

RR 1 to 11

Received January 30, 1975  
9:15 am G.S.D.

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF WISCONSIN


DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS.

I, Chairman of the Rustic Roads Board, and custodian of the official records of said board, do hereby certify that the annexed rules and regulations, relating to the creation and operation of a system of rustic roads in Wisconsin, were duly approved and adopted by this board on January 27, 1975.

I further certify that said copy has been compared by me with the original on file in this board, and that the same is a true copy thereof, and of the whole of such original.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
set my hand at the Hill Farms State  
Office Building in the City of Madison,  
this 29th day of January A.D. 1975.

  
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ORDER OF THE RUSTIC ROADS  
BOARD ADOPTING RULES

Pursuant to authority vested in the Rustic Roads Board of the Department of Transportation by section 83.42(9), Wisconsin Statutes, the Rustic Roads Board hereby adopts rules as follows:

Chapters RR1, RR2, RR3, RR4, RR5, RR6, RR7, RR8, RR9, RR10, RR11 of the WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE are adopted to read as attached.

The rules contained herein, shall take effect on March 1, 1975.

## Chapter RR 1

### AUTHORIZATION AND PURPOSE

RR 1.01 Authorization

RR 1.02 Membership of the Rustic  
Roads Board

RR 1.03 Purpose of the Rustic Roads  
Board

RR 1.01 Authorization. Pursuant to sections 15.461(3) and 83.42(9), Wis. Stats., the rustic roads board does promulgate rules for the designation, maintenance, identification, construction, use, and preservation of a system of rustic roads in Wisconsin.

RR 1.02 Membership of the Rustic Roads Board. Pursuant to section 15.465(1), Wis. Stats., the rustic roads board of the Department of Transportation is composed of the following 11 members:

- (1) The chairman of the highway commission or his designee
- (2) The chairman of the senate committee on transportation
- (3) The chairman of the assembly committee on highways
- (4) 8 members appointed by the secretary of transportation.

RR 1.03 Purpose of the Rustic Roads Board. The purpose of the rustic roads board is to govern the creation and preservation of a system of rustic roads for vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian travel in unhurried, quiet and leisurely enjoyment.

## Chapter RR 2

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR RUSTIC ROAD DESIGNATION

#### RR 2.01 Qualifications

RR 2.01 Qualifications. To qualify for designation as a rustic road, the following criteria should be met:

(1) A rustic road should have outstanding natural features along its borders such as rugged natural terrain, native wildlife, and native vegetation, or include open areas with rustic or agricultural vistas, which, singly or in combination, set this road apart from other roads as being something unique and distinct.

(2) A rustic road should be a low-volume local use public road which is usable year-round.

(3) A rustic road should function as a local access road, i.e., one which serves the adjacent property owners, and/or as a road serving those wishing to travel by auto, bicycle, or hiking, for purposes of enjoying its rustic features. These would generally preclude designating as a rustic road any road serving as a collector or arterial as defined by federal criteria.

(4) A rustic road should be one not scheduled or anticipated for major improvement which would change its rustic characteristics.

(5) A rustic road should preferably have no high density development along it, but such development as exists at the time the road is designated should be compatible with the surroundings, and should not detract from the rustic, natural, unspoiled character and visual impact of the road area.

(6) A rustic road should preferably have a minimum length of 2 miles, and where feasible, should provide a completed closure or loop or connect to major highways at both ends of the route.

(7) The land adjacent to the rustic road should be zoned compatible with the maintenance or preservation of its rustic character and low density development.

## Chapter RR 3

### APPLICATION FOR RUSTIC ROAD DESIGNATION

#### RR 3.01 Application Procedures

RR 3.01 Application Procedures. (1) For a road to be designated a rustic road, a petition from 6 or more resident freeholders of the municipality (town, village, or city) in which the road is located, or a petition from a majority of the resident freeholders along the road, shall be presented to the governing body of the municipality in which the road is located. The process may also be initiated without petitions by a resolution of the governing body of the municipality in which the road is located. Upon such a petition or resolution, the governing body of the municipality shall make an offer to hold a public hearing on the rustic road designation. If such a hearing is requested, a public hearing shall be held in accordance with chapter 80, Wis. Stats., and local ordinances.

(2) Upon its final approval the governing body shall petition the county highway committee for approval of the rustic road designation, and approval of the transfer of jurisdiction of the road to the county.

(3) Rustic road designation of a road under county jurisdiction shall follow a procedure similar to the above, whereby initiation of the rustic road designation process shall be by county highway committee resolution, or by a petition from 6 or more resident freeholders of the county, or a petition from a majority of the resident freeholders along the subject road. The county highway committee shall make an offer to hold a public hearing on the proposed rustic road designation.

(4) It is the obligation of the county highway committee to provide a preliminary review of the petition for compatibility of the subject road to the qualifications for rustic roads established by the rustic roads board and described in these administrative rules, and ensure compatibility with any countywide plan for rustic and scenic roads.

(5) Upon approval of the rustic road designation, the county highway committee shall petition the rustic roads board for designation of the subject road as a rustic road.

(6) Before its approval, the rustic roads board shall provide final review as to the subject road's qualifications for designation. In its review the board may require photos or slides describing the rustic qualities of the road, or a personal inspection by one or more members of the board.

(7) Additionally, before its approval for designation is granted, the rustic roads board, in accordance with section 83.42(5) Wis. Stats., shall ensure that a road under joint jurisdiction of two or more municipalities, or a municipality and a county, or two or more counties, has had the approval of

(a) The governing bodies of all affected municipalities having jurisdiction over the subject road and,

(b) The county highway committees of all affected counties.

## Chapter RR 4

### JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY

#### RR 4.01 Jurisdiction and Authority

RR 4.01 Jurisdiction and Authority. Upon approval of the rustic roads board of rustic road designation in accordance with Wis. Adm. Code, section RR 3.01, jurisdictional authority for the road is invested in the county highway committee. Except as otherwise provided in these administrative rules, the county highway committee shall have the same authority over a rustic road as it possesses over county trunk highways including responsibility for maintenance, signing, and designation of usage.

## Chapter RR 5

### MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

RR 5.01 General	RR 5.04 Vegetation Maintenance
RR 5.02 Road Bed Maintenance	RR 5.05 Sign Maintenance
RR 5.03 Cross Drainage Maintenance	

RR 5.01 General. A rustic road shall receive the level of maintenance necessary for safe public travel by auto, bicycle, or hiking for recreational enjoyment, while still preserving the rustic qualities of the route.

RR 5.02 (1) Road Bed Maintenance. The existing road surface at the time of designation should normally be continued. Rustic roads may be dirt, gravel or hard surface. Necessary improvements may be made in surface to improve safety, drainage, or reduce maintenance problems, but shall not disturb the rustic characteristics for which the road was designated. Drainage and road improvements should be kept as narrow as possible to retain the rustic charm of the road, as well as keeping the driver's speed lower. The improvements shall be kept to a minimum to avoid disturbance of vegetation or unusual scientific, or cultural sites which have been designated.

(2) Where dust laying has been the practice or becomes a necessity, a minimum level of dust treatment may be used.

RR 5.03. (1) Cross Drainage Maintenance. Cross drainage shall be maintained where necessary to prevent damage to the road, possible washouts and other problems which may be detrimental to proper safety.

(2) When bridge replacement is necessary it should be of a design and construction of a rustic appearance, such as a timber structure.

(3) Repairs to an existing bridge of rustic character should be made with an effort to preserve the rustic qualities of the structure.

(4) When deemed advisable, the county highway committee with the approval of the rustic roads board may impose weight limitations on structures on a rustic road in lieu of structure replacement or repair.

RR 5.04 (1) Vegetation Maintenance. Where necessary for safety or protection of the traveling public, tree branches and shrubs may be trimmed or whole trees removed. This shall be done with proper tools so as not to leave unsightly scars. Land and forest management may be practiced.

(2) Use of herbicides to control or eliminate roadside vegetation is prohibited. Control of undesirable vegetation shall be accomplished by mowing and/or selective cutting.

(3) Mowing shall be performed only as necessary for health, safety, and ecological reasons with the aim of encouraging, where appropriate, the growth of prairie flora adjacent to the road. Within these guidelines, the maximum is limited to one swath on either side of the road as follows:

(a) On one-lane trail or dirt roads, mowing shall be immediately adjacent to the tracks.

(b) On two-way gravel roads, mowing shall be immediately adjacent to the edge of the graded surface.

(c) On paved roads, mowing shall be immediately adjacent to the edge of the pavement.

(4) In addition, mowing to a width as necessary to eliminate undesirable vegetation shall be permitted.

RR 5.05 Sign Maintenance. (1) It is the responsibility of the county highway department to erect and maintain rustic road signs at all public entrance points to an officially designated rustic road. The specifically designated standard statewide sign approved by the rustic roads board and designed by the department of transportation shall be used for identification of all rustic roads. Beneath this sign affixed to the same sign post shall be a standardized placard denoting the numeric identification of the route segment within the statewide rustic roads system. These signs will be furnished at cost by the department of transportation, division of highways, may be made by the counties, or may be purchased from commercial sources.

(2) At each terminus of the rustic road an additional standardized placard denoting the length, in miles, of the rustic road, shall be affixed to the post supporting the rustic road sign and placed below the rustic road sign.

(3) The rustic road sign and mileage placard may be placed on existing county-maintained informational or highway identification sign posts but shall not be placed on any regulatory or warning signs.

(4) All informational, regulatory, warning and identification signs shall be erected and maintained as necessary, in accordance with chapters 86, and 349, Wis. Stats., and Wis. Adm. Code, chapter Hy 10.

(5) The numbering of a rustic road shall be designated by the rustic road board with concurrence of the state highway commission.



## Chapter RR 6

### SPECIFICATIONS FOR USE OF RUSTIC ROADS

#### RR 6.01 Type of Use

#### RR 6.02 Speed Limits

RR 6.01 Type of Use. (1) The county highway committee, with approval of the rustic roads board, may designate a portion of the roadway or the area adjacent to the roadway of rustic road for the exclusive use of bicyclists and/or pedestrians. If a portion of the roadway is so designated for the exclusive use of bicyclists and/or pedestrians, the county highway committee, with concurrence of the rustic roads board, may paint lines, establish priority of right of way, and construct such dividers to physically separate vehicular, bicycle or pedestrian traffic as deemed necessary.

(2) The designation of the entire roadway for the exclusive use of bicyclists and/or pedestrians is prohibited, as it makes the road no longer a highway and ineligible for highway aid funds.

(3) The county highway committee, with concurrence of the rustic roads board, may also designate or restrict the type of vehicular traffic permitted on a rustic road.

(4) The county highway committee, with concurrence of the rustic roads board, may designate a rustic road as one-way or two-way operation.

RR 6.02 Speed Limits. The county highway committee, with concurrence of the state highway commission shall establish a reasonable speed limit to ensure compatibility between the recreational driver, the bicyclist, and the hiker.

## Chapter RR 7

### PRESERVATION OF RUSTIC CHARACTER

RR 7.01 Land Use Protection  
RR 7.02 Utility Installation

RR 7.03 Advertising Sign Control

RR 7.01 Land Use Protection. (1) Land along rustic roads should be protected to preserve the natural and scenic characteristics of the area. Local zoning powers, building setback regulations, access control, sign control and other powers should be used to protect and preserve the rustic character of the road and inhibit dense development. Zoning should discourage industrial, high density residential, and most commercial development. It should be used to encourage the development or the continued existence of commercial establishments compatible with a rustic road such as antique shops, craft shops, rock shops, and produce markets.

(2) Upon petition for a zoning change to the county or municipality having authority over zoning, the rustic roads board shall be notified in order to appear and present testimony at the zoning hearing, if the board deems it necessary.

RR 7.02 Utility Installation. (1) All utility companies shall be encouraged to bury transmission lines on private easements where possible. Where it is not possible additional lines may be placed on existing poles or towers, or buried. Any utility installation should attempt to preserve and/or restore the rustic quality of the route.

(2) Restoration of the rustic quality shall be required for all utility installation within the right of way of a rustic road.

RR 7.03 Advertising Sign Control. Municipalities shall be encouraged to adopt local zoning ordinances restricting off-premise advertising signs. These ordinances should address the control of existing signs and the erection of additional signs once a road has been designated a rustic road.

## Chapter RR 8

### DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTY RUSTIC ROADS PLANS

#### RR 8.01 Development of County Rustic Roads Plans

RR 8.01 Development of County Rustic Roads Plans. Each county shall be encouraged to inventory its roads for potential candidates for inclusion in the rustic roads system. Using this inventory as a basis, along with previous inventories of scenic roads, a countywide plan of rustic and scenic roads which is compatible with the functional classification plan in the county should be developed in each county. This plan should serve as a check for compatibility and desirability as part of the county highway committee's review of routes petitioned for rustic road designation.

## Chapter RR 9

### WITHDRAWAL OF RUSTIC ROAD DESIGNATION

#### RR 9.01 Withdrawal of Rustic Roads Designation

RR 9.01 Withdrawal of Rustic Roads Designation. (1) In accordance with section 83.42, Wis. Stats., a road may be withdrawn from the rustic roads system with approval of the rustic roads board after petition of the rustic roads board by the county highway committee and upon the holding of a public hearing for such a removal.

(2) The rustic roads board may wish to withdraw rustic road designation for a particular road if the road no longer possesses the rustic character originally qualifying it for designation due to over development. The board shall have the authority to remove the designation following a public hearing on the removal.

(3) The removal of rustic road designation shall cause the jurisdiction of the road to revert to the status held before original designation by the rustic roads board.

## Chapter RR 10

### IDENTIFICATION OF COMPLEMENTARY RUSTIC FEATURES

#### RR 10.01 Identification

RR 10.01 Identification. Any historical names, places and events which complement and enhance the rustic character of the road may be identified by roadside markers with the approval of the county highway committee and the rustic roads board.

## Chapter RR 11

### STATE AIDS FOR RUSTIC ROADS

#### RR 11.01 State Aids

RR 11.01 State Aids. The amount of state aids for rustic roads shall be based on the status of the highway prior to designation as a rustic road in accordance with section 83.42(8), Wis. Stats. Since the jurisdictional responsibility is invested with the county, the state aids shall be allotted to the county.