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Weekly Report to Commissioners

Community Concerns

Culvert Installation/Replacement Requests:

- Elm Road .25 mile east of US81 on the south side; a driveway needs expanded to the west to accommodate two property owners. It may not require a culvert.
- 2329 Hickory; a second driveway is requested that will require an 18"x 40' culvert. The property owner will pay for the materials.
- 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.

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 on all project roads. The Developer's improvements within the County Right-of-Ways are substantially complete. An Engineer is inspecting all roads and structures in the project. Punch lists, noting deficiencies have been compiled by the Engineer for Motor Grader Districts 4,5 & 10; only District 9 inspections remain. The first post construction meeting with the Developer was held to consider the County's expectations for completion and a schedule for completion. Some issues remain unresolved, and a second meeting is scheduled for March 26.

Beacons are flashing less than 15% each night now as fine-tuning of the aircraft detection system continues. We are learning that the system will come on and lights will flash every night at sundown to comply with a requirement by the Federal Aviation Administration to demonstrate that the system is communicating to each turbine correctly. It seems that large flocks of migratory birds have been detected by the system and they may not be able to be excluded entirely from detection in the future. Reports are received each day on the system's activity the previous night and the percentage of the night that the lights are off seems steady at 85% or more. One report used to illustrate the system's success by the Developer indicated 4 aircraft were detected during the night and that seems to be common. The expectation that the lights will not come on at all is unrealistic.

While no formal communication has occurred, contractors for the developer have de-mobilized with the intent of returning during late spring or summer when scopes of work for post construction needs are clearly defined and weather for reclamation and road repairs are more predictable.

Department Reports on Non-Routine Activities

Roads and Bridges

- Much of the County received an inch or more rain Wednesday night through Thursday morning. Operators are observing where gravel is needed, and those observations are being recorded on District Maps.
- 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, the 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. 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 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. 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.