

Storm Mountain PID #55 Meeting Minutes, May 9, 2020

Via audio conference

PID Board Members: Connie Garrett, John Lodico, Gary Kubinak, Deb Green

Community members: Joe Leo, Karen Yuskaitis, Edward Ostransky, Chris Brock, David and Lenore Olson, Shirley Foster, Amanda Carian, Barb Carlson, Becky White

This meeting was announced to the community and open to all to participate, but was held entirely via an audio link due to Covid-19 distancing guidelines.

Summer Road Work Overview:

Gary Kubinak gave a summary of the currently summer road work and approximate dates.

- The current stretch of Chipseal on Storm Mountain Drive, from the "T" down to where it ends above "Berg's Gate" will receive a second coat of chip seal after patching existing holes. This is scheduled for late May or early June at this time. The location of this work was clarified for several community members.
- Foster Dirt will begin general grading work around June 1. This work includes grading, crowning, wetting, rolling and doing minor ditching on all roads as needed. The lower filings will be done first, then the upper filings, and then the access road. The access road is scheduled last to avoid damage to a newly graded road from the chip sealing equipment. Foster Dirt will also meet with the upper and lower filing committees during this time to give the PID board estimates on some of the additional smaller projects we would like to get completed this year. The filing committees are driving all the roads in their areas and creating prioritized lists of where additional work is needed. The cost estimates will determine how many of the projects can be done this year.

There were a couple of items mentioned as possibilities for projects in the lower filings. Gary Kubinak mentioned that a property owner had contacted him about the area on Chipmunk below the old firehouse where water drains under the road into Cedar Lake gets very muddy; he will get an estimate for that area from Foster Dirt. Chris Brock mentioned that Wolf Drive still could use a couple more loads of material to finish the work begun last year.

Connie Garrett mentioned that additional material would be applied to some areas in the upper filings as part of the additional work items.

PID Budget for 2020

Connie Garrett reviewed the budget for 2020. The total amount available is just over \$283,100; that includes \$58,300 carryover from 2019 and \$224,808 from 2020 taxes. The breakdown of those funds is shown in more detail in the attached spreadsheet.

Community Questions, Comments:

Karen Yuskaitis expressed a concern over the potential number of non-residents that may come this summer due to the closures of other Forest Service Areas. She wondered if the 4-wheel drive access up Storm Mountain could be closed. PID members acknowledged the concern, but indicated they have no control over Forest Service roads or policies.

Becky White mentioned the fact that there were many more campers using the Forest Service areas near the upper filings. People have broken one locked forest gate (now repaired) and are lighting campfires despite the fire ban in the Forest. Concerned residents have gotten one long term (3 month)

camper removed by working with the Forest Service. Residents and property owners are working with elected officials to try and get the fire restrictions, which expire May 31, to be extended through the end of the camping season. Becky presented this information in response to a concern expressed by a seasonal property owner at the meeting, not a request for action.

Barb Carlson and Chris Brock expressed appreciation of Four Seasons working snow plowing this year and support for having them return next year. The PID said they were currently working on plans for next years' plowing and would let the community know once anything was final.

There was a question submitted ahead of the meeting by James Toland and Georgia Wilson concerning the potential effect on trees of the Binder that is sprayed on the roads: they had both noticed trees dying on the edge of some roads. Gary Kubinak sent the question to the county engineer and this was his reply:

"The product that is spec'd does contain mag chloride which is a salt, and excessive amounts of salt can be detrimental to vegetation. The spec'd product is supposed to minimize 'leaching' or migration from the roadway platform better than if straight mag chloride or other stabilizing products or mixtures containing mag were applied which may run into the ditches easier. So yes, it is possible it is linked, but we've tried to research products that minimize the effects while holding the road together well."

The PID has only been applying this product to gravel sections of the access road for the past two years due to the cost, and it is being applied to help hold the road materials in place rather than to suppress the dust. The grading does deteriorate much faster if the binder is not used.

Chris Brock asked if the dead trees by the lower switchbacks on the access road could be cut down to keep them from falling on the road. These trees maybe be on private property or may be on the road right-of-way. The PID will check them out. Chris also mentioned that the annual road cleanup is scheduled for May 23 – more information will be coming, but this event cleans up the road and raises money for our annual July 4 picnic (which we hope to have in the fall....).