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Important Dates:

December 1, 9:00am
Board Meeting

December 15, 9:00am
Board Meeting

December 29, 9:00am
Board Meeting

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

7:30am – 4:00pm

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Brett Laughlin
Managing Director

Snow Plow Roadeo

The City of Kentwood hosted the 2011 Midwest Michigan Snow Plow Roadeo. This year there were 52 participants that made 26 teams of two.

A snow plow Roadeo is a test of driving skills through an obstacle course. Points and time are kept during the course and the team with the highest total is declared the winner.

The obstacle course is laid out with cones and barrels to challenge the driver's ability to operate a

plow truck through stations that simulate maneuvering around parked cars, inside and outside curves, diminishing clearance, offset intersections, serpentine areas, and backing into a loading dock.



Our Road Commission

participants did very well at the competition. The team of John Gappa from the Grand Haven garage and Gerald VanHouten from the Coopersville garage finished second.

While the team of Rich Johnson from the Hudsonville garage and Paul Ortman from the North Holland garage finished seventh overall.

Commissioner Tim Grifhorst was our celebrity driver. In his words, "it was an experience I will never forget".

Bridge Funding Awarded

The Road Commission relies on several state and federal funding programs to supplement construction and maintenance activities.

One of those programs, the Local Bridge Program, can provide up to 95% of the bridge construction costs for rehabilitation, preventative maintenance, and replacement projects.

Annually, regional bridge committees are charged with the responsibility of determining a bridge program that replaces, rehabilitates, and

maintains the bridge inventory of their respective regions. The committees evaluate and rate each submitted application to determine which bridge projects are to be funded based on the amount of dollars allocated to the region.

Ottawa County is one of 8 counties that make up the Grand Region in Michigan. The bridge committee for the Grand Region recently reviewed the applications for the 2014 Local Bridge Program. The committee could only fund 11

projects out of almost 50 submissions.

The Road Commission was happy to learn that 2 of our bridges would receive funding.

The total reconstruction of the Luce Street bridge over Sand Creek in Tallmadge Township was selected with an estimated cost of \$1.6 million.

The committee also selected the 8th Avenue bridge over the Lau Bach Drain in Wright Township. This is a rehabilitation project with an estimated cost of \$0.5 million.

Local Road Rating

Rating roads has been done through a method called PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating). It is a visual test of the surface condition of the road.

To supplement the expense of the rating process, the Road Commission received funding from the Asset Management Council to rate over 900 miles of paved local roads.

The local roads were rated in segments of varying length depending on each road.

Various types of defects were considered during the visual analysis which were aggregated to arrive at an overall score for the road segment.

The ratings are used as part of the Asset Management process by the Road Commission and

Townships to plan and implement road treatments.

- Roads with PASER ratings of 8-10 require Routine Maintenance
- Roads with PASER ratings of 4-7 require Preventive Maintenance
- Roads with PASER ratings of 1-3 require Structural Improvements



Commissioner Tim Grifhorst is shown above competing in the celebrity portion of the Snow Plow Rodeo.

Safe Roads for Everyone

Winter is almost here and the Road Commission would like to remind you to plan your trips and work commutes accordingly.

Where can you get information on current road conditions in Michigan?

There are several television and radio station broadcasts and websites that provide local current and projected

weather conditions.

In addition you can call the Michigan State Police Travel Hotline at 1-800-381-8477 or visit their website at www.michtip.state.mi.us/rw/home.htm for current road conditions in Michigan.

Please do not call your local police agency for road conditions during a storm because they need

to keep their phone lines open for emergencies.

The Road Commission would like to encourage all drivers to use all available information when making winter travel plans. Even the latest, most accurate information is not a substitute for good judgment. If weather conditions appear to be too severe to travel, they most likely are.



Shown above is the new culvert for the Timmer Family driveway.

Donated Culvert Helps Family

Contech Construction Products, Inc. deserves recognition for their generosity in donating a brand new culvert to the Timmer Family.

The culvert was utilized to replace an existing failing driveway culvert that led

to the Timmer residence along the Morren Drain in Blendon Township.

The condition of the old culvert restricted school buses and other vehicles from using the driveway to pick up a special needs child.

Steve VanHoeven from the Road Commission coordinated the work with the Ottawa County Drain Commission, Contech Construction Products, and Rush Creek Excavators, who also donated their time and equipment.