

2020-2021

Annual Report to the NACE Board

Unpaved Roads Committee

Tom Fellows

Chairman

Mission Statement

The Unpaved Roads Committee of the National Association of County Engineers provides road managers with ongoing leadership and direction for the 39,000 counties of the United States, focusing specifically on sharing best practices for geometric and material design, construction methods and equipment, maintenance, condition assessment, asset management, and safety criteria for unpaved and granular surfaced roads

This was a difficult year for all of us. I would like to say President McGolpin has done an excellent job dealing with all the change in the way we do business. He took on the challenge and shined.

The unpaved roads committee was pretty silent this year due to my lack of time to commit to the committee. Besides the pandemic I was dealing with a major flood event in our county, short staff, new commissioners, I think you get the point.

Accomplishment:

I did have a researcher, James Bahr with North Dakota State University reach out to me and request contact information for counties in a few target states. They are working to develop a product made with soy bean oil as a dust suppressant and needed some test areas. At last communication with him he did get a few takers and it is helping move their research forward. With any luck next year at our annual meeting he will have something to report.

Virtual meeting:

My hope is that the technical sessions work well this year as a virtual platform. The unpaved roads committee does not have any technical sessions available, there were a couple of interested parties but I think they would be better served in an in person environment rather than virtual. My hope is that they will be able to present next year. We have already started conversations with those folks.

Goals moving forward:

I have already sent out a request for interest in the vice chair position (something I did not get done last year as I had planned) this person will assist me in leading the committee forward. I would like to work on a little more effective way to communicate with the committee, something other than just conference calls maybe utilize zoom a bit more. I would also like to continue to work on a way to stare a data base for counties to access to answer questions about road treatments and processes.

This concludes my report:

Tom Fellows