

## **MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2020 BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ECIA ROAD COMMITTEE**

1. Time and place. The February meeting of the ECIA Road Committee (RC) was held on February 5, 2020 in the ECIA Community Center Conference Room, and was called to order at 5:46 pm by the Chair of the RC, James A. Mason. Copies of the Agenda were provided.
2. Introductions, Quorum, Attendees, Agenda. At this time James A. Mason is the only member of the RC appointed by the Board, so a quorum was present. Also present were Board Liaison Melicent D'Amore, Eldorado residents Joel Peterson and Amelia Adair, and ECIA Santa Fe County Liaison Joseph Gutierrez. Mr. Mason presided as chair of the meeting and Ms. Adair served as acting secretary. The agenda was not amended. The meeting was recorded.
3. Minutes. Ms. Adair volunteered to prepare Minutes from the January 8, 2020 RC business meeting from the recording of that meeting.
4. Chair Report. Mr. Mason gave the following report:
  - Mr. Mason welcomed the attendees and explained that the objective of this meeting is primarily to be a working session, to prepare for a planned meeting with Santa Fe County Public Works senior leaders to be scheduled in the near future.
  - The current state and function of the RC is to analyze and solve technical problems of the roads in Eldorado and to present this information to the ECIA Board for action.
  - The RC encourages honest and factual discussion of issues.
  - Political issues related to roads in Eldorado are directed to the ECIA Board.
  - Mr. Mason recently had a casual conversation with Dr. Anna Hamilton, County Commissioner of District 4, about road conditions in Eldorado. She suggested we invite the new Director of Public Works, Mr. Gary Giron, to one of our upcoming meetings.
5. ECIA Board/County Liaison Report. Joseph Gutierrez was welcomed to the meeting. He provided an overview of his experience working for the County and the State; discussed the long, positive history of the County's support for public works in Eldorado; and explained recent changes in the County's Public Works Department personnel. Gary Giron is the new director of Public Works for the County, following the recent retirement of the long-time prior director. Mr. Gutierrez explained how productively the RC had historically assisted the County by monitoring roads and working cooperatively toward the goal of improving roads in Eldorado. That cooperative relationship came to an end with the RAP (recycled asphalt product) controversy, which led to the resignation of the previous RC.

Mr. Gutierrez offered to contact the County to explore the possibility of a meeting with Mr. Giron and his new roads lead, and potentially also District 5 County Commissioner Ed Moreno and/or his Constituent Services Liaison Olivia Romo. Mr. Gutierrez recommended making them feel welcome by holding a meeting with a small group, rather than a large public meeting, and planning a simple agenda of two to three topics. For example, he recommended asking them what the County's roads plans or vision are; what their budget is, and what the RC can do for them.

The overall goal of this initial meeting should be to re-establish the productive relationship between the County Public Works department and the RC, for long-term mutual benefit.

Mr. Mason explained his vision for how the RC can help support the County's work on Eldorado roads, by being a reputable resource to help the County with their planning and decision-making.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Gutierrez will reach out with the goal of scheduling such a meeting in April.

6. ECIA Board Report. Melicent D'Amore, RC Board Liaison, gave the Board report. She summarized a recent meeting between the ECIA Board and Commissioner Moreno's Liaison Olivia Romo in January. At that meeting, appropriations for public works in Eldorado were still unclear because they are still waiting for funding, but soon more information about Eldorado projects should be available.
7. Old Business/Open Action Items
  - Air Sampling. Mr. Mason needs help contacting Los Alamos National Laboratory about a proposed Air Sampling Study, to investigate how particulates move on various road systems in Eldorado.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. D'Amore will seek someone who has connections at Los Alamos Labs, and/or contact the Labs Director of Community Partnerships Office.

- Soil Stabilizer. Mr. Mason will continue to investigate the possibility of using fly ash plus lime cement as a soil stabilizer (mixed with soil plus water) and then applying gravel as a top coat, wetting, then using a roller to set cross-slope grade, so this information can be provided to the County.
- Mapping Road Data. Joel Peterson explained his background as the mapping supervisor for Santa Fe County and his work with GIS Mapping for Los Alamos County. As requested at the last RC meeting, Mr. Peterson went to the University of New Mexico's Earth Data Center and was able to generate a map with a legend showing the following surfaces for Eldorado roads: asphalt paved roads, chip seal roads, "base course" and dirt roads. The RC reviewed the map provided by Mr. Peterson, who explained that RAP is not one of the identified surfaces, and roads with RAP are not marked on this map. Also, the map is not updated to show recently paved roads, and the map does not appear to show roads where gravel has been applied recently.

Mr. Mason and Mr. Peterson discussed soil types shown on the Earth Data Center map, and concluded it appears to show the same soils information as the USDA Web Soil Survey map Mr. Mason previously obtained.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Mason will check with Joe Lowey, chair of the Neighborhood Watch Committee, as he may have a spread sheet of road surfaces based on personal observation that he can share with the RC.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Peterson will see if he can identify criteria that will graphically illustrate on a map which roads are appropriate for "advanced" treatment.

- Fall Road Inspection Status.
  - Status: Inspection of roads is ongoing.
  - Mason Inspections: Dovela Road and Court; Estambre Road, and Balsa Road and Place. Mr. Mason showed pictures of roads after a recent snowfall, including roads which performed adequately and those that did not. Those that did not had no crown, no culverts, no side drainage and no discernable surface treatment. The RC also discussed the recent paving on Balsa Road, which apparently was not done from detailed drawings, and which was done without first doing soil logs.
- Current preliminary RAP road inspections and performance.
  - Mason did another quick drive-by inspection of Carlito and Juego Roads around Christmas. Mr. Peterson had more current information on their status.
  - All RAP roads still had large potholes, washboard zones, unravelling of cold joints and edges. However, the RAP roads performed better following snowmelt than many roads with dirt or "base course" surfaces.

- The County has worked filling holes with local RAP material and regrading. This method will create hard "filled holes" surrounded by softer existing materials. This "soft-hard-soft" material only exacerbates impact loading of the existing RAP, which then expands the degraded zone and lateral extent of the pothole.
- Preliminary conclusions from prior and current inspections:
  - County lacks engineering staff to measure, analyze, and design appropriate drainage for Eldorado roads, or funds to contract out this work.
  - Road crews appear unable to properly grade roads for road slope drainage. Roads repeatedly graded, but due to drainage problems the same problems continually recur.
  - Repair of culverts is huge task that is potentially beyond County staffing, but necessary for proper drainage. Mason to contact the County Engineer to discuss.
- Potential actions by ECIA for road improvement.
- The RC discussed how it may be able to assist or add value to the County:
  - as "eyes on the ground" for Eldorado roads, by developing a current, comprehensive set of data including location, surface type and condition, culvert locations and drainage problems, and suggest priorities based on a PSI index.
  - provide analysis and resources to help address road problems, including potentially more cost- effective solutions than asphalt.
  - communication with the community.
- Investigate Fly Ash as soil improvement, provide preliminary cost estimates for this option, and information about local sources of fly ash.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Mason will research more information about fly ash.

- Investigate either appropriate repair or removal of RAP; RC can conduct cost analysis for these options.
- Investigate the cost of consulting engineering services to document and design proper road ditch drainage systems.
- Develop and train resident crew to assist Eldorado residents repair their culverts. Mr. Mason can design a jacking frame to open up crushed or damaged culverts.

7.8. Call for applicants to the RC. ECIA Members in good standing are encouraged to attend RC meetings to be considered as potential committee members; potential members should have technical skills to assist the RC with its mission.

8. Public Comment. None.

9. New Business/Committee Round Robin

- Mr. Gutierrez recommended proposing that the County undertake a pilot program where they install and monitor performance of different options for road surfaces, to evaluate cost and effectiveness.
- Ms. Adair suggested considering changing the committee's name to better reflect its role -- many residents mistakenly believe that the ECIA is responsible for the public roads. "Road Advisory Committee"?

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Adair will create a OneDrive cloud storage folder for the RC, where agendas, minutes, maps, documents and other committee material can be stored and accessed by all committee members.

10. Next Meeting: The RC meets on the first Wednesday of every month. The next meeting will be held on March 4, 2020 at 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the ECIA Community Center Conference Room.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Adair will connect with ECIA staff to ensure the current meeting dates and times are on the ECIA website, and that current agendas and minutes are posted.

11. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

By: Amelia Adair, Acting Secretary

Date: February 19, 2020