

Rural & Scenic Roads Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2022 (Virtual)

DRAFT

1. Chair Ms. Ahalt brought the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Welcome and Roll Call

Members Present: Tiffany Ahalt, Susan Hanson, Dave Ziedelis, Ron Burns, Sam Castleman, Howard Looney, Peter Pearre, Barbara Wyatt

Members Absent: Jeff Yocum, Jim Bonneville, Darius Marc

Staff Present: Amanda Whitmore, Kimberly Golden Brandt, Dennis Superczynski, Martha Berkheimer (Intern for Amanda Whitmore)

2. The Committee members reviewed the minutes of the January 26, 2022 meeting. Sam Castleman MOVED that the Committee APPROVE the January 26, 2022 minutes as written. Dave Ziedelis SECONDED the motion. The minutes were approved as presented (8-0).
3. Mr. Tom Ziegler from the Pennsylvania State University Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies presented to the Committee.
 - The PowerPoint slides show fundamental dirt and gravel road practices in Pennsylvania. The program is designed to advance water quality goals. This is accomplished by implementing better maintenance practices – spending a little bit more up front – to create more durable roads that last between maintenance cycles.
 - Maryland, like all of the Mid-Atlantic region, is seeing more high intensity, short duration rain events than before. We are getting more 500-year storms. There is no maintenance practice that adequately addresses catastrophic rain events.
 - One size does not fit all. It is critical to do an assessment of your roadways, identify problems and their source, and apply specific practices that will address those individual spots.
 - With gravel roads, there will be surface imperfections and irregularities. It is best to target those soft spots with a more durable base. That saves the roads from being closed down for long periods of time.
 - The number one thing you need to do for rural roads is maintain an effective crown to enable the roads to drain effectively.
 - When do you need outlets (pipes) in roads? Cross pipes carry water from higher ground on the upslope side to the downslope side so water flows away from the road. It is important to take into consideration how much water is directed to the road through dry storm channels. You should observe ditches on rainy days to see where flow is going. When water starts to down cut a road, that is a sure sign that more outlet opportunities are needed.

- Due to surrounding development or land uses, outlets can be challenging. It is essential to consider nearby properties and develop a plan that will have a minimal impact or no impact on them.
 - Stable ditches are important. Vegetation is the least expensive stabilization method.
 - The higher your dirt or gravel roads, the better the water flow drainage is. A lot of roads are even with the surrounding terrain and the water flow onto them causes a lot of damage, sinking, potholes, and pooling water. The higher the roads, the better your outlets and ditches will protect the roads. Sectional fill can be done on roads with slope to bring up individual sections of road.
4. Mr. Ziegler answered questions from committee members.
 5. Ms. Ahalt talked about subcommittees. She asked that committee members who have not yet selected a subcommittee please do so by the end of the week. Additionally, a chair is needed to lead each subcommittee. Subcommittees can meet in person or virtually.
 6. Ms. Brandt noted that staff is available to participate in the subcommittee meetings and can set them up virtually if needed.
 7. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 4:30 pm.
 8. The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.