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Weekly Report to Commissioners

Community Concerns

Culvert Installation/Replacement Requests:

- Valley Road .3 mile east of Talmo Lane on the north side; a 20ft driveway needs to be widened to 40ft.
- Jade Road .3 mile west of 300 Road on the west side; a driveway needs improved with a 30' x 18" culvert.
- A new driveway is requested at 561 King Rd. This will be a second driveway for this residence that is under construction and the culvert will be purchased by the owner.
- 2385 190 Road; ditch cleaning and driveway improvements are necessary. *80% Complete.*

Other Concerns:

- Norway Lane; drainage improvements are needed.
- 30 Road .5 mile north of Elm Road on the west side; skewed driveway for grain bins is the low spot in a very shallow watershed. The property owner is seeking improvements that may include ditch cleaning or a lift on the road or driveway, or a culvert.
- Rock Road between 30 & 50 Roads; a regrade, ditch cleaning and improved gravel finish may be necessary.
- Queen Road east of 260 Road for the 1st quarter mile; trees and brush need to be cleared from the right-of-way on both sides of the road.
- 250 Road between Fir and Elm Roads needs the ditch cleaned and the road lifted for proper drainage. *Scoping for impacts to driveways, equipment, and time necessary to complete the work.*

High Banks Wind Energy Project activities

The County has assumed maintenance of the improved roads in District 4 north of Hickory Road and east of 190 Road. Other project roads are not receiving the attention they need by the Developer, so the county is repairing roads as needed. An Engineer is inspecting roads in the northern half of the project, and we are expecting that report soon. We will then meet with the Developer to consider remedies before accepting the roads as restored to pre-project conditions or better. There are service roads which were formerly unimproved farm access roads; we are expecting them to be left in a condition that can be maintained under most weather conditions.

Beacons are still flashing over the entire project until the towers and equipment for the radar aircraft detection system are complete. Testing of the aircraft detection system is occurring now.

Permanent fencing remains at 28% complete. Reclamation of Turbine sites is at 99%; re-tolerancing of string roads is 78% complete. Demobilization of material and equipment from the laydown yard on US36 and 240 is continuing. Improved weather should allow most construction activities to resume.

Department Reports on Non-Routine Activities

Roads and Bridges

- Nathan Craig has been delegated the responsibility of the Department Director from February 20 – 23 while Ken is in Weed Supervisor Basic Training.
- All Major and Minor Collectors have been patrolled with Motor Graders several times to restore them after the last major weather event. Local roads are now receiving attention and we hope to return to farm access roads in the next few weeks. Gravel continues to be delivered to many roads that were tracked up more than others.
- With one District Motor Grader position vacant and two other Operators on extended leave, Max Wickstrum has returned to operate a motor grader full time in Districts 5 & 9. This is an area of the County east of 190, south of Granite and north of Timber Roads. We appreciate Max's dedication to our communities' concerns. Nathan will be delegated his supervisory responsibilities while he is in the field. We expect this to be of about 6-8 weeks duration.
- The new Shulte Mower is expected to be received next week.
- An Equipment Capital Plan for this year is being developed to consider replacing 2 mowing tractors, 1 plow truck, a semi tractor for the low boy and a road groomer. These purchases will be within the new equipment budget allowance. For a projection of future needs, equipment look-up table values are being updated with current replacement costs and purchasing strategies for the most meaningful plan possible.

PENDING ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Bridge and Culverts Division Project List (in order of priority)

1. 70 Road .1 mile north of Queen; a 24" squash pipe under the road needs replaced. This is just south of the Kyle Railroad easement. *A special pipe has been acquired for this.*
2. 50 Road 1.4 miles south of KS148; a 24" Concrete tile culvert is separating under the shoulder of the road and needs to be replaced. *This repair will require some asphalt and may be postponed until for few more months.*

Roads and Driveways Division Project List (in order of priority)

1. Gravel is requested for a half mile of Diamond Road west of 310 Road. *This work will be performed with reclaimed material from the wind farm project when it becomes available soon.*
2. Residents north of Fir Road on Republic Lane are requesting improvement of the road base with larger gravel or rock. The fine sand common to the area becomes tracked up easily when it is wet.

3. 210 Road south of Nickel; .1 mile is graveled from Nickel to a residence and .6 mile is graveled from US 36 north. A resident is requesting that the remaining .3 mile be graveled for direct access to Nickel where a number of residents live.
4. 100 Road .28 mile south of Timber Road on the west side; a 30" squash crossroad pipe has been cleaned out transferring runoff from acreage on the east side to a shallow ditch on the west side that cannot get through a plugged culvert several hundred feet to the south. The farmer believes most of the runoff could stay on the west side with some ditch cleaning. *investigating*
5. Queen Road, west of 20 Road, tree removal, ditch cleaning and driveway upgrades needed for the first .5 mile. *40 ft driveway installed; some ditch cleaning still needed.*
6. 30 Road improvements to restore the crown in the roadway between Highway 36 and Fir Road. *4 miles have been completed.*
7. Fir Road, east of residence at 2641, ditch work needed to re-route drainage out of field and a damaged culvert replaced.
8. 30 Road south of Bridge 3-D.7 and north of Elm Road, ditch cleaning is needed and a road lift.
9. 70 Road south of US 36 Highway is being prepared to receive recycled asphalt paving. *Earthwork is regraded and a dust control agent has been applied. A schedule and cost sharing plan for Paving will be prepared by the Highway Administrator for the Commission and Property Owners to consider.*
10. Cut and patch 4-6ft of Concrete at 170 Road near residence 1549 (Primary Road; Currently 23x23 & 10x23 inch potholes where previous asphalt patch has failed). *A hot asphalt patch is being tested at this location.*

Upcoming Events

1. **U.S. Senator Roger Marshall, M.D. announced \$1,520,000 in grant funding to the North Central Regional Planning Commission from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program.**
 - a. *The Highway Administrator is communicating with the North Central Region Planning Commission (NCRPC) about what this means for Republic County. Representatives for the NCRPC do not know yet but hope to bring all of the member counties together within the next 60-90 days to consider next steps.*
2. Special Projects in the works or being considered by the Highway Administrator
 - a. District Map updates and minimum standards for road maintenance.
 - b. Asphalt paving options.
3. Vacations of Right-of-Ways are proposed for 3 road spurs adjacent to Highway 81 that were abandoned after improvements to the Highway many years ago.