

SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
332N EAST ROAD, MANISTIQUE, MI 49854
BOARD MEETING AGENDA
May 13, 2026 - 7:00 a.m.

001140

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes
6. Public Comment
7. Unfinished Business:
8. New Business:
 - A. Voucher 26-30, 26-31 & 26-32
 - B. Award RFP 2026-06 Wood Chipper
 - C. Award RFP 2026-07 Reversible Plow
 - D. Rural Road Alliance of Michigan
 - E. **Add-on** Approval for RFP 2026-08 Culverts and Bands
9. Manager's Report
 - A. Commissioner Comments
10. Engineer's Report
 - A. Commissioner Comments
11. Department Heads
12. Commissioner's Comments:
13. Meeting Notices
 - A. UPRBA June 10-11, 2026, Harris, MI
 - B. Roads+ Members Only Special Event for June 30, 2026, Lansing, MI
 - C. CRASIF & MCRCSIP Annual Meetings, July 21-23, 2026, Mt. Pleasant, MI
14. Public Comment
15. Adjournment

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman T. Klarich at 7:00 am.

2. Roll Call: The roll was called for the Commissioners.

Present: Thomas Klarich
Robin LaCroix
Randy Lund
Keith Rochefort
Wayne Johnson

Absent: None

Also in Attendance: Jean Vanderville, Managing Director; Ian Stampfly, Road Engineer; Michelle Steffen, HR Generalist; Kim Rochefort, Road Foreman; Roger Martin, Shop Foreman; Troy Bassett, County Commissioner; Nick Wiegand, Vermeer

Absent: Tanya Hoar, Finance Director

3. Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge was recited.**4. Approval of Agenda:**

It was moved by Commissioner R. LaCroix, seconded by Commissioner W. Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Five

Nays: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Commissioner R. LaCroix, seconded by Commissioner W. Johnson to approve the add-on of E. Approval for RFP 2026-08 Culverts and Bands.

Ayes: Five

Nays: None

Motion Carried

5. Approval of Minutes:**Board Meeting 4-22-2026:**

It was moved by Commissioner W. Johnson, seconded by Commissioner R. Lund, to approve the Board Meeting minutes from 4-22-2026 as presented with the exception of one correction to number 12. Commissioner's Comments, that were left on from previous meeting. J. Vanderville will make the correction.

Ayes: Five

Nays: None

Motion Carried**6. Public Comment: None**

7. Unfinished Business: Commissioner T. Klarich questioned as to why the grader and the truck are not on the market yet. J. Vanderville stated that the videos will be completed by the end of the week.

8. New Business:**A. Voucher 26-30, 26-31 & 26-32:**

It was moved by Commissioner R. LaCroix, seconded by Commissioner W. Johnson, to approve the Voucher 26-30, 26-31 & 26-32 as presented.

Roll Call:

LaCroix – Yes

Johnson – Yes

Rocheport - Yes

Klarich – Yes

Abstain: R. Lund

Motion Carried

B. Award RFP 2026-06 Wood Chipper: An outline of bidders for RFP 2026-06 Wood Chipper was provided. J. Vanderville recommended awarding the bid to Vermeer Wisconsin for the BC1500 Demo Unit with a bid of \$80,500.

It was moved by Commissioner R. LaCroix, seconded by Commissioner R. Lund, to award RFP 2026-06 for the Wood Chipper as recommended.

Roll Call:

LaCroix – Yes
 Lund – Yes
 Johnson – Yes
 Rochefort – Yes
 Klarich – Yes

Motion Carried

- C. Award RFP 2026-07 Reversible Plow:** An outline of bidders for RFP 2026-07 Reversible Plow was provided. J. Vanderville indicated that only 1 bid was provided from Truck & Trailer Specialties of Boyne Falls and 1 no bid response from Miller-Bradford. J. Vanderville recommended awarding the bid to Truck & Trailer Specialties of Boyne Falls with the bid of \$19,241.06.

It was moved by Commissioner R. Lund, seconded by Commissioner W. Johnson to award RFP 2026-07 for the Reversible Plow as recommended.

Roll Call:

Lund – Yes
 Johnson – Yes
 Rochefort – Yes
 LaCroix – Yes
 Klarich – Yes

Motion Carried

- D. Rural Road Alliance of Michigan:** J. Vanderville has reviewed the Rural Road Alliance documentation and due to the \$10,000 membership cost is recommending that Schoolcraft County Road Commission not participate at this time.

It was moved by Commissioner R. Lacroix, seconded by Commissioner R. Lund to approve the recommendation of not participating in the Rural Road Alliance as presented.

Roll Call:

LaCroix – Yes
 Lund – Yes
 Rochefort – Yes
 Johnson – Yes
 Klarich – Yes

- E. Add-on Approve RFP 2026-08 Culverts and Bands:** A request for proposal to replenish culverts and bands were provided for review and approval. Due to the costs, we will need to advertise to go to bid.

It was moved by Commissioner W. Johnson, seconded by Commissioner K. Rochefort to approve the RFP for Culvert and Bands as presented.

Ayes: Five
Nays: None

Motion Carried

9. Manager's Report:

V-Plow: We placed the order with T&T and Jason confirmed it will be 450 days. This does mean that the purchase will fall in our FY 2027 funding and not FY 2026.

NWZAW: Thank you for participating in the Go Orange Day.

Skidsteer Demo: We are just starting to demo skidsteers, so I would like to wait to advertise an RFP until our next board meeting.

RFP 2026-06 Wood Chipper: we were able to demo two different wood chippers and the one that best fits our needs was the Vermeer BC1500. I recommend that the Board award the 2025 Vermeer BC1500 in the amount of \$80,500. I do not recommend the extended warranties.

RFP 2026-07 Reversible Plow: We only received one bid, so I recommend that we award the single bid to Truck & Trailer in the amount of \$19,241.06. This will also be 450 days out.

Spring Safety Training Day: We invited MIOSHA to perform this year's training. As part of the training day, we did a walk-through of the building and discussed items that could become violations and options to mitigate those violations and keep our work environment safe. These items will be discussed at our monthly safety meeting and prioritized for completion. Many items were simply moving items to a new location or container. Overall, Aaron & Nell (MIOSHA) commended us for having a great work environment and commitment to safety. MIOSHA List included in your packet.

Web ADA: Emily (Thatch) has reviewed our website and will correct a few items. She reported that there are a few bits of text that have low contrast and some hidden labels that need to be updated. I will set a schedule to have it scanned periodically to be sure that website updates meet the ADA standards.

Seasonal Weight Restrictions: The south half of the county has been lifted. You can view the restricted roads on our website or in the CRA weight restriction app. We will continue to monitor the roads in the northern portion of the county and lift as soon as possible.

MERS Extension Waiver: MERS board of directors have voted to waive the hours limitation for retirees returning to work through December 2035. The original waiver was scheduled to expire in 2027. Currently we have not seen interest from our retirees in coming back as either full-time or temporary but is still good to have the option.

Pilot Car: For safety purposes, we will be using a pilot car on the trunkline when performing maintenance activities that put our crew in a vulnerable position, particularly when walking in the lanes needed to perform the maintenance activity.

Rural Road Alliance: I have reviewed the rural road alliance documentation, and I recommend that Schoolcraft CRC do not participate at this time.

- Lobbying Agent: GCSI already represent MCRCSIP, so it is assumed that MCRCSIP is already taking up issues that affect road commissions.
- Legislative Priorities: RRAM has not published or communicated their legislative priorities or how to get a legislative priority introduced to them.
- CRA issues legislative priorities annually and are voted on by each district.
- Costs: RRAM has requested a contribution of \$10,000 per member county. I believe that this is strictly for lobbying activities. CRA Membership, which includes lobbying activities, training and education, technical resources, NACE membership, and the MDOT contract surcharge for less than RRAM.
 - NACE \$485
 - CRA \$8,361.46
 - MDOT Maintenance Contract \$200.00
 - Total: \$9,046.46.

Fire Department Walk-Through: The safety committee recommended inviting our fire department on a walk-through. Tim Russell was able to attend our May 6th safety committee meeting and provide a walk-through. This helps us recognize hazards and how to better align our shop for fire protection. It allows the fire department to have a better understanding of the most hazardous areas of our buildings and how to approach a fire safely.

10. Engineer's Report:

2026 Projects: The preconstruction meetings for all our contracted projects have occurred. Bacco stated that they are looking at pushing their schedule back one week compared to their submitted schedules. Fahrner Asphalt has not yet submitted a formal schedule but stated construction is anticipated to take place in mid-July. I'll keep you posted as these projects progress.

Damaged Culverts: At the previous meeting I noted that we had been coming through this spring runoff season well, with little to no damage to our infrastructure due to flooding. In the past couple of weeks, we have come across two concerns that I think need to be addressed this year.

One, there are signs that there are minor holes forming in the culvert on CR-431 (Seul Choix) at the Bulldog. We had minor signs of erosion around guardrail posts during the peak flow period and since the water has receded, we found one significant sink hole while grading the roadway. From what I can see, this culvert is not in horrible condition, and I think we can perform a repair to provide us with time to find funding to replace it permanently. The proposed repair is to expose the top and sides of the culvert as best as possible without removing the existing stone headwalls, lay geofabric over the exposed culvert and pour flowable concrete over the top to seal the culvert from the outside.

Second, we found a large sinkhole over twin culverts on CR-436 (Floodwoods) at Mezik Creek. These culverts have been bad for a while, and this is the second significant sinkhole that has formed at this location. I have tried different grants over the years and have been unsuccessful in getting funding to replace this crossing. Given that this is the second significant sinkhole that has formed here in the last 3 years, I think the twin culverts are beyond repair, like I suggested with CR-431 and believe it would be

best to bite the bullet and replace these twin culverts with a better structure.

Township Projects: Bacco's schedule has been pushed back one week for the federal aid projects and in turn pushed back work on our township projects. I had Jim help me put together the estimate for Fire Tower Road in Inwood Township and that will be presented to them at their next board meeting.

Milakokia Bridge Update: WR Construction arrived last week to perform the deck investigation on the bridge over the Milakokia River. The investigation showed that the bridge does not have studs tying the beams to the bridge deck. This is the worst-case scenario for the load rating and means the bridge will have to be posted for 18, 20, and 25 tons in accordance with current regulations. This will no doubt have a significant impact on Graymont, Carmeuse, and anyone else who utilizes this bridge to transport raw goods.

I have reached out to Van Straten Brothers in Baraga asking for a ballpark price for a temporary bridge that we could place on top of the existing bridge to get by until the bridge is replaced. Keep in mind, even if we had the money today, the bridge design process takes up to a year so the earliest construction season we are looking at is 2028 so a temporary solution is going to be necessary.

Helping a Neighbor: Alger County Road Commission asked for help surveying and laying out one of their construction projects. After discussing with Jean, I felt that my schedule allowed me to help our neighbor this spring. In addition to the survey help, Alger also asked if time allowed for me to PASER/IBR rate their roads up for this year. Again, Jean and I felt that time this spring would allow it. In total, we are estimating about 60 – 70 hours of my time. I have already gotten started on completing these tasks and Alger is of course willing to work around my schedule as necessary. My goal is to have both of these items completed for Alger before the summer UP Road Builders meeting.

11. Department Heads:

Kim Rochefort:

Dura patch truck is back. We will be patching holes.

Chloride will be coming next week

Trees that had fallen have been cleaned up.

Recommended that when we advertise again for the other FT position needed, that we do not advertise as Truck Driver/Equipment Operator.

Roger Martin:

Still in the process of transitioning equipment from winter to summer.

289 is back up and running.

Brine truck will be ready by the end of the week.

Getting quotes for ceiling fans for the garage.

Will be meeting with the Window Store to get a quote for the Seney door.

Michelle Steffen:

Completed new hire onboarding with Kienan.

With the need for another FT person, and the lack of a good candidate pool, we are entertaining the thought of introducing an assessment tool all candidates applying would complete at time of completing the application. We are looking at Omnia to provide the assessment. The Omnia Profile Assessment is a

behavioral and cognitive evaluation tool that provides insight to personality traits, work style, motivations, and cognitive abilities to guide hiring. Other road commissions have included this assessment tool and it seems to assist with the selection of good candidates. More to come on this. We have received 6 application so far for the seasonal summer position. Interviews will be scheduled.

12. Commissioner's Comments:

Commissioner K. Rochefort asked if there are any specific certifications needed in order to drive the pilot car. I. Stampfly will look into this and report back.

Commissioner W. Johnson asked if we are purchasing the Skidsteer with forks to replace the forklift. R. Martin commented that we will not replace the forklift with a Skidsteer with forks for the fact that it would be too hard for the Skidsteer to load anything onto the mezzanine.

Commissioner R. Lund asked if Truck & Trailer could make the sign truck. The answer was no, that the issue at hand is with the man basket.

Commissioner K. Rochefort stated that 442 at Cook's School heading west is breaking up. I. Stampfly responded that dura patch work will be done on it.

Commissioner W. Johnson questioned the amount of refund the road commission received back from CRASIF. It was noted that the 2025-26 return of surplus was in the amount of \$17,175.96.

Commissioner K. Rochefort asked if we are going to purchase a new Skidsteer. I. Stampfly responded that when he creates the RFP, it will include both new and used.

Commissioner W. Johnson asked why are we waiting to write the RFP for the Skidsteer. I. Stampfly responded that time has played a factor as well as wanting to wait for the demos to be completed to look at what specs we want in the RFP.

13. Meeting Notices:

- A. UPRBA June 10-11, 2026, Harris, MI
- B. Roads+ Members Only Special Event June 30, 2026, Lansing, MI
- C. CRASIF & MCRCSIP Annual Meetings, July 21-23, 2026, Mt. Pleasant, MI

14. Public Comment:

Nick from Vermeer thanked the road commission for the opportunity to provide us with the wood chipper. Nick also added that with the snowmobile club they have used Plutchak's for temporary bridges.

Commissioner T. Bassett stated that Steve is retiring so they will be looking for a building and grounds manager. Nick Bosanic has applied for the position.

Commissioner T. Bassett stated that the annual reports will be discussed at the upcoming board meeting.

Commissioner T. Bassett stated that they are looking to establish a waste management program. This will require a board and they are looking for five members to sit on the board.

15. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 am.


Thomas Klarich, Chairperson


Jean Vanderville, Managing Director