

THE MILE MARKER

JUNE 25, 2009

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

Over the last several months, I've had the opportunity to respond to dozens of questions and comments regarding the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), more commonly known as the "Stimulus Package". As one could imagine, the questions and comments were all over the board starting with the most popular; How much are you getting? What roads will be done? Where will the money be spent? and, It sure will be nice to drive on all new roads.

Like every other road agency across the nation, we anxiously awaited the final numbers hoping they would be significant enough to provide a noticeable difference in our system. In addition, optimistic that rumors of only Federal Aid Routes would be eligible for the funding were incorrect.

When the numbers were finally tallied, and the criteria formalized, there was good news and bad news. Good news: The Saginaw County Road Commission and the City of Saginaw would jointly receive approximately \$3.6 million for urban roads, and the Saginaw County Road Commission would

receive approximately \$756,000 for rural roads. The bad news: Only Federal Aid Routes would be eligible for use of these funds. In simple common sense terms, this means that the roads that need the most attention are not eligible candidates and would not see any improvements as a result of ARRA funding.

It was then that this office put things into high gear working diligently to find a way to direct funds to the local system in an effort to provide some much needed repairs. When finished, we came up with the idea of transferring already budgeted primary road funds to the local system, and then supplement the primary program with ARRA projects. The real difficulty came into play while trying to determine what type of projects to do, how much to budget, and how to distribute the work and funds across the county in an equitable fashion.

After weeks of deliberation, it was finally decided to budget \$756,000 to

the local road system in the form of a county wide chip seal program. When completed, the program will allow for two miles of chip seal in each Township (54 miles total) without the requirement of township match money. Projects will be selected jointly by the Township and Road Commission based on recent pavement evaluations and will be completed over a two year period.

Although the entire package is merely a drop in the bucket in the grand scheme of things, it will be a nice shot in the arm generating an estimated 290 years worth of life to our system.

Thanks to all who participated in putting the program together. Whether it was crunching numbers, selecting project locations, or developing criteria, it was all a big help and very much appreciated.

Brian



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2009 Equipment Purchases

It's been a very busy year for new equipment purchases for the Road Commission and this month we will see most of that equipment start to roll in. Already installed in the sign shop is a 48" air-powered roller to help in the making of signs.

After a lot of homework and comparisons, along with a trip with grader operator Matt Duensing to John Deere's proving grounds, the decision to purchase two new John Deere motor graders was made. The first grader will go to the Hemlock District and the second will go to Chesaning. These new graders have electronic controls along with built in slope control and will be very easy to operate.

Hemlock and Chesaning will also each get a new International tandem axle dump truck with underbody blade and salt spreader with brine tanks. These new spreaders will allow us to use a salt/sand brine mix to help control costs over the winter season.

The addition of five new GMC 1 ton dump trucks with front V-plows and a 1.9 yard salt spreader should help in subdivisions and clearing intersections in the winter. These trucks will also be a lot easier to get in and out of when pulling the four new diesel-fired hot patchers the rest of the year. We now will have eight diesel-fired hot patchers and all the old propane patchers will be traded in.

The jury is still out on the purchase of a new Gradall excavator or a rubber tire excavator, but we are doing our homework and comparing makes and models. A decision should be coming soon.

Rounding out the equipment purchases for the 2009 fiscal year is the replacement of 2 of 4 foremen pickups, and 1 of 3 administrative vehicles.

Randy Emeott, Fleet & Facilities Manager

HSC Project Update

Over the last 2 years, the Saginaw County Road Commission has been working with the Michigan Department of Transportation, Thomas Township and Hemlock Semiconductor in an effort to coordinate road improvements near the HSC plant in Thomas Township. The Michigan Department of Transportation awarded an Economic Development (Category A) Grant to facilitate road improvements around the rapidly expanding Thomas Township plant. The growth of the facility has created a need to upgrade the adjacent road system by widening intersections, adding turn lanes, and improving driveway access.

The project will be done in three separate phases, the first of which kicked off on June 1, 2009. The first phase includes the addition of turn lanes in all four quadrants of Geddes Road and Orr Road along with a turn lane along the frontage of Hemlock Semiconductor. The second phase will involve the construction of turn lanes in all four quadrants at the intersection of Graham Road and Geddes Road and reconstruction of Geddes Road between Graham Road and Thomas Road. Finally, the third phase will involve rehabilitation and paving of Geddes Road between Thomas Road and Miller Road.

The Geddes Road project is the first of several road projects that will be occurring in the vicinity of the plant. Other locations include the intersection of Gratiot/Orr (Fall 2009), Frost/Orr (Spring 2010), and Orr at HSC Entrances (Fall 2009).

Construction improvements along Geddes Road will be completed by Champagne and Marx from Kochville Township. Champagne and Marx was the low bidder at the April 24, 2009 bid opening with a total cost of \$2,440,488.45. Funding for the project is coming from the Michigan Department of Transportation (80%) and Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation (20%).

During each respective phase, the motoring public is being encouraged to seek alternate routes to avoid congestion and construction activity. Designated detour routes will be signed throughout construction of each phase to keep motorist clear of the area. The project's scheduled completion date is late August, 2009.

Adam Ball, Director of Engineering

ADVANCEMENTS IN RETIREE HEALTHCARE PAYMENT OPTIONS

The Saginaw County Road Commission is continually looking for ways to save money by utilizing the latest technological advancements.

We are proud to announce the opportunity for our retirees to electronically pay their share of their monthly healthcare premium.

This new feature will relieve the headache of having to remember to mail a check each month. It will also give the retirees assurance that their monthly amount will be received by the Road Commission in a timely manner.

We started this new feature on April 28th, 2009, and are very excited to have 34% of our retirees already signed up. With no limitations as to when you can start, we encourage more retirees to take advantage of this new process. For more information, please contact Julie Lightfoot, Director of Finance and Benefits, at 989-399-3759.

Julie Lightfoot, Director of Finance & Benefits

TECHNICAL CORNER

SCRC Website Updates

We continue to add many new features to the Road Commission website. A redesigned homepage includes links to the most frequently requested information and the latest SCRC news. Google search has been integrated into the website which allows you to find information via keyword or phrase. Finding directions to the office now is accomplished by simply clicking the *Directions* icon on the homepage and filling in the source address. Google maps plots out the path and includes estimated mileage and travel time. Our *Meetings* page now includes an integrated calendar module that displays items such as board meetings, office closings, and special events. The inclusion of a weather module and picture slideshow round out the latest improvements. We will be updating the picture slideshow frequently with upcoming project and maintenance work photos. Also, don't forget to visit the *Employee Services* section for updated healthcare information and news. Take a look and let us know what you think!

Tom Luck, Systems Administrator

Tips To Prevent Online Identity Theft

Identity theft rates as one of the fastest growing crimes in America today and the Internet can make it even easier for some criminals to take your good name and drag it through the mud. Identity theft involves criminals stealing your personal information such as credit card numbers, social security numbers and other information, usually to buy things on credit or to empty out your bank accounts. The following tips can help you avoid having your identity stolen.

- * Never give out your social security number, online or otherwise. No company you buy things from needs your social security number.
- * Use a good anti-virus/anti-spyware/firewall program.
- * Do not reply to unsolicited email.
- * Always use a "secure" server when transmitting credit card information over the web and know something about the company before handing over your information.
- * Be careful about using check cards online to pay for items. Unlike credit cards, you have no recourse for getting money back from a checking account.
- * Never give out information such as your birthday, marital status, education level or other personal information.

If you do find yourself a victim, immediately contact police and get legal help. Do not wait because you feel embarrassed or foolish over what happened. Waiting only lets the trail grow cold and limits how much law enforcement can do to help you.

Tom Luck, Systems Administrator

The Sign Shop 10-Year Cycle

In 2000, the Saginaw County Road Commission started a sign program to update all signs within Saginaw County on a ten-year cycle. This year the sign shop will finish updating the signs in Saginaw Township which will then complete one ten-year cycle. The sign shop members, past and present, who have taken part in this program can look back on a job well done. Their hard work brings about a county well ahead of other counties near and far. Since 2000, the sign shop has replaced over 23,093 signs across Saginaw County.

In 2008, the sign shop installed 2,827 signs. This is an increase over the 2,543 signs installed in 2007. The difference is being fully staffed and having employees that are dedicated to consistent work. Some other accomplishments of 2008 include:

- * Updating signs in Saginaw Township from the southern-most part of the township to Shattuck Road.
- * Updating of Pass/No Pass Zone signs in Birch Run, Spaulding and Tittabawassee Townships.
- * Assisting in snow plowing during the winter season.
- * Construction and installation of Class II High Water Signs for flooding issues.
- * Installation of 35 mph and Loose Stone Signs during the chip seal program.
- * Trimmed and cut trees.
- * Assisted the electrician on the installation of flashers at Merrill Rd./Swan Creek Rd. and Hemlock Rd./Swan Creek Rd.
- * Updated the school flashers with new LED lights in Hemlock and also on North Michigan in Carrollton Township.
- * Applied for and obtained a NACE grant to offset the costs of a federal mandate to update signs from engineer grade to high intensity prismatic.

The sign shop had a very busy and productive 2008. A thank you goes out to the following members of the sign shop, past and present, for the dedicated year(s) of service: Matt Peek, Mike Ecker, Dan Deming and Group Leader Jason Brown.

Rob Hudec, Maintenance Superintendent

SAFETY CORNER

Don't Play The Fool

Unfortunately, every jobsite has at least one joker. He's the person who is always trying to get a laugh out of you, or at your expense. Maybe he's pulling pranks or telling jokes to get a chuckle. Don't encourage him; then just like the big kid he is, he'll stop trying to get your attention. Tell him to save it for open mic night at the local club instead. Construction sites are dangerous enough without the added distractions and hazards of jokes, pranks, hazing and horseplay.

Jokers always hope their antics will end in laughter, but too often they end in disaster.

On a construction site, jokes can and will go horribly wrong. They can lead to injuries and no one, including the joker, wants that. Most company's will resist paying workers comp to someone who is injured while fooling around. Remember you are not being paid to entertain your co-workers. You certainly don't want to be the cause of anyone's injuries or death. Make safety a priority. You can always joke around after work.

If you want to stand out at work, instead of being the joker, be the one who sets a good example. Follow all safety rules, encourage others, and remind them to work safely.

Randy Erneott, Fleet & Facilities Manager

UPCOMING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Estimated Dates

Scott Hare, Director of Maintenance

JULY, 2009						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 CHIP SEAL BRINE	2 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4
5	6 CHIP SEAL BRINE	7	8	9	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11
12	13 CHIP SEAL BRINE	14	15	16	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18
19	20 CHIP SEAL BRINE	21	22	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26	27 CHIP SEAL	28	29	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED	

AUGUST, 2009						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 CHIP SEAL	4	5	6	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8
9	10 CHIP SEAL	11	12	13	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15
16	17 CHIP SEAL	18	19	20	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22
23	24 CHIP SEAL BRINE BRUSH SPRAYING	25	26	27	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30	31 CHIP SEAL BRINE BRUSH SPRAYING					

SEPTEMBER, 2009						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 BRINE BRUSH SPRAYING	2	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6	7 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	8 BRINE BRUSH SPRAYING	9	10	11	12
13	14 BRINE BRUSH SPRAYING	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SUMMER HOURS: MONDAY-THURS DAY-6:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.-CLOSED FRIDAY

First Annual Coloring Contest

During the month of March the Saginaw County Road Commission sponsored its first annual coloring contest. Children from the Saginaw County elementary schools were invited to participate in the contest. Pictures were available for download on the Saginaw County Road Commission website. The participation was overwhelming. It made choosing a winner very difficult for our celebrity judges: Rebecca Trylch from WJRT TV-12, Andrea Fisher, President of Prancing & Ewend and Johnny Burke of Oldies 96-WHNN.

The winners were:

Pre-K-Kindergarten

1st Place-Ellie MacDonald -Peace Lutheran School-Mrs. Kaschinske's Class

2nd Place-Riley Clolinger-Thomas White Elementary School-Ms. Wood's Class

1st-2nd Grades

1st Place-Nicole Pierce-Sherwood Elementary School-Mrs. Pratt's Class

2nd Place-Asyah Pruitt-Kempton Elementary School-Ms. LaFlair's Class

3rd-5th Grades

1st Place-Darren Young-Plainfield Elementary School-Mrs. Totten's Class

2nd Place-Courtney Aldrich-List Elementary School-Mr. Karney's Class

Random Drawing

Honorable Mention-Jada Yearwood-5th Grade-Handley PCAT-Mrs. Greko's Class

Wirt Stone Dock donated three \$100 first place gift certificates and three \$50 second place gift certificates that were presented to the teachers of the winning students for purchasing classroom supplies. There was one random drawing held and the winning classroom was presented with a \$100 Gift Certificate from Choice Office Supplies in Saginaw.

The winners of each age bracket and their teacher were invited to attend the April 14th Saginaw County Board of Road Commissioners Meeting where the students were presented with a certificate and a street sign with their name on it and their teacher was presented with their classroom gift certificate.

The Saginaw County Road Commission plans to use the winning pictures in our 2010 calendar.

We would like to thank all of the schools, classrooms and children who participated in the coloring contest. Thank you to our celebrity judges who volunteered their time to help with the difficult decision of choosing our winners. A special thank you to Wirt Stone Docks and Choice Office Products for providing prizes for the winning classrooms.

Please visit our website at www.scrp-mi.org to view the winning pictures.

2009 CONSTRUCTION SEASON

Adam Ball, Director of Engineering

Listed below are SCRC budgeted projects that are contingent on State funding and right-of-way acquisition.

Township	Road	Location	Type of Improvement	Start of Construction	End of Construction
Thomas	Geddes Rd.	Graham Rd.	Widening & Reconstruction	Late-June	Late-July
Thomas	Geddes Rd.	Graham to Thomas	Reconstruction	Late-June	Late-July
Richland	Frost Rd.	At Orr Rd.	Intersection Widening & Reconstruction	Mid-July	Mid-September
Thomas	Geddes Rd.	Thomas to Miller	Reconstruction	Late-July	Late-August
Spaulding	Curtis Rd.	Over the Spaulding Drain	Joint Repair	Mid-Summer	Mid-Summer
Buena Vista	Outer Dr.	Hess to Perkins	Reconstruction	August	November
Saginaw/James	Center Rd.	Over the Tittabawassee River	Bridge Replacement	August	November
Buena Vista	Hess Rd.	Towerline to Ruff	Reconstruction	Fall (?)	Fall (?)
Thomas/Richland	Orr Rd.	At Gratiot Rd.	Intersection Reconstruction	Fall	Fall
Thomas/Richland	Orr Rd.	At HSC Driveway	Widening & Reconstruction	Fall	Fall

We're On The Web!

www.scrs-mi.org

SAGINAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

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Phone: 989-752-6140

Fax: 989-752-8934

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: Monday–Friday

7:00 A.M.—3:30 P.M.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: April 27 — Labor Day

Monday–Thursday 6:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS

John D. Sangster — Chairperson

Richard F. Mallette — Vice-Chairperson

Wallace “Butch” Warner — Member

Managing Director

Brian J. Wendling



CAREER DAY AT BIRCH RUN SCHOOL

Tim Reisterer and Mike Ecker along with Maintenance Superintendent Rob Hudec spent Friday, May 15th at North Elementary Schools' Career Day in Birch Run. They met with a group of 3rd graders to explain their jobs at the Road Commission. The kids got the opportunity to see the equipment and how it works. To give the kids an idea of how high the bucket goes up in the air, Mike Ecker got in and extended it and let the kids yell to him. The kids really enjoyed the demonstration. The Road Commission has participated in Birch Run's Career Day for the past 6 years.



Welcome 2009 Summer Temps

Each year the Road Commission hires college students to work during their summer break. The summer temps help with such jobs as: mowing right-of-ways and flagging during chip sealing projects, as well as other maintenance activities. With their help we are able to provide extra maintenance services to the 27 townships in Saginaw County. Welcome to our 2009 Summer Temps: Kyle Barocko, Gregory Bartlett, Travis Borchard, Aaron Bosley, Calvin Bradley, Jordan Brown, Jacob Dunklee, Benjamin Ebenhoeh, Joseph Karas, Dustin Kestner, Jared Miner, Mark Parson, Stephen Sanders and Mathew Sanders. We appreciate your hard work and dedication over the summer months.

Saginaw County Road Commission has over 1,847 miles of roads to maintain. Although local townships share in the cost of maintaining some of the roads, the Saginaw County Road Commission is responsible for most of the cost.

The extensive number of rivers and drains in Saginaw County means there are also over 200 bridges to maintain. Smaller tributaries and ditches add more than 2,800 culverts to the road system and the list continues to grow as new roads are built to meet the needs of our ever changing and expanding community.

As you can see, maintaining the county road system is no easy task; however, everyone at the Saginaw County Road Commission is committed to giving you the best road system for your money. We are proud to be a part of the Saginaw Community and are committed to building a quality road system which will last for many generations to come.

HEALTH CORNER - HEAT STROKE

Heat stroke is a form of hyperthermia (abnormally elevated body temperature) with accompanying physical and neurological symptoms. Unlike heat cramps and heat exhaustion, two less-severe forms of hyperthermia, heat stroke is a true medical emergency that can be fatal if not properly and promptly treated.

The body normally generates heat as a result of metabolism, and the body is usually able to dissipate the heat by either radiation of heat through the skin or by evaporation of sweat. However, in extreme heat, high humidity, or vigorous exertion under the sun, the body may not be able to dissipate the heat and the body temperature rises, sometimes up to 106 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Another cause of heat stroke is dehydration. A dehydrated person may not be able to sweat fast enough to dissipate heat, which causes the body temperature to rise.

The population most susceptible to heat strokes are infants, the elderly (often with associated heart diseases, lung diseases, kidney diseases, or on certain medications that make them vulnerable to heat strokes), and athletes, or outdoor workers physically exerting themselves under the sun.

Symptoms of heat stroke can sometimes mimic those of heart attack or other conditions. Sometimes a person experiences symptoms of heat exhaustion before progressing to heat stroke. Symptoms of heat exhaustion may include nausea, vomiting, fatigue, weakness, headache, muscle cramps and aches, and dizziness. However some individuals can develop

symptoms of heat stroke suddenly and rapidly without warning.

Different people may have different symptoms and signs of heat stroke. But common symptoms and signs of heat stroke include: high body temperature; the absence of sweating, with hot red or flushed dry skin; rapid pulse; difficulty breathing; strange behavior; hallucinations; confusion; agitation; disorientation; seizure; or coma.

Victims of heat stroke must receive immediate treatment to avoid permanent organ damage. **First and foremost, cool the victim.** Get the victim to a shady area, remove clothing, apply cool or tepid water to the skin (for example you may spray the victim with water from a garden hose), fan the victim to promote sweating and evaporation, place ice packs under the armpits and groins. Monitor body temperature with a thermometer and continue cooling efforts until the body temperature drops to 101 – 102 degrees. Always notify emergency services (911) immediately. If their arrival is delayed, they can give you further instructions for treatment of the victim.

The most important measures to prevent heat strokes are to avoid becoming dehydrated, and to avoid vigorous physical activities in hot and humid weather. If you have to perform physical activities in hot weather, drink plenty of fluids (such as water and Gatorade), but avoid alcohol, coffee, and tea which may lead to dehydration. Take frequent breaks to hydrate yourself. Wear hats, and light colored, and light and loose clothes.