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Important Dates:

June 13, 9:00am
Board Meeting

June 27, 9:00am
Board Meeting

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:30am – 4:00pm

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Brett Laughlin
Managing Director

April Showers

Rain accumulation in Ottawa County this past April was well above average totaling 7.43 inches, 4.52 inches more than usual. This was the second wettest April on record after the 1909 total of 8.05 inches. Last year, the rain total was only 2.28 inches.

There were eighteen days with measurable precipitation, six more than average (12). Thunderstorms were reported on April 9, 10, 17, 18, and 30. *Daily April precipitation records:* 2.02

inches of rain on April 18 broke the previous record of 0.71 inches set in 1917.

Rainfall amounts on Wednesday, April 17, included 1.23 inches of rain at Daybreak Church in Georgetown Township, 1.11 inches in Holland, 1.06 inches in Allendale, 0.90 inches in Jenison, 0.81 inches in Grand Haven and in Hudsonville 0.67 inches.

West Michigan had measurable rain 12 days in a row and during that time over 6 inches of

rain.

The cumulative effect of the rains from April 7 through April 19 caused many flooding problems and resulted in high ground water issues for many Ottawa County residents.

There were multiple locations throughout the county where the road washed out and drainage crossings failed.

Cont'd: Please see the State of Emergency for Ottawa County article.

Culvert Materials

Proper drainage is vital for the stability and longevity of county roads. Most roadway drainage systems include culverts to convey road water to an appropriate outlet.

Culverts are generally constructed out of concrete, galvanized steel, aluminum, or plastic.

Concrete culvert pipe is typically reinforced with steel and precast in circular, box, and sometimes elliptical shapes.

Corrugated Metal Pipes (CMP's) are constructed from a single piece of galvanized steel typically with a circular shape.

Sometimes multiple pieces of corrugated galvanized plate steel are bolted together to form an arch shape.

Aluminum or aluminized CMP culvert pipes are also corrugated and can be constructed as either structural plates or from a single circular piece of aluminum.

Smooth Lined Corrugated Plastic Pipe is more commonly found in small diameter applications and is typically circular in shape.

The type of material utilized for a culvert is influenced by cost, hydraulic efficiency, loading, purpose, and the topography at the proposed culvert site. This physical data must be integrated with engineering and economic considerations.

State of Emergency for Ottawa County

Governor Rick Snyder declared a state of emergency in 19 counties across the State of Michigan, including Ottawa County.

This is in response to severe flooding this past April that impacted parts of Michigan. The disaster declaration will ensure that the affected areas receive all possible resources provided by the Michigan Emergency

Management Plan.

The governor asked Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials to join in assessing the extent of damage to homes, businesses, public facilities and infrastructure.

Ottawa County Emergency Services developed a team of officials to evaluate and

determine impacts from the storm. This team assessed the damage to public infrastructure, as well as the overall impacts to the communities.

The Road Commission had over 40 road closures due to water over the road and has estimated \$299,920 in damages to county road infrastructure as a result of the storm event.



The above picture is a portion of Barry Street in Blendon Township that was damaged from the April storms.

Safe Roads for Everyone

When are gravel roads graded?

In the summer, roads are graded prior to having dust control materials applied. In addition, the Road Commission tries to grade gravel roads after it rains, allowing the road to soften up.

Unfortunately, in the winter and spring, there is not much that can be done until the frost is out

of the roads.

To inquire about having a gravel road graded, please call our office directly at (616) 842-5400 or utilize the online service request form that can be found on our website, www.ottawacorc.com.

The Road Commission will respond as quickly as possible. However, at times, road grading must be postponed due to

weather conditions or coordinated with dust control applications. If the road is too dry or too wet, grading has little effect other than to re-arrange dust or mud.

Please contact your local Township office to inquire about dust control. Each Township is responsible for its dust control program, including contractor selection and purchase of dust control materials.



Shown above is recent retiree from the Grand Haven Garage, Roger Holzinger.

Holzinger Retires

With over 32 years of service, Roger Holzinger recently retired from the Road Commission.

Roger was hired as a Common Laborer for the Grand Haven garage, and spent his days there until retirement.

During his service, Roger performed all types of summer and winter maintenance activities.

Roger has been married to his wife Patti for 39 years and has two children. He is looking forward to spending time

with his three grandchildren, sprint car racing, and "watching it snow and not having to get up early to plow".

The Road Commission wishes Roger the best in retirement and thanks him for his dedicated service.