

Meeting Summary

To: *All Meeting Participants*

From: *Ronald B. Bray, P.E.*
Project Manager, WSB

Date: *February 5, 2002*

Re: *Meeting Minutes*
CSAH 71 Project Management Team Meeting
Cass County, Minnesota
Wednesday, December 12, 2001, 1:00 PM
WSB Project No. 1326-00

An agenda package was passed around to all persons in attendance. Several photo books were also passed around including photos of the new alignment areas.

I. Introductions

The following project management team members were in attendance at the meeting:

David Enblom	Cass Co. Hwy Dept.
Jonathon Large	Cass County Hwy Dept.
Don Hoppe	Hiram Township
Robert L. Crom	Ten Mile Lake Assoc., Delegate
John Alden	Ten Mile Lake Assoc., Water Resources
Kirk English	Mn/DNR Waters
Rob Naplin	Mn/DNR Wildlife
Harlan Fierstine	Mn/DNR Fisheries
James Tande	US Forest Service
Ed Mergens	Portage Lake Assoc.
Ron Bray	WSB & Assocs.
Becky Hauschild	WSB & Assocs.

The following public persons were in attendance:

Bob Nelson
Ellie Nelson
Gail Becher
Steve Schoen
Buzz Converse
Vicki Converse
Fred Shrimpton

The following project management team members were not in attendance:

Kelvin Howieson	Mn/DOT State Aid
Michele Hanson	United States Army Corps of Engineers
Jim Dowson	Cass County Commissioner
John Sumption	Cass County Environmental Services
Dan Steward	Board of Water and Soil Resources
Wayne O. Bierbaum	Shingobee Township
John Freetley	Chippewa Nat'l Forest
Tom Somrak	US Forest Service
Steve Frick	Forest Service Cass Lake
Don Willis	Ten Mile Lake Association President
Mitch Bouchonville	Forest Service Walker

II. Public Comments

A. General

- Bob Crom mentioned a letter from Mr. Byron Hoffman. The letter was included with the updated public comments in the agenda package;
- The letter was briefly discussed-issue of voting for the project was raised in the letter. When comments are tabulated, it is not exactly a vote. These comments are tabulated and it is the job of the PMT to evaluate these comments and recommend the best alternative.

B. Schoen/Blowers (Oct. 23)

- WSB held a meeting was held with the Schoen's and Blowers to discuss the alignment of CSAH 71 near their lake homes;
- Their main concern was the distance from the existing roadway to their homes;
- The general consensus of the group is highly in favor of relocating the roadway;
- (See Section IV.D.)

C. Russ Gouge (Nov. 13)

- Ron Bray met with Mr. Gouge to discuss the alignment of CSAH 71 near the Stromquist property;

- He would prefer to see the alignment shifted to the west near their lakeside property to allow them room to build;
- (See Section IV.D.)

D. Lorraine Stromquist (Nov. 29)

- WSB met with Ms. Stromquist to discuss the potential new alignment in the Ten Mile Lake Wildlife Reserve area;
- She was receptive to the idea and will look over maps with her family;
- (See Section IV.D.)

E. David Byers (Nov. 29)

- Residence located at 5264 CR71;
- He was concerned with the distance from his home to the existing roadway;
- Upon site review, it appears that widening would be done to the opposite side of his home, even with a wetland located on the other side of CSAH 71;
- Mr. Byers prefers this outcome.

F. Elinor Chase (Nov. 29) – Photos

- WSB took photos of the property located at 5370 CSAH 71;
- Ms. Chase has a home on the lake side with a row of spruce trees along 71, then there is a garage on the opposite side of CSAH 71, located only approximately 27 feet from the row of spruce trees;
- There are also sentinel pine trees located in the area;
- It was decided that the Forest Service would look at the trees to determine their estimated lifespan.

G. Don & Margaret Brown (Dec. 12)

- The new alignment in the Ten Mile Lake Wildlife Reserve Area was discussed;
- The Brown's are receptive to the idea of a new alignment dependent upon the land needed and the alignment near their property on the lakeside;
- (See Section V.D.)

H. Gail Becher (Dec. 12)

- A meeting was held with Ms. Gail Becher, James Tande, Ron Bray, and Becky Hauschild prior to the PMT meeting;
- The group drove the corridor to determine what each individual deemed “sensitive areas”;
- The group had a consensus on how to approach the design of the project, each segment of roadway will be examined;
- It was discussed that the construction limits could be marked in some fashion to give people a chance to view the impacts, this would be coordinated with a flyer to inform people what the markings are for. This would most likely take place in April to May;
- It was also discussed to determine the lifespan of some trees along the corridor; these trees would also be marked, along with a flyer to communicate with the corridor residents.

III. Typical Section

A. NPR Standards

Easements

- The early decision posted by the Forest Service stated a 44-ft easement would be granted to the county for the maintenance of the project, along with a 108-ft construction easement;
- Cass County and the public group appealed the decision notice;
- Cass County cannot legally proceed with a state aid project with less than 66-ft easement for maintenance; therefore the decision notice was modified to 66-ft. Not that the county would intentionally clear any more than necessary;
 - Gail questioned whether something could be put in writing that the entire 66-ft would not be cleared;
 - David commented that there are a lot of people that worked to achieve CSAH 71 as a NPR and these people, in addition to the state agencies would be enforcing the minimum clear zone;
 - The construction plans and specifications will detail how the contractor works in sensitive areas.

Through Lane Width

NPR Standards require an 11-ft through lane with 2-ft shoulders, 4-ft if pedestrians and bicyclists are anticipated in the corridor;

- Public comments favor reducing the through lane width to 11-ft versus the proposed 12-ft.

Shoulder Width

- A 2-ft shoulder is the required minimum; if pedestrians and bicyclists are to be accommodated, a 4-ft shoulder is the required minimum;
 - Ron explained that the shoulder width should not become a factor with the impacts to trees;
 - A ditch section would only be utilized where there is space to do so: fields, logged areas, burned areas; sensitive areas in the corridor will be designed for a minimal cross-section without ditches;
 - David Enblom explained that the shoulders are not just to accommodate the pedestrians and/or bicyclists (although they have a right to be there). They are to accommodate a vehicle that goes over the shoulder line and give that vehicle the best chance to recover before hitting any fixed objects;
 - The increased use of the road by bicyclists was discussed since it will be paved;
 - Don Hoppe noted that the county has to look at risk management as well, this road is a public resource.

IV. Alignments & Potential Impacts

A. Bachelor Road

1. CSAH 71 stops perpendicular to Bachelor Rd, Bachelor Road becomes thru street. (*Preferred by public*)
 - Least realignment;
 - Is anticipated to slow traffic on CSAH 71.
 - Will allow canopy effect to be maintained on CSAH 71;
 - This alignment will be carried thru as the alternative recommended by the PMT at the next public open house.

B. Hiram Loop Road

- Two Options Discussed
 1. New alignment of CSAH 71 to the east, around wetland.
 - Provides for potential wetland mitigation;

- Would require an approximate 60-70 foot clearing for 2000 feet through private land;
- Alternative has been deemed not preferred based on field walk by Cass County and WSB.

2. Existing Alignment of CSAH 71 is maintained. (***Preferred by public***)

- Would require a grade raise of approximately 4-5 feet to meet the flood requirements and protect road integrity;
- Maintenance concerns with the existing alignment;
- Increased wetland impacts;
 - WSB will determine extent of impacts to wetland and DNR reaction to remaining on existing alignment.

C. CSAH 50/CSAH71

- Public deeded road to Ten Mile Lake located immediately south of intersection. People park their cars and trailers at the intersection;
- Two alternatives were looked at:
 - Tee CSAH 71 into CSAH 50 at its existing location with mountable curb and gutter to better define the intersection;
 - Tee CSAH 71 into CSAH 50 along a new alignment westerly of its present location;
 - Incorporate safety of parked vehicles in both;
 - Public questioned whether parking would be necessary;
 - The alternatives will be further discussed at the next meeting.

D. Ten Mile Wildlife Reserve

- The Ten Mile Wildlife Reserve name was utilized for the property donated to the Ten Mile Lake Association from Ms. Opal Ruby, Margaret Brown's mother;
- John Alden had never heard the property identified with this name, WSB used the name from the Environmental Assessment, which classified the area as an area to preserve;
- The name of this area will be looked into by WSB and the Ten Mile Lake Association;
- The property owners located to the south of the wetland complex are concerned with the current distance between CSAH 71 and their homes, and the impacts of widening the road;

- A new alignment alternative was sketched by WSB showing the alignment of CSAH 71 removed from the protected DNR Water and aligned westerly of its existing alignment;
- WSB performed a field review of the new alignment, there are springs that will be encountered along with topographic relief and possible road grade concerns. Once mapping is received, WSB will revise the alignment to determine the best route.
- Kirk commented that the overall impacts of this alternative would be a positive one, even though there would be wetland fill, but he said the OHW of the DNR water should be checked and illustrated;
- The existing CSAH 71 would be removed and deeded back to the adjoining private land owners;
- Where access is provided off the new CSAH 71, the property owners would maintain this access;
- Steve Schoen was asked if he would mind the additional maintenance. He replied that he would welcome the opportunity for the additional maintenance if the road was moved further away from his home;
 - General consensus by PMT was to check with homeowners on the north side of wetland complex: Hoover's, George's, etc. and if they are in agreement, peruse new alignment;
 - David Enblom mentioned the Type I NPR Standards and the applicability of maintaining "essentially" the same alignment;
 - WSB will check with State Aid.

E. Lundstrum Bay

- Fred Martin contacted David Enblom and Ron Bray regarding the Shonkwiler property near Lundstrum Bay;
- WSB is meeting with him after the CSAH 50 PMT meeting today.

V. Public Involvement

A. Property Owner Meetings

- Meetings to be scheduled:
 - Fred Martin
 - Hoover, George, Johnson, Rother
 - Elinor Chase

VI. Environmental Issues

A. Cultural Resources Investigation

- The Leech Lake Heritage Society is currently in the process of completing a Phase I study. These findings will be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office for their review and conclusion. One option: –No Finding, study ends; second option – Phase II study recommended to determine eligibility for listing on the National Register.
- Archaeological Survey: will be completed on December 14, 2001;
- Architectural Survey: did not locate any National Register eligible properties (report pending);

VII. Other

Maintenance

- Cass County has been spending additional money on CSAH 71 as an interim measure until the proposed improvements are constructed;
- Any public comments basing their decision to keep the road “As is” should know that the county cannot maintain this maintenance long-term;
- Numbers will be assembled for the next meeting on maintenance costs.

License Tabs

- When the state revised the license tab fees, the money that is distributed to the counties for their state aid money was lessened and was to be replaced with state surplus money (which is obviously depleted now);
- The additional money needed to close the gap between prior money and new money is approximately \$0.20/gallon;
- It is highly unlikely that any steps will be taken to increase the gas tax by that amount;
- Cass County has tightened their internal straps (5 less full-time positions since 1990) and this money has gone into the roads; however, there is only so much money that can be cut.

County Board Meeting

- It was questioned whether the comments received could be part of the County Board update so that they are entered into record;

- David agreed that this could be done.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting for **CSAH 71** was SCHEDULED for ~~*Wednesday, February 6, 2001, at 1:00 P.M.*~~ This meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be rescheduled in March.

NOTE: The above constitutes WSB's understanding of the items discussed at this meeting. If there are any questions, comments or changes, please notify me immediately at (763) 541-4800 or (888)-541-4800.

c: Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Morgan Dawley, WSB & Associates, Inc.
Jeff Stewart, WSB & Associates, Inc.