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Weekly Report to Commissioners

Community Concerns

Culvert Installation/Replacement Requests:

- The widening of a driveway has been requested in Kackley, a block and a half north of Highway 148 on 50 Road.
 - Investigating if a culvert extension is adequate or if a culvert replacement is necessary.
- A field access driveway on 30 Road ½ mile north of Young Road has eroded severely and exposed both ends of a large diameter culvert and needs repair before harvest.
- A double culvert on Birch between 110 and 120 is being undermined again because the culverts straddle the center of a watershed. While the size of the watershed is significant, it may be better served by a single culvert properly placed. Temporary repairs have been made until a larger project can be undertaken after harvest.

Other Drainage Issues:

- 180 Road immediately **north** of Bridge 180-S.0 on the west side. Ditches have filled allowing storm drainage to run into a field, eroding the edge of the field and undermining a fence.
 - Ditch cleaning is necessary to correct this problem. *This work will be moved to the Pending Actions List in this report.*
- Another request has been received for ditch cleaning in the Marsh Creek Road area. This one from a farmer just west of 30 road.
 - A site visit was conducted. About 2 ½ acres of agricultural property use the right-of-way on the north side of March Road as a water way to drain the field. Not uncommon, however over the years the field has eroded into and filled the ditch enough that the field no longer drains properly even though the road does. Ditch cleaning in this area between 30 to 20 roads will be conducted after harvest this year.
- A resident has expressed concern about ditch cleaning being needed and a plugged culvert needing replaced at a field access driveway on King Road west of residence 1548. This is causing storm water to erode the road surface.
 - It appears that significant tree and brush removal may be necessary to perform this work properly, this will have to be performed after harvest.
- A dry plug (driveway through a right-of-way without a culvert) to residence 1235 Cedar is causing some drainage issues and needs more earth fill to alleviate ponding issues.

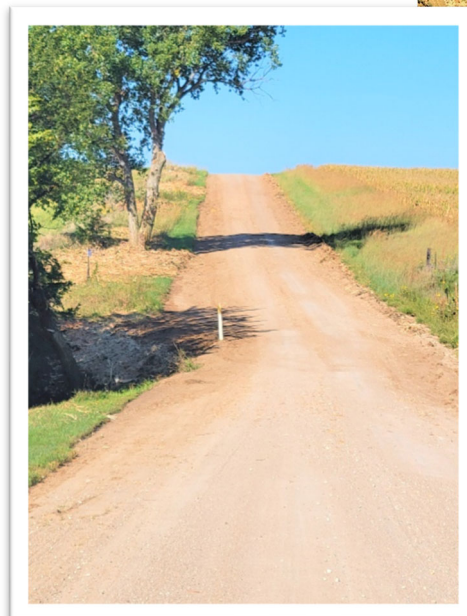
- Elm Road ¼ mile east of 180 Road, resident expressed concerns about a culvert under the road
 - *An anonymous concern has been clarified after a site visit and meeting with a nearby property owner. In addition to some obvious erosion that could be mitigated with some rip-rap, the resident clarified that overgrowth was concealing a watershed from a field south of the road that flowed very heavily, depositing silt in some areas and scouring in others. He believes that the erosion has scoured a hole under the culvert in the road.*
 - *Mulching of overgrowth and ditch cleaning will be performed after harvest and the culvert will be inspected more closely.*

Road surface concerns:

- A resident at 1220 Zeal Road wants gravel between 110 and 130 Roads. The residence does not appear on any map.
 - *Met with the resident on Zeal Road. His property is at the intersection of 100/110 (Republic/Cloud) and Zeal Roads. He has received a mailing address but is not on a mail route yet. It appears that Cloud County **may** need to improve their 110 Road which is half gravel now serving another residence. The Highway Administrator **has** communicated with Cloud County to confirm these assumptions and is not recommending gravel for Zeal between 110 and 130 Roads at this time. **A culvert will be installed and both counties will wait for the Postmaster to determine how the mail route will be affected and respond accordingly.***
- A resident expressed concern that 140 Road between Fir and Granite Roads (District 3), needs resurfacing with a grader. **Completed**
- A resident expressed concern that Elm Road between 120 and 130 Roads (District 2), needs resurfacing with a grader. **Completed**

Other Concerns:

- A resident has expressed concerns about trees in the right-of-way obstructing views from the intersection of King and 300 Roads
 - *This has been confirmed and tree removal will occur as soon as practical.*
- Clearing of the right-of-way on Penn between 200 and 210 roads revealed an ancient concrete box culvert that is too narrow for the roadway. The road seemed to go around large trees; now its clear that the large trees filled a potential hazard. Marking at this hazard will be improved until the culvert can be replaced.



Department Reports on Non-Routine Activities

Roads and Bridges

- The Kyle Railroad is upgrading the Belleville to Scandia line with new ties and some rails. The County assisted with the closing and opening of Berlin, 140 and 130 roads last week for work on crossings as they progressed west towards Scandia.
- 600 tons of cold mix were received on September 11. Courtland Patching south of the grain elevator was completed and we are ready for the milling and overlay. We have not received a schedule for this work yet.
- **PRESS RELEASE:**

Road Supervisor Robert “Bobby” Lawson of Agenda is leaving the Republic County Highway Department to dedicate his time and resources to agriculture full time.

Bobby started as an Operator for the Republic County Highway Department in 1993. He very quickly demonstrated a high degree of proficiency with every piece of equipment he operated. Bobby was assigned a blade (road grader) in District 4 near Munden and Narka then District 10 near Agenda for a number of years before he was promoted to Road Supervisor.

As Road Supervisor Mr. Lawson managed many of the County’s road surface and drainage projects and will hopefully continue to be a resource on special projects in the future said Ken Robbins, the Republic County Highway Administrator.

- A Tour of County Roads & Bridges was conducted for the Commissioners on September 13. It was a little over 3 hours in duration. 14 project sites were inspected. Some observations were:
 - Mulching of trees seems to be working well to clear right-of-ways (some skid loader grinding/cutting assistance may be necessary for lighter clearing to improve the efficiency of the process).
 - The Commissioners concurred with the preparation of State funding assistance for Bridge X-27.2, south of Agenda
 - Farm access roads need more work before harvest.
 - The air conditioner for the bus and the suspension system should be given some attention.
 - 30 Road North of Courtland to Fir needs a change in the way it is maintained. It is wide and flat and windrows will not allow water to leave the road before the driving surface is damaged. There are similar situations where roads that were once asphalt and have been ripped and graveled, **do not have a crown that can be easily maintained**. The Highway Administrator is considering a “no windrow policy for gravel roads where a crown cannot be maintained. 30 Road may be a test project.
- Two Employees are isolated due to a potential COVID 19 Virus exposure unrelated to the workplace.

• PENDING ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS (in order of priority)

1. 150 Road, 30 feet South of Ash, a Road culvert replacement is needed.
2. Marble Road, 50 yards east of 230, a Road culvert replacement is needed. *Completed*
3. 1060 Zeal Road, resident has been expecting a field access improvement for several years.
 - a. *Met with the resident and staff and concluded that a railroad tank car had been recycled into a 10 ft half pipe with a floor and headwalls for this situation but was never installed. A one call utility locate has been ordered and installation will be performed before harvest.*
4. 150 Road North of Timber at the entrance of residence 723; a collection basin and a culvert are needed between two driveways to correct a drainage problem that has been scouring the driveway and the edge of the road for many years.
 - a. *Materials arrived Sept. 13 and this work will be scheduled after the sealing of Fir Road.*
5. A new residence is being constructed at 2354 190 Road. To serve this residence, the Post Office has requested 190 between Birch and Cedar be upgraded to gravel.
 - a. *Reshaping of the Road Prism and 3 culverts were installed this week, gravel will be spread next week.*
6. 1220 Zeal Road, Culvert installation needed for field access.
7. Rock Road, ¼ mile west of 290 Road. A wood box culvert needs to be replaced (needs to be scheduled after October, when Cattle are moved to another pasture)
8. Corner post for fence damaged by grader needs replaced.
9. 240 Road, 1 ¼ mile south of Jade Road. A dilapidated 20 ft field access culvert needs to be replaced with a new 30 Ft culvert.
10. A clay culvert under Fir Road between 230 & 240 Roads is broken and part of the road surface has fallen into it. It has been filled with sand but needs to be replaced. This runs parallel to an old railroad crossing northeast of Munden.
11. Granite Road, between 70 & 80 Roads; Ditch Cleaning. Scoping encountered greater watershed impacts than anticipated, *Landowners prefer to wait until after harvest.*
12. 110 Road and Birch needs ditch cleaning on the North side of 110 near the intersection, and possibly several culverts replaced with larger culverts.
13. 150 Road, North of Marble Road needs to be built up over the first culvert. (*Collector Road; water flows over the road*).
14. Bridge 4-F.4 on 40 Road south of Fir Road has had 4 guardrail supports broken from weld plates in the prestressed concrete tee girders. This appears to have occurred when an implement impacted the top of the guard rail. The damage is fairly significant and difficult to repair. *We have prepared details for refastening the guardrails. The work will be completed as soon as practical.*
15. 130 Road 1/10-mile North of Elm Road. Erosion has undermined a bridge abutment and some repairs are necessary before it can be backfilled.
16. Diamond Road near Farm Residence 175, restore collection pit at the outfall of a culvert under the road. This will allow storm drainage to follow a channel adjacent to the County Right-of-way instead of through irrigated farmland. *This project has been scoped for completion after harvest this year. We will collaborate with the farmer to determine the best location for borrow and spoils and let him recover topsoil if he has the resources.*
17. 40 Road ½ mile south of Fir, a watershed is growing out of our right-of-way.
 - a. *A retention pond will be constructed within the right of way on the east side of 40 Road north of the box culvert with an overflow descending to riprap in the creek bottom about 18 feet below. This large project will be performed next year.*
18. Rock Road between 10 & 20 Roads, a right-of way that has been farmed in the past is filled with soil and allowing irrigation water to flood the road surface. Storm drainage also crosses the road at this location.

Ditch cleaning will be performed, a culvert will be replaced, in addition to a road lift. This project will need to wait until after irrigation season is over.

19. 220 Road, between Marble and Nickle Roads, pavement cut needed to excavate and replace culvert, then patch and repair pavement. *(Culvert beneath blacktop collapsing).*
 - a. *Inclement weather and higher priorities have delayed this project until after Fir is sealed.*
20. Cut and patch 4-6 ft of Concrete at 170 Road near residence 1549 *(Primary Road; Currently 23x23 & 10x23 inch potholes where previous asphalt patch has failed however potholes are shallow and should be scheduled with other pothole repairs).*
 - a. *Inclement weather and higher priorities have delayed this project until after Fir is sealed.*
21. Fir Road, east of Residence at 2641, Ditch work needed to re-route drainage out of field and a damaged culvert replaced.
22. King Road, East of bridge K-7.2, Ditch Cleaning needed, *(Service Road).*
23. Marsh Trail and 20 Road South, ditch cleaning. **Some immediate concerns have been addressed; the larger part of this project will be completed this fall.** *(Collector Road; Needed after fire response filled shallow ditches with debris).*

Upcoming Events

- The new Fuel Center Kiosk System is scheduled for installation September 20-23. The Antennas for communicating between the Fuel Center and the office have been installed.
- The Courtland to Highway 148 Overlay Project is waiting for a schedule from the Contractor.
 - A Change Order is being prepared for the additional milling and overlay work that the City of Courtland has requested.
 - The Engineer has noted that a substantial pothole south of the railway crossing needs to be properly excavated, filled, compacted, and patched before the overlay work can begin. The County and the City will work together on this. *Completed*
 - The Highway Administrator has communicated with the Railways in the area and although we do not have a schedule for construction yet, we do have a commitment from the Railways to increase communication about train schedules during the period of construction that should aid in public notifications and flagging.
- The Construction of Off System Bridge K-7.2 is waiting for a schedule from the Contractor.
- **The sealing and sanding of Fir Road from 81 Highway to Jewell County and 10 Road between Cedar and the Republic River Bridge will be performed during the week of September 20-23.**
- Proposals are being solicited for the KANSAS LOCAL BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2022. This is a 90/10 (State/Local) funding participation Project up to \$150,000 or up to \$200,000, if our proposal includes removing a second bridge from our inventory permanently. Proposals are due October 8, 2021.
 - The Highway Department has directed the engineer to prepare a proposal for replacement of Bridge X-27.2