

MEMORANDUM

To: RRC Members  
Debbie Alke, Administrator/Aeronautics Division  
D. John Blacker, Administrator/Maintenance Division  
Mike Bousliman, Administrator/Information Services Division  
Monte N. Brown, Administrator/Administration Division  
Robert E. Burkhardt/Federal Highway Administration  
Jim Currie, Deputy Director/Department of Transportation  
Jeffery M. Ebert, P.E./District Administrator-Butte  
Loran Frazier, P.E., Administrator/Highway and Engineering Division  
Jim Lynch, Director/Department of Transportation  
Dennis Sheehy, Administrator/Motor Carrier Services Division  
Sandra S. Straehl, Administrator/Rail, Transit, and Planning Division

From: Susan C. Sillick, Manager  
Research Programs

Date: December 10, 2007

Subject: Summary of Minutes from the March 30, 2007 RRC Meeting

The following RRC members were present: Debbie Alke, John Blacker, Mike Bousliman, Monte Brown, Bob Burkhardt, Jeff Ebert, Sue Sillick, and James Walther (for Loran Frazier).

1. **Solicitation:**

SUBJECT AREA	PROB NO.	PROBLEM TITLE
Human Resources	07.005	ADA Transition Plan as Required by Federal Regulation
Environmental	07.007	Soil Stabilization Utilizing Byproducts
Environmental/Maintenance	07.010	Varmint Impact on Shoulders and Paved Surfaces
Environmental	07.012	Wetlands Water Loss and Salinity Impacts from Saltcedar Infestations
Planning	07.013	Preventing Adverse Effects from Highway Noise: A Toolkit for Local Decision Makers
Planning	07.014	Growing Smart in Transportation and Development: Tools for State and Local Decisions Makers

Human Resources – 07.005 – ADA Transition Plan as Required by Federal Regulation – This topic was transferred to Planning at the March 1, 2007 RRC Meeting.

Environmental – 07.012 – Wetlands Water Loss and Salinity Impacts from Saltcedar Infestations – The RRC wished to have this submitted to the Noxious Weed Trust Fund for funding. This is a much broader issue, impacting others, and the RRC feels that MDT should not fund this research in its entirety.

Jeff Ebert made a motion to move the following projects from the 2007 Solicitation forward to Technical Panels:

- Environmental – 07.007 – Soil Stabilization Utilization Byproducts
- Environmental/Maintenance – 07.010 – Varmint Impact on Shoulders and Paved Surfaces
- Planning – 07.013 – Preventing Adverse Effects from Highway Noise: A Toolkit for Local Decision Makers
- Planning – 07.014 – Growing Smart in Transportation and Development: Tools for State and Local Decision Makers

Monte Brown seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

2. **Budget Report** – Distributed at meeting
3. **Research Project – current listing** – Attached

3a. **Effects of Fuel Cost on Revenue** – Results of the e-mail ballot

Sue reported that in 3 weeks:

- The Technical Panel met and developed a scope-of-work.
- The RRC approved the scope of work (9 out of 12 members voting yes, zero voting no).
- The Technical Panel revised the scope of work based on RRC comments.
- An RFP was issued.

4. **Reports:** Available Upon Request

4a. **One-Stop Shop for Public/Specialized Transportation Information in Montana** (05.013) – Progress Report - February 2007

5. **Contract Extensions:** None

6. **Proposals:**

6a. **Corrosion Inhibitors for Winter Roads** – Pooled Fund Study

Randy Roth and John Blacker/Maintenance Division presented this proposal.

Montana is a large user of inhibited winter maintenance chemicals. In the winter of 2006, Montana spent approximately \$334,000.00 to inhibit liquid magnesium chloride and salt brine. Inhibitor in solid chemicals (Iceslicer Elite) for 2006 was \$163,000.00. Montana has been a lead state when it comes to inhibited products with a 75% corrosive specification for magnesium chloride.

Laboratory test data indicates that we have reduced the corrosive effects of all deicers by 70% or more by the addition of inhibitors, but what we don't know is how long the inhibitors stay with the chlorides after being applied in a field environment. Typically, inhibitors are organic (phosphates and carbohydrates) these types of inhibitors can be affected by UV light and temperatures.

The scope of this research is divided into two phases. Phase one will evaluate the longevity and cost effectiveness of corrosion inhibitors after they are applied to the roadway under different conditions. Phase two will evaluate the performance of various liquid and solid deicers. Each product will be applied at varying rates, road and weather conditions in order to establish their performance.

Montana's contribution would be \$10,000.00 a year for each of the two years for a total of \$20,000.00.

Mike Bousliman made a motion to fund this project in the amount of \$20,000.00. Monte Brown seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

7. **Implementation/Technology Transfer** – None

8. **Department/Division Hot Topics – RRC Members Roundtable Discussion**

John Blacker noted that the work should be completed in the Les Schwab building and Rail, Transit, and Planning could be moving into the building by the end of April.

cc: Craig L. Abernathy/Research Programs  
Lisa Autio/Research Program  
Kent M. Barnes, P.E./Bridge Bureau  
Bruce H. Barrett/District Administrator-Billings  
Kevin Christensen/Highways and Engineering Division  
Lisa Durbin/Construction Administration-Bureau  
Mike Dyrdaahl/Highways and Engineering Division  
Paul R. Ferry, P.E./Highways Bureau  
John Horton/Right-of-Way Bureau  
Paul Jagoda, P.E./Construction Engineering Bureau  
Jennifer Jensen/Human Resources Division  
Michael P. Johnson/District Administrator-Great Falls  
Dwane Kailey, P.E./District Administrator-Missoula  
Tom Martin, P.E./Consultant Design Bureau  
Ray Mengel/District Administrator-Glendive  
Jeanne Nydegger/Research Programs  
Suzy Price/Contract Plans Bureau  
Timothy W. Reardon/Legal Services  
Jean A. Riley, P.E./Environmental Services Bureau  
Matt Strizich, P.E./Materials Bureau  
James A. Walther, P.E./Highways and Engineering Division  
Duane E. Williams, P.E./Traffic & Safety Bureau  
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