

THE MILE MARKER

DECEMBER 18, 2009

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- SCRC 2010 Calendars are available for purchase at the Saginaw County Road Commission Reception Desk, 3020 Sheridan Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48601 at a cost of \$5.00 per calendar.
- Join the Saginaw County Road Commission at the 2010 Home & Lifestyle Show - March 13 & 14, 2010 at Saginaw Valley State University's Ryder Center.

Over the last few months there have been a few staffing changes throughout the organization that I would like to share with everyone. As many of you know Adam Ball, our Director of Engineering, has decided to pursue other opportunities as a Civil Engineer in the private sector. For the last six years, this organization, along with the entire county, has benefited from his expertise, professionalism, and cheerful, upbeat attitude. Good luck Adam, we all wish you the best!

Shortly after Adam's departure, our Assistant Director of Engineering, Ryan Whiteherse, was promoted to the Director of Engineering position. His credentials, working knowledge of the Road Commission, and ability to hit the ground

running allowed us to continue business as usual without missing a beat. I'm confident that with Ryan's background and experience we will continue to provide the level of service that everyone has come to expect. Congratulations Ryan, and thanks for all your help.

In addition, the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners recently voted to change the current makeup of the Road Commission Board from three to five members. At the regularly scheduled meeting in November, voting took place to name the new commissioners. When finished, Richard Crannell and Todd Hare were named as the newest Road Commissioners.

Together they offer a variety of background and experience that certainly have plenty to offer the Road Commission as we trudge forward in these very uncertain and unstable times. On behalf of everyone at the Road Commission, I would like to welcome both of you and look forward to working with you as well.

Finally, as we come to the close of another year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Brian



Winter Maintenance—Snow & Ice Control

Last winter the Saginaw County Road Commission performed extensive testing of our salt spreaders both with and without liquid brine applied to the salt. The trucks used for this testing were equipped with "Monroe" Spreaders with saddle tanks that deliver liquid to the dry material just above the spinner. The pump is hydraulically operated and receives its power from the return line of the conveyor prior to fluid returning to the tank. The pumps were adjusted to apply 6.25, 10, & 12 gallons of brine per ton at an application rate of 400 lbs per mile. Through the photographic evidence of the test plots, it was determined that we could reduce our granular material to an application rate of 250 lbs per mile if we applied a rate of 12 gallons per ton of liquid mineral well brine to this granular material. It was evident that the material applied containing 2NS sand actually out-performed the straight salt test plots, which we attributed to the darker color of the sand absorbing energy and warmth from the sun. Although this material is less costly to use, it cannot be used in all areas. If used in areas where curb & gutter drainage is present, our spring clean-up cost would escalate.

In addition to the changes above, new equipment has been purchased, which we believe will improve service to all residents of Saginaw County and still contain our costs. We have added 7 one-ton trucks with 9.5' front plows and salt spreaders, as well as 2 new tandem dump trucks with salt spreaders that are equipped with saddle tanks to apply salt brine to the road salt while in motion.

Each of our 4 districts will have at least 8 pieces of equipment

performing snow removal when necessary, with one of our districts having 10 pieces of equipment and another having eleven pieces of equipment. The 7 one-ton trucks are set up for use in subdivisions. In the past, we did not start into our subdivisions until the second day after snow fall stopped. Now we may actually start into the subdivisions on the first day, depending on the snowfall received.

All roads will be cleared using the following priorities:

1. Primary roads and local roads with schools, fire stations, or other emergency services located along them.
2. High volume local roads & standard local roads. These are section line roads that through traffic counts, need to be cleared as soon as possible, as well as section line roads throughout the county that may be surfaced with gravel, asphalt or concrete.
3. Subdivision roads. These are generally the last roads to be plowed. It can take up to three days after a snow event to get these roads plowed.

These priorities are based on the assumption that no additional snow events occur. With each new snow event, the priorities start over, and can further delay the snow removal for priorities 2 & 3 above.

Scott Hare, Director of Maintenance

Center Road Bridge Replacement

Demolition of the Center Road Bridge over the Tittabawassee River began this past November. The bridge was originally constructed as a State Reward Bridge in 1927, at a length of 329 feet over 5 spans, and 30 feet wide. Over the last roughly ¾ century, the bridge has admirably serviced the traveling public of Saginaw County, and provided one of only five crossings of the Tittabawassee River, which divides the northern portion of our county in two.

The new structure will be four spans and a total length of 388 feet. The roadway over the bridge will now be 40 feet (a 12 ft lane and an 8 ft shoulder on each side). The new bridge will also have piers and abutments constructed extra wide on the west side, so a separate pedestrian bridge can be constructed parallel to the roadway. The pedestrian bridge will begin construction in the summer of 2010. The new structure is being constructed with state bridge funds (95%) and Road Commission monies (5%). The bid price for the vehicular bridge and piers/abutments was \$2,784,362.72, and is scheduled to be re-opened in June of 2010.

Ryan Whitehorse, Director of Engineering

2009 Annual Safety & Employee Training Meeting

On October 21st the Saginaw County Road Commission held our annual safety meeting. Michael Shultz, the Director of Loss Control and Training for the Michigan County Road Commission Self-Insurance Pool, was the key speaker for the morning session.

Subjects covered in the morning were "Sexual Harassment in the Workplace", "Work Zone Safety Awareness" and "Winter Maintenance Safety Awareness". Mike also talked about "Tree Cutting Safety" which is an issue now because of some major accidents and deaths at other county road commissions. Mike does a very good job of training and thanked us for inviting him.

The afternoon session was covered by The American Red Cross, training for recertification of standard first aid for our employees. It was an enjoyable experience watching our employees tying each other in arm slings, but the training is necessary and could save a life.

I received many comments from our trainers regarding our employees and how attentive they were. They could the employees appreciated the information. Thank you to all the trainers and employees for a great safety day.

Randy Emeott, Fleet & Facilities Manager

TECHNICAL CORNER

Service Request System

This past November, the Road Commission transitioned to a new Service Request System (SRS). The new SRS replaces a custom made program designed by Spicer back in 2000. The old SRS relied on the cumbersome process of shuffling printed/faxed requests from dispatch, to the field, and back again. Maintenance personnel had no access to the old SRS in the field, thus relied on dispatch to update and close out requests. In short, the old SRS negatively impacted the response time and efficiency of responding to resident concerns. The new PubWorks SRS solves many of these shortcomings. The many benefits of the new SRS include:

- * Accessible in the field
- * Web and email enabled
- * Request mapping capabilities
- * Request prioritization
- * Document and picture attachments
- * Highly customizable
- * Performance analysis
- * Residents can track progress

The new PubWorks SRS give the SCRC the ability to address resident concerns in a more timely and efficient manner. Efficiencies lead to lower costs but more important, reinforce our dedication to delivering the best possible services to the residents of Saginaw County.

Tom Luck, Systems Administrator

Funding Issues

The Saginaw County Road Commission is constantly looking for ways to cut costs while still keeping our roads safe for the traveling public. We have worked hard to look for cost savings, more efficient ways to complete our work, and many other aspects to help save money.

The problem we have is we can't keep up with the loss of revenue and the increases in costs. From 2005 to 2010 (estimated), our Motor Vehicle Highway revenue has decreased by approximately 12%. This may not seem like a lot in percentages, but it adds up to over \$1.5 million dollars a year. The economy hasn't helped either. With many individuals laid off in this State, less people are driving, plus more people are buying fuel efficient vehicles. This adds to the decrease in our revenue. If you couple this substantial decrease with the increases in price of just about everything we use in our line of business, we along with all Road Commissions, are having severe funding issues.

To give an example of just one item we use during the year, let's take a look at salt. In 2005, our average cost throughout the year was \$24.16/ton, while the current price for early delivery for the 2009/2010 winter season is \$52.04/ton. If we use an average of 15,000 tons each winter, this equates to \$362,400 in 2005 and \$780,600 for this winter, or an increase of \$418,200. If you add this increase in cost to the decrease in the revenue stated above, we're now approaching the \$2 million mark!

Salt is just one of the items that have increased in price over the years. Fuel prices, pipe prices, new sign requirements, asphalt.....basically every material we use to do our jobs is constantly increasing and at the same time our revenue is decreasing. The tax paid on a gallon of gas or diesel fuel has remained the same since 1997. Even though prices have increased, the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund has not benefited from those increases. The tax is a flat tax per gallon.

With our Motor Vehicle Highway Funds, we use these funds not only to finance our everyday activities, but also to help pay for our required match of Federal/State funded projects. Our Road Commission, along with almost all the Road Commissions in the state, are getting to a point with our funding levels, that we are having difficulties coming up with the Road Commission's required match for these Federal/State funded projects. Many Road Commissions have had to turn down the Federal/State revenue because they don't have the dollars to fund their portion. Michigan is already a donor state, by only receiving approximately 92 cents of every dollar returned to our state for Federal/State road/bridge projects, but now many have to turn down what they are receiving simply because they can't afford the required match.

During these very tough times, every department at the Road Commission has been looking for ways to save money, cut costs, and find even more efficient ways to accomplish our duties, but as our revenue keeps decreasing at alarming rates, it is getting hard to make ends meet.

Julie Lightfoot, Director of Finance & Benefits

SAFETY CORNER

Motor Vehicle Safety

Today's motor vehicles come equipped with seat belts, passenger restraint systems, and even front and side air bags. Most have front bumpers that can absorb minor impacts and some even have backing sensors that can warn you of objects behind the vehicle. However, no matter how many safety features a vehicle has, the most important device is you, the driver.

Driving is a task that requires your full attention and focus. When you're behind the wheel, driving is your primary task. Unfortunately, many drivers risk their personal safety and the safety of others when they choose to get distracted by grooming, eating, drinking, smoking and using cell phones.

Driving a motor vehicle means taking on a serious responsibility. Regardless of how many years you've been driving, at some point you'll have equipment failures, face bad weather conditions, come across unpredictable pedestrians, and encounter drivers who ignore traffic regulations. Don't get overconfident and always drive defensively.

Randy Emeott, Fleet & Facilities Manager

UPCOMING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Chip Seal Recap

****Estimated Dates****

Information Provided By Scott Hare

JANUARY, 2010						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY, 2010						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH, 2010						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Home & Lifestyles Show @ SVSU
14 Home & Lifestyles Show @ SVSU	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

I would like to compliment all the employee's involved in the chip seal program this past season. I do not remember a time when we received so many compliments on how well our chip seals looked. In addition to this, the greatest item from this past season was the improvement in our efficiency. With all the increases we were dealt with stone prices as well as liquid prices, the employee's proved that they are some of the best in the state, as our per square yard cost for 2009 was \$1.21; 4 cents less than it was in 2008.

In 2007, we purchased a new chip spreader which we first used during the 2008 chip seal season. By 2009, we have worked most of the bugs out and became very familiar with its use, allowing us to reduce the excess stone that was sometimes present on roads we sealed. This reduced the complaints we received in our office and also reduced our costs, as this stone is very expensive.

During the 2009 chip seal season, the Saginaw County Road Commission sealed a total of 148 miles. We used a total of 20,700 tons of stone at a cost of \$568,271 and 711,008 gallons of HFRS2M asphalt at a cost of \$1,322,475 to accomplish this work. A total of 35.08 miles of primary roads were sealed; 29 miles of which were sealed using funds secured through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) established by the Federal Government in the spring of 2009. Because these funds were made available to us, we were able to free up some of the monies we normally set aside for primary sealing and we distributed these funds to the townships, sealing a total of 28 local road miles in 14 townships at no cost to them. For 2010, we will continue this program by providing the remaining 13 townships with 2 miles each, to total 26 mile across the county.

Once again, thanks for a job well done. We should all be proud of this accomplishment.

Scott A. Hare, Director of Maintenance



Roger Cox Retires

Roger Cox began his career with the Saginaw County Road Commission on April 3, 1974. He served the Saginaw County in many different capacities during his tenure with the Road Commission. Roger retired on November 30, 2009 from District 4, our Hemlock District, where he worked as a Group 5 Backhoe Operator. We wish him the best of luck on his retirement.

RECAP OF THE 2009 CONSTRUCTION SEASON

2009 Construction Season

With the construction season behind us, it is time to look back at a very busy summer of construction projects throughout Saginaw County. The 2009 construction season was particularly busy with several projects near Hemlock Semiconductor, as part of their two latest expansions and American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) stimulus projects.

Federal Aid – ARRA Stimulus

This year Congress and the President passed a bill aimed at jump starting the economy by among other things, providing funding to transportation agencies for new construction projects. The goal of this portion of the bill was to create and retain jobs through municipal construction projects. This funding source provides 100% of eligible construction costs.

The Saginaw County Road Commission used these funds for one large scale project, and several smaller projects. The large project was full-depth reconstruction of Outer Drive from Hess to Perkins. For the remainder of funds, it was determined that there was more bang-for-your-buck in adding to the lifespan of several miles of roadway, instead of reconstructing one segment of one road. To accomplish this, the SCRC decided to chip seal Lawndale Road (Tittabawassee to Freeland), Mackinaw Road (Kochville to Freeland), Hemlock Road (M-57 to Brant and Frost to

Tittabawassee), Ditch Road (Corunna to Briggs and Briggs to Sheridan), Busch Road (Dixie to M-83), Moorish Road (Birch Run to Rathbun), Junction Road (Dixie Highway to County Line), Dehmel Road (Junction to Curtis), Fergus Road (Sharon to Bishop), Fordney Road (Frost to Tittabawassee and Brant to Ring), Midland Road (M-47 to County Line), River Road (Sarle to County Line), Freeland Road (County Line to Gleaner), Gleaner Road (Tittabawassee to Vasold), Brant Road (Hemlock to Fordney) and Ring Road (Fordney to Graham). Many of these chip seal projects were completed in 2009, and the remaining stretches of road will be done in 2010.

State Economic Development Grants (Category A)

Several projects were constructed this summer near Hemlock Semiconductor as a result of Category A Economic Development Grants from the State of Michigan. These grants are in place to help provide adequate road and street capacity and functionality for business looking to start-up or expand operations in Michigan. The grants typically cover 80% of construction costs, with the local road authority responsible for the remaining 20% of construction as well as design and inspection expenses. With these projects however, Hemlock Semiconductor has been an indispensable partner, and has agreed to cover the required match as well as the design and inspection costs. The projects completed in 2009 included the addition of turning lanes at several intersections and road segments, and

resurfacing of several miles on the following roadways: Intersection of Geddes Road and Orr Road, Geddes Road from Orr to HSC entrances, Graham Road at Geddes Road, Geddes Road from Graham to Miller, Gratiot Road (M-46) at Orr and Orr Road from Geddes to HSC entrances.

Local Projects

During the past year, several other types of construction projects were also undertaken. Many of these projects included financial contributions from the local Townships. The following is a list of local projects that were completed in 2009:

- Bueche Road (Volkmer to Chesaning) - paving
- Miller Court (Gratiot to Shields Dr) – paving, drainage and utility relocation
- Winchester Park Subdivision – paving and drainage
- S. Miller Road (Hart to Swan Creek) – paving and drainage
- Orr Road (1/3 mile south of Dice) – paving
- Van Wormer Road (Swan Creek to Ederer) – paving and drainage
- Ann St (Hemmeter to Passolt) – paving and minor drainage
- Fashion Square Boulevard (Schust to Tittabawassee) – concrete joint repair

Ryan Whitehorse, Director of Engineering

We're On The Web!

www.scrc-mi.org

SAGINAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

3020 Sheridan Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601

Phone: 989-752-6140
Fax: 989-752-8934

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: Monday–Friday
7:00 A.M.–3:30 P.M.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: May 1st – Labor Day
Monday–Thursday 6:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.

CLOSED FRIDAY

COMMISSIONERS

John D. Sangster – Chairperson

Richard F. Mallette – Vice-Chairperson

Wallace “Butch” Warner – Member

Managing Director

Brian J. Wendling



SCRC ANNIVERSARIES

Service Years Based on Hire Date—Not Seniority Date

EMPLOYEE	JANUARY	YRS. OF SERVICE
Elmer Shepherd	3	3
Ben Follett	12	6
Vincent Donald	15	3
Ben Iliff	24	14
Chris Breternitz	26	1
Ed Krupp	27	1
Aric Martin	28	1

EMPLOYEE	FEBRUARY	YRS. OF SERVICE
Joe St. Charles	3	1
Rob Meisel	9	12
Marty Anderson	14	5
Scott Peters	22	11

EMPLOYEE	MARCH	YRS. OF SERVICE
Brian Kleinfeld	1	11
Kim Luberda	6	8
Jim Lehman	6	7
Scott Hare	26	20
Julie Lightfoot	26	20
Jason Brown	27	10
Michael Nixon	28	10

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 – THE COMMON COLD

Ever wonder what causes a common cold? The answer is overwhelming, as more than 200 different viruses are known to cause the miserable signs and symptoms of the common cold. However, the symptoms are usually the same: Runny nose and sneezing, red eyes, sore throat and cough, headaches and body aches. You will probably feel a cold come on over the course of a couple days. As the cold gets worse, your nose may get stuffy with thicker mucus.

The cold is not the same as the flu. Flu symptoms are worse and come on faster. If you have the flu, you may feel very tired. You may also have a fever and shaking chills, lots of aches and pains, a headache, and a cough.

If you feel like you have a cold all the time, or if cold symptoms last more than 2 weeks, you may have allergies or sinusitis. Call your doctor.

Good home treatment of a cold can help you feel better. When you get a cold:

- Get extra rest. Slow down just a little from your usual routine. You don't need to stay home in bed, but try not to expose others to your cold.
- Drink plenty of fluids. Hot water, herbal tea, or chicken soup will help relieve a stuffy nose and head.
- Take aspirin, ibuprofen (such as Advil or Motrin), or acetaminophen (such as Tylenol) to relieve aches. Do not give aspirin to anyone younger than 20. It

has been linked to Reye's syndrome, a serious illness.

- Use a humidifier in your bedroom and take hot shower to relieve a stuffy nose and head.
- If you feel mucus in the back of your throat (postnasal drip), gargle with warm water. This will help make your throat feel better.

- Use paper tissues, not handkerchiefs. This will help keep your cold from spreading.

If your nose does get red, put a dab of petroleum jelly on the sore area.

There are several things you can do to help prevent colds:

- Wash your hands often.
- Be extra careful in winter and when you are around people with colds.
- Keep your hands away from your face. Your nose, eyes, and mouth are the most likely places for germs to enter your body.
- Eat well, and get plenty of sleep and exercise. This keeps your body strong so it can fight colds.
- Do not smoke. Smoking makes it easier to get a cold and harder to get rid of one.