



## MARATHON COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 3, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

Marathon County Highway Department, 1430 West Street, Wausau, WI 54401

<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>
John Robinson, Chair	X		
Richard Gumz, Vice-Chair	X		
Tom Seubert	X		
Alan Christensen	X		
Sandi Cihlar	X		
Jeff Johnson	X		
Allen Opall	X		

**Also Present:** James Griesbach, Kevin Lang, Andrew Lynch, Peter Weinschenk, Dan Cihlar, Jon Graveen, Dave Mack, Joseph Kaiser, Jan Schreiner, Kendra Pergolski

### 1. **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Robinson at 9:00 a.m.

### 2. **Public Comment**

- A. Dan Cihlar of Cihlar Farms expressed concern over the safety of bicycles on county and rural roads.
- B. Gumz and Cihlar noted their attendance at the Farm Bureau Board meeting held at Marathon Lanes. At said meeting, the Farm Bureau Board recommended that the Committee seek input from the Farm Bureau Board before recommending policies that directly impact agriculture producers and consider the implementation of a policy prior to the Committee imposing a policy unfavorable to them, they invited the Farm Bureau Board to participate in the Infrastructure meetings.

### 3. **Approval of the Minutes of the December 6, 2018, Infrastructure Committee Meeting**

**Discussion:** Gumz inquired as to why the minutes seem to be “dulled down” by the removal of committee member names. Robinson explained that there is an effort by the Executive Committee to have a standardized approach to the minutes in order to capture the discussion that took place. Robinson recommended that if there is a request for modification to the minutes, a motion to amend minutes can be brought to the committee.

**MOTION BY JOHNSON, SECOND BY OPALL, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2018, INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING.**

**MOTION TO AMEND MINUTES TO REFLECT GUMZ NAME BE ADDED TO THE MINUTES BY JOHNSON, SECOND BY OPALL. MOTION CARRIED.**

**THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMMENDED CARRIED.**

**Follow through:** In future meetings, a Committee Member must request to be added to the record if they specifically want their name to be listed in the minutes. If no such request is made, the minutes will be written in the existing format.

### 4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination**

- A. Criteria utilized in determining whether to upgrade roadways to all-season roadways
  1. Consideration of request to upgrade portion of County B to an all-season roadway

Cihlar abstained.

**Discussion:**

Jim Griesbach, Highway Commissioner, discussed the different types of potential asphalt layers and the projection prices of each for the 2.2 mile stretch of roadway. Griesbach stressed that these figures are a projection, as asphalt prices are unknown. Griesbach shared the course of action taken with similar scenarios of previous projects, some of which involved utilizing Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA)-Grants from the State of Wisconsin or an allotted amount of seasonal permits per year.

Kevin Lang discussed the different engineering/construction options including: a gravel layer, soil stabilization or an extra asphalt layer. Lang finished by giving a projection for the cost of potentially adding bike lanes to the roadway at approximately \$40k-\$50k per mile.

Dan Cihlar of Cihlar Farms, at the request of Gumz, summarized his requests and statements made at last month's meeting: the advantages of making County Road B an all-season road, the potential financial gain his business may incur through new opportunities an all-season road would present, the potential financial gain other businesses on the same roadway may incur due to the same scenario of an upgraded all-season road, and added value to real estate.

**Action: MOTION BY CHRISTENSON TO GRANT CIHLAR FARMS UP TO TEN (10) SEASONAL PERMITS PER YEAR. SECOND BY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:** Griesbach will respond to Cihlar Farms request for permits as needed (up to ten).

**5. Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:**

- A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the County Board for its consideration
  - 1. Town of Rib Mountain-Trillium Multi-Use Trail Plat & Relocation Order
    - 1. Consideration of right-of-way acquisition by the Town of Rib Mountain

**Discussion:**

Highway Commissioner Griesbach explained that the land abutting the multi-use trail is owned by the County and the Town of Rib Mountain needs a right-of-way acquisition to complete their project. The Committee discussed the existing land and the function it currently serves. Griesbach indicated he believes the project would be good for the community as a whole and recommends the transaction, through sale or donation, be approved.

It was determined that the disposal of the land would have zero impact on current operations and that there are currently no future plans for the area.

The Committee discussed the possibility of granting the Town of Rib Mountain a Permanent Limited Easement due to the trail crossing the right-of-way for the road. Therefore, there would need to be an understanding with the Town of Rib Mountain that if a road is ever built, their easement would be null and void.

**Action:**

Opall abstained from vote.

**MOTION BY SEUBERT, SECOND BY CHRISTENSON, TO RECOMMEND THE APPROVAL OF THE DONATION OF PARCEL 5 FOR THE MULTI-USE TRAIL BY EASEMENT WITHOUT CHARGE AND WITH THE CONTINGENCY THAT IF THE COUNTY WERE TO NEED THAT ROAD AT ANY TIME, THEY WOULD NOT INCUR ANY COSTS TO OBTAIN THE PROPERTY AND TO FORWARD THE ISSUE TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION. MOTION APPROVED.**

**Follow through:** Donation of easement (with contingencies) to be forwarded to the County Board for consideration.

**6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

- A. Review and Discussion of [Washington County 2050 Transportation Network Sustainability Plan](#)
  - 1. Is there value in Marathon County adopting a similar approach?

**Discussion:** Chair Robinson briefly summarized the Washington County plan and then approached the Committee as to whether this would be something Marathon County should consider implementing. Committee Members expressed concern over the unknown funding, concern on the amount of time used to create plans that may never take fruition and the impact on existing staff.

Another Committee Member expressed the lack of need for the plan, as the Highway Department is already making future plans based on their knowledge of road conditions.

The Committee discussed the current plans the Highway Department has in place for bridge projects (currently through 2022); the pavement projects are dependent on when the State does their Surface Transportation Program which is currently planned ahead for five years. The Highway Department has an internal committee which meets to discuss immediate needs such repaving and maintenance projects for in and suggestions for projects for the five year plan utilizing federal funding.

**Follow through:**

The Highway Department will provide an outlay of the projections and current plans beyond five years.

**B. Highway Commissioner's Report – update on winter maintenance and Wisconsin County Highway Association activities**

**Discussion:** Commissioner stated that the department has been doing a lot of brining, brushing and crack filling since the last committee meeting. The Highway Department has purchased several new items for use in 2019, including a new supervisor truck and two new disc bine mowers. Anyone attending the Highway Conference, is welcome to attend any of the committee meetings

**Follow through: None**

**7. Announcements:**

A. Future meetings and location, agenda topics

February 7, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at Marathon County Highway Department  
Opall requests excusal from meeting.

**8. Adjourn**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN BY OPALL, SECOND BY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING  
ADJOURNED AT 10:35 AM.**

Minutes prepared  
By Kendra Pergolski on January 3, 2019