

Meeting Summary

To: *All Meeting Participants*

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

Date: *August 22, 2002*

Re: *Meeting Minutes*
CSAH 71 Project Management Team Meeting
Cass County, Minnesota
Wednesday, August 14, 2002, 1:00 PM
WSB Project No. 1326-00

An agenda package was passed around to all persons in attendance.

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.
Jim Dowson	Cass County Commissioner
Don Willis	Ten Mile Lake Assoc., President
John Alden	Ten Mile Lake Assoc., Water Resources
Harlan Fierstine	Mn/DNR Fisheries
John Freetly	US Forest Service
Chris Brunner	US Forest Service
James Tande	US Forest Service
Gail Becher	Resident
Ron Bray	WSB & Assocs.
Becky Hauschild	WSB & Assocs.

The following project management team members were not in attendance:

Kelvin Howieson	Mn/DOT State Aid
Michele Hanson	United States Army Corps of Engineers
Kirk English	Mn/DNR Waters
Rob Naplin	Mn/DNR Wildlife
Robert Crom	Ten Mile Lake Assoc., Delegate (Req'd Don Willis attend)
John Sumption	Cass County Environmental Services
Dan Steward	Board of Water and Soil Resources
Don Hoppe	Hiram Township
Tom Somrak	US Forest Service
Steve Frick	Forest Service Cass Lake
Ed Mergens	Portage Lake Association
Ron Geiser	Shingobee Township
Mitch Bouchonville	Forest Service Walker

II. Public Comments

A. General

- David Enblom received a call from Mr. Jim Echterhoff who was concerned with the 54-foot construction easement noted on the CSAH 71 typical section. David informed him the construction easement would only be utilized where necessary to tie slopes in, the 54-foot construction easement would not be cleared the entire length of CSAH 71.

B. Chase (June 19, 2002)

- Ron Bray and Becky Hauschild met with Ms. Chase on June 19, 2002. Her concerns included the preservation of her lilacs, trees and shed on the westerly side of CSAH 71 and preservation of the trees on the easterly side of CSAH 71.
 - WSB informed Ms. Chase that the trees on the easterly side of CSAH 71 would be preserved, widening would be done to the west. However, the health of the two large white pine trees on the westerly side of CSAH 71 will be checked to determine whether guardrail could be incorporated.

C. Rydell (July 15, 2002)

- Ron Bray met with Mr. Rydell on July 15, 2002. Mr. Rydell believes that the proposed project is a waste of money and does not agree with the majority of the state's spending.
- A meeting was set with Mr. Rydell, David Enblom, Commissioner Dawson and the Cass County Administrator; however, Mr. Rydell had to cancel. The door is still open for Mr. Rydell to re-schedule this meeting.

D. George's (Letter)

- A letter was received from Mr. and Mrs. Cary George (Angel Island realignment area).
- He would like the proposed roadway shifted as far as feasible from the existing roadway in front of his cabin.
 - George's cabin is in the area where the proposed realignment would adjoin the existing alignment with an approximate 10-ft alignment shift away from the George's.
 - Additional analysis will be done to look at the drainage and trees in the area to set the final alignment.

E. Open House (August 2, 2002)

- In general, it was noted that the public comments were positive, after explaining that the county would be approaching the project in an environmentally sensitive manner.
- There was a 'strong' concern to hold a design meeting next June (2003) after marking some of the sensitive areas for clearing.
 - The PMT agreed with these comments and would like to hold a design meeting next June, after marking the construction limits in some of the sensitive areas.
 - It was agreed to proceed in this manner; however, it was noted that the meeting to be held in the spring is not a meeting to discuss whether or not the project would move forward, it would be to discuss what the proposed impacts are and if a significant feature has been missed, to see if some re-design can accommodate that feature.
- Gail Becher noted additional public comments that she had received :
 - Concerns with the re-forestation plan – What species ? Will they be seedlings / saplings ?
 - The Forest Service Stipulation states 'native' grasses and shrubs. The county and WSB will be working with the US Forest Service and Mn/DNR on the re-forestation plan. This would be available for review at the proposed June 2003 public meeting.
 - Gail also heard questions about the areas outside of the forest area and how they would be treated ?

- David noted that CSAH 71 would be treated as one entity; therefore, the same concept would be utilized through the entire roadway.
- Cass County is allowed to spend their State Aid money, up to 10% of the construction bid amount, on landscaping items.
- Gail heard comments on the water quality issue and maintaining the lake water quality.
 - WSB will work with John Alden and Jim Schwartz during the final design phase.

F. Urbanski / Becher (August 14, 2002)

- Ron and Becky met with Mr. And Mrs. Urbanski and Gail Becher on August 14, 2002 after the PMT meeting. (The following is a summary of the meeting that occurred.)
 - The Urbanski's were concerned with the proposed realignment of CSAH 71 at CSAH 50 and its proximity to their garage, garden and apple trees.
 - The proposed realignment would not negatively impact any of their concerns; however, a potential new realignment was mentioned which would extend the realignment to the Hess property.
 - This realignment would go behind their garage. This would create a longer driveway to maintain, but would eliminate the road between the house and the garage.
 - The Urbanski's wanted some time to consider this option – WSB will revise the layout and send it to them for comment.
 - Gail Becher is in favor of the realignment, as currently proposed, or as revised to extend to the Hess property.

G. Hess (August 14, 2002)

- Ron and Becky met with Mr. and Mrs. Hess on August 14, 2002, after the PMT meeting. (The following is a summary of the meeting that occurred.)

- They were wondering if the proposed new alignment of CSAH 71 could be extended in the area of their property. Ron noted that approximately 20-ft beyond the Hess' shop, there were mainly popple trees.
 - WSB will sketch a proposed concept to illustrate this request for review by the county and adjoining landowners.

III. Typical Section

A. NPR Standards

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 favored reducing the through lane width to 11-ft versus the proposed 12-ft.
 - An 11-ft lane width will be brought to the county board for approval.

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;
 - Jim Tande located a Chippewa National Forest map, which illustrates a bike route around Gadbolt Lake and includes township road 49, CSAH 50 and CSAH 71 after the PMT had agreed on the 3-ft shoulders.
 - It was general consensus that the PMT hold to the 3-foot shoulders, 4-foot in curb and gutter areas.
 - This typical section will be brought to the county board for approval.

IV. Alignments & Potential Impacts

A. CSAH 50

- Alternative 2 is the preferred alternative: Tee CSAH 71 into CSAH 50 along a new alignment approximately 100-ft westerly of its present location.
- WSB will revise the layout, based on discussions with the Hess' and provide it to adjoining property owners and Shingobee Township for comment.
- Bring layout to Cass County Board for concept approval.

B. Ten Mile Wildlife Reserve

- Revise alignment based on mapping information and public comments;
- This layout will be brought to Cass County Board for concept approval.

C. Lundstrum Bay

- The proposed realignment avoids two (2) potential archaeological sites;
- If the roadway improvements will impact any potential archaeological areas, a 'Phase 2' needs to be performed. This can be very costly, approximately \$60,000 per site. Therefore, the proposed realignment will be brought to the Cass County Board for concept approval.

V. Public Involvement

A. Property Owner Meetings (Ongoing)

- Meetings to be scheduled:
 - Bowman

B. Stake Construction Limits

- The construction limits were not staked before the August 2002 public meeting due to the mapping delays. Construction limits will be staked in selected areas by Cass County and is anticipated to occur in May of 2003.

1. Forest Service Tree Condition Survey

- The Chippewa National Forest Service is working with Cass County on a plan to inventory select trees for their condition. There are some select areas where the road could be shifted to one side or the other and it would be preferred to shift the road in the direction of a less healthy tree(s).
- Jim Tande will discuss with their district who and when the inventory could be done.
- An update will be sent to the PMT on the status of the tree survey.

C. County Board Meeting

- The proposed typical section and alignment shifts will be brought to a county board meeting for approval;
- Cass County will then proceed into final design;
- The Cass County Board will have to approve the final design, anticipated to occur in the Fall of 2003.

D. Public Information Meeting

- **A public meeting will be scheduled for next June (after school is out).** The construction limits will be staked prior to this meeting in select areas along CSAH 71 by Cass County.
 - To re-iterate, by staking the construction limits in select areas, the county is looking for specific design issues that may have been missed, not a vote on whether or not the project should proceed.

VI. Other

A. ATV Use

- Concerns were noted at the public meeting with the existing use of ATVs on the roadway and the potential increased use with a paved surface.
- The typical county road is cleared 50-ft on both sides, which allows the ATVs to travel on the backslopes.
- County 71 will not be cleared through the corridor and is proposed to have slopes as steep as 1:1 – the ATVs would cause increased impacts and erosion problems.
- Mn/DOT is currently conducting a statewide study and is to report back to the 2003 legislature with suggestions. (Local contact: Barry Babcock, Hackensack)
- It was noted that the county board might have the right to limit ATV use on certain roadways.
- Jim Dowson did not feel that the county board would move forward with limiting use until the statewide study is complete.

B. Ten Mile Lake Newsletter

- An update on both the CSAH 50 and CSAH 71 projects will be included in the next newsletter. Becky will contact Sarah Cox for the article submission deadline.
- Some items for inclusion were noted:

- Cass County has expended approximately \$100,000 prior to hiring WSB & Associates, Inc. and had not moved forward with a project. The money was spent on preliminary design and meetings.
- The Cass County Board then authorized the construction of CSAH 71 when they authorized WSB to proceed with the preliminary design. The County Board made this decision based on the approved Environmental Assessment, United States Forest Stipulation and Natural Preservation Route designation.
- Include verbiage on how speed limits are set. Neither the County nor the townships have the legal right to post speed limits. Speed limits are set by the Commissioner of Transportation, per Minnesota State Statute. When construction is complete, the Cass County Board will pass a resolution to have the DOT perform a speed study. The speed limit is set based on the outcome of this radar speed study and design considerations. Based on their schedule, this usually takes about 1 to 1.5 years. In the interim, the county posts temporary speed limit signs. The DOT traffic engineer contacts David before and after the study to discuss what speed limit the county thinks is reasonable, what the study results are, and what the proposed posted speed limit will be. David will note to Mn/DOT to keep in mind, for county liability reasons, that this road is a Natural Preservation Route with a 30 mph design speed.
- The Forest Service noted that when they pave gravel roads, they seem narrower due to the stripes, etc. This should have a traffic calming effect.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting for **CSAH 71** was not scheduled. PMT members will be notified of the next meeting, most likely in the spring, prior to staking construction limits.

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.