Viki Corbett
- Bob Koeing
- Estela Koeing
- Carrol Craft
- Stan Craft
- Richard Carpenter
- Charles Berglund
- Cheryl Berlund
- Jim Bolton
- Dave Pirrone
- Monica Pirrone
- Paul Ambrose
- Elle Ambrose

Meeting Discussion and Directives:

Bob Pfeiffer resignation

- Alan Shupe informed the board that Bob Pfeiffer had resigned from the Advisory Committee 3 months ago for personal reasons.

Welcome

- Richard Woodbury welcomed the public to the meeting and made it clear that all attendees would be invited to share their thoughts and perspectives on agenda items.
- Richard thanked Dan Olson for having new signs printed for posting in the neighborhood.

Approve minutes from 05/19/2016

- Richard Woodbury asked if all Committee members had had a chance to review the previous meeting minutes.
- All present indicated yes.
- Richard suggested the minutes be approved as presented.
- All Committee members present agreed.

Old business (tower users)

- Alan Shupe presented information provided by La Plata County staff (Diane Sorensen's office) on names available for cell tower users.
- The list includes 22 - 25 listed users.
- Last year, the County received money from 11.
- This is not great participation, but their contribution is voluntary. There is no enforcement mechanism available to the District or the County.
- Richard Woodbury said he would follow-up with Diana Sorensen to see what we can do to ensure billing and collections are being attempted on a continual basis.

Forest Service agreement

- Dan Olson shared some background on the 1992 agreement between the Forest Service and the County with regards to the District.
- In addition to agreeing to construct the Forest Service parking lot, the Forest Service agreed to assist with maintenance on the main road through the District, including a once yearly grading and 100-200 cubic yards of road base.
- Dan recently had a meeting with the Forest Supervisor Kara Chadwick on an unrelated matter and brought up the now long-forgotten agreement.

- Kara Chadwick was open to continuing discussion about the contract to explore opportunities for future partnership.
- Dan will continue to schedule a follow-up meeting with Kara, hopefully before she leaves for a 4 month detail out of the area, and report back to the Committee.

Update on contact information gathering

- Dan Olson reported that the Advisory Committee has collected contact information (emails primarily) for 84 District residents.
- This number represents 71 parcels, or about 55% of all parcels in the District.

Review of district resident survey responses

- Dan Olson shared an overview of the results from the survey sent to all District property owners.
- On a scale of 1-10, with one being low and ten being high, residents reported the following satisfaction levels:
 - Spring/fall maintenance: 4.6
 - Winter snow removal: 7.3
 - Advisory Committee communication/availability: 3.6
- The Committee discussed both the quantitative as well as written remarks.
- There appears to be greater overall satisfaction with winter maintenance than spring/fall.
- Committee members discussed the need for greater education of District residents on the realities and constraints on our budget.
- In addition, the Committee generally agreed that there was a call to action in the survey results to explore new opportunities for improving spring/fall maintenance.

Summer maintenance

- Richard Woodbury felt that our contractor, Waldo Excavating, did a pretty good job on spring/summer maintenance this year and that the roads held up fairly well.
- The District spent \$41,682 on this maintenance, slightly under what was expected due to less road base being used than anticipated. This leaves \$8,318 for fall maintenance.
- Alan Shupe and Jim Rockelmann felt that not enough road base was applied to the front hill, resulting in more rapid washboarding.
- Mark Pearson reported that he felt the roads held up quite well this year.
- Richard reported that throughout most of the District, due to budget constraints, we apply only 1/2 of the recommended mag chloride. One particularly steep sections, this past year we applied the full recommended treatment.

- Previously the Committee had discussed the potential for doing a trial of an alternative to magnesium chloride, lignite sulfate. Contrary to prior Committee discussions, the County has an existing contract with a supplier of this product.
- Richard, Alan and others remarked that they heard negative reviews of the product from those that had already done trails, potentially obviating the need for our district to trail it as well.

Fall maintenance

- The District has \$8,138 to apply to fall maintenance.
- According to our contractor, he expects to conduct this work in early October.
- Alan Shupe recommended that our remaining funds be used to resurface the most used road, Nusbaum up through Stagecoach, until we run out of funds.
- Dan Olson provided an alternative vision, to use some of the funds to chip away at long-standing “capital” projects like adding needed culverts with the hope of reducing our overall long-term maintenance costs.
- The Committee and attendees shared differing perspectives on the two alternatives presented.
- The Committee put the discussion on hold, committing to schedule a new meeting to finalize fall maintenance after Richard Woodbury and/or Mark Pearson can meet with our contractor and get quotes for various scenarios.

Sheriff patrols

- Richard Woodbury contacted the Sherriff’s Department to learn more about their ability to assist in the District.
- As a result of this contact, the Sherriff’s department made 60 contacts within District over the course of a month, resulting in close to a dozen contacts with the public and a number of verbal warnings.
- The Sherriff’s department does not have electronic speed signs to lend to the District. The County does, but they do not place those in sub-divisions. If the District wants to install a speed monitoring sign, we will have to purchase it ourselves.
- The Sherriff’s department believed we would benefit from more speed signage in the District, and to limit top speeds to 20 MPH, especially on the tight turns and washboard.
- The Sherriff’s department clarified that they do not respond to motor vehicle accidents. This task is left to the State Patrol. In general, the State Patrol should/will come to the site of an accident. In cases where they are busy (especially winter), they may not come unless one or more of the following are involved: wildlife, bodily injury, alcohol. In the case that State Patrol is unavailable, individuals involved in an accident can report the accident over the counter at the State Patrol office.

- The Committee should consider budgeting for speed limit signs if there are no further study requirements for posting such signs. Richard volunteered to follow-up on that question.

Traffic counters

- Alan Shupe shared the results of the County’s traffic counter study conducted in July.
- The results are copied immediately below.

ROAD	LOCATION	Start date & time	Stop date & time	ADT 2016	COMMENTS
R: by request					
		()	()		1 count per two axles
year 2012 ADT					
249D (Nusbaum) R	North of 249	7/25	7/28	433	448
Stagecoach R	North of Nusbaum	7/25	7/28	290	264
Nusbaum R	West of Stagecoach	7/5	7/28	92	124
Sagebrush R	West of Stagecoach	7/25	7/28	75	72
Silvermesa R	North of Stagecoach	7/25	7/28	140	99
Silvermesa R	North of Durango Rd	8/1	8/3	38	no count

- Alan suggested that the Committee take the year-over-year comparisons with a grain of salt. This year the study was conducted in July. In previous years it was conducted in the fall, a time that anecdotally seems to have more traffic.
- Mark Pearson asked if this is something we should be doing with greater frequency.

Presentation of draft Advisory Committee priorities statement and discussion

- Dan Olson presented a draft of a new Committee priorities and guiding principles document.
- After outlining the three main tasks of the Committee, Dan opened it up to general discussion.

- Mark Pearson asked that we work to flesh out both the meaning of “adequate” maintenance and add a list of criteria that we would use when evaluating whether or not to spend funds on secondary roads.
- Alan Shupe asked if we could try and incorporate a metric for traffic use as a way to help prioritize maintenance decisions.
- Mark Pearson clarified that Clearview is a private road, even though it is currently listed on the map as being a Tier 2 road of the District.
- The Committee and attendees discussed pros and cons of traffic count versus capital projects focused prioritization of budget allocation.
- Dan was tasked with creating a second draft that would incorporate some of the elements listed above to be discussed at our next Committee meeting.

Discussion of Durango Road residents letter

- Richard Woodbury shared highlights of concerns expressed to the Committee from a number of residents of North Durango Road.
- Specifically, the group requested that money that had been discussed being used for widening a section of one lane road on Silver Mesa be re-allocated to fixing the steep North Durango Road.
- Significant discussion ensued regarding the District’s budget, available sources of revenue, County-directed mandates, and priorities.
- It was decided that the Committee would explore the possibility of using “excess” plowing hours to assist with North Durango Hill plowing and that the Committee would tackle the priorities/guiding principles document to better explore and articulate how the Committee will or will not allocate funds to Tier 2 roads.

Next scheduled meeting

- The next Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled once Richard Woodbury learns when Kurt Waldo will be able to provide us with quotes for fall maintenance work.
- Some anticipated agenda items for this meeting include: fall maintenance, winter maintenance, and the priorities/guiding principles document.

Adjourn

- Richard Woodbury made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13pm, which was seconded by Mark Pearson. All presented voted in favor of the motion.

Minutes compiled by DHRID Advisory Committee Secretary Dan Olson on
September 1, 2016.