



# The Orange Brigade



Summer 2014

Logan County Engineer's Office

Volume 45

LOGAN COUNTY



ENGINEER'S OFFICE

## *Coleman's Comments*

The winter of 2013-2014 was very challenging. We responded to a total of 54 winter storm events at a total cost of \$658,405.66, which was nearly double of our average winter costs. The first event was on November 12 and the last event occurred on March 29. Unusually cold temperatures and significant snowfall totals added to the overall difficulty. We exhausted our full bid amount of salt in February, but we were able to purchase 100 tons of salt from the Champaign County Engineer's Office in order to finish out the season. Our staff rose to the challenge of this winter and performed very well. I thank them for the extra hours, sleepless nights, and time away from their families in order to meet the challenge.

Many agencies throughout Ohio either ran out of salt or could not get adequate deliveries of salt from their suppliers during early 2014 and most salt supplies were depleted by the end of the season. Due to this salt shortage, the Ohio Department of Transportation bid a cooperative summer salt fill for Ohio agencies. Our cost for this salt was \$67.12 per ton and the supplier delivered the full 1,400 tons in 3 days. Our salt bid this past winter was only \$47.09 per ton.

We started the preparation for the rehabilitation of the historic Whipple iron truss over the Great Miami River (bridge 21-1.00) in 2009 with an application for federal grant funds. These funds were approved in 2009 and we began the preliminary planning for the project. Plans have recently been completed for the rehabilitation of the existing truss to full legal loading.

Beginning in February of this year, twelve residents from the area contacted this office with questions and concerns about the rehabilitation project. After these initial discussions, we decided to set a public meeting date to explain the current status of the project and get input for the residents that live in the vicinity of the bridge. The public meeting was held in late June with about 90 local residents in attendance. The unanimous opinion of those

in attendance was to forfeit the \$1.8 million funding for the rehabilitation and pursue funding for a new two-lane bridge. We also received 256 signatures supporting a new two-lane bridge.

Our preliminary estimate for a new two-lane bridge on a new alignment to the north of the existing truss was \$4.3 million. Based on the input of the citizens in the area, we will proceed with the preliminary planning of a new two-lane bridge over the Great Miami River and apply for funding of this structure. As presented in the public meeting, the earliest that this funding might be available is 2019. We can now proceed to streamline the design for the new two-lane bridge to make sure that we build the most cost effective structure to meet the needs of the community.

We will also be continuing the replacement of bridges in this area with the replacement of bridge 34-4.78 over Wheeler Creek on County Road 34 and bridge 24-4.58 over Indian Creek on County Road 24 later this year.

We recently processed our first petition ditch permanent construction base adjustment on the Wilson-Downs Ditch No. 682. This ditch was petitioned in 1958 and still had the original construction base of only \$7,245. Unfortunately, this only allowed us to mow, spray, and perform very limited maintenance on the ditch. The Board of County Commissioners has approved the new permanent construction base at \$ 53,631.34, which will allow us to perform much needed ditch improvements over the next several years. The next ditch that we will present to the Board of Commissioners for consideration is the Rowand Ditch No. 719.

Sincerely,

Scott C. Coleman, P.E., P.S.  
Logan County Engineer

## **County Bridge News**

By Bryan D. Dhume P.E. P.S.  
Chief Deputy Engineer

The Logan County Engineer's Office recently completed two aluminum box culvert structures, one on CR 5 and the other on TR 51. Both structures span the South Fork of the Great Miami River. These two locations required a structure larger than a four sided concrete box culvert but smaller than a beam bridge, so only three sided structures were considered. The aluminum box culvert option proved to be the most economical structure type in this instance. The construction of these bridges was not without its challenges. The cast in place concrete spread footings and wingwalls proved to be hard work, as did the installation of the hundreds of bolts used to connect the aluminum plates and ribs. The end result, however, are structures that will require very little future maintenance and should last 75 years or more.

This office will be administering a road widening project for Harrison Township this year. This project will widen and resurface 0.87 miles of TR 206 from 12 ft. to 18 ft. width using a combination of grant and loan funding through the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Small Government Program. This funding is available on a competitive basis to villages and townships in unincorporated areas with populations less than 5,000. The remainder of TR 206 is being completed using regular OPWC funding in a joint project that includes 15 other townships in Logan County.

### **Bridge Crew Update**

By Dan McMillen  
Bridge Superintendent

This winter's severe weather had a major impact on the bridge crew's construction projects. The crew normally works year round on bridge construction projects. The crew is comprised of four bridge technicians and a superintendent and in addition to their construction duties they are responsible for snow plow routes. This winter the crew spent more time on snow and ice control than bridge construction. Despite the winter weather they were able to complete two bridge projects one on County Road 5 and the other on Township Road 51 which are located 100 yards apart.

The crew is now working on a bridge project on County Road 40 which is scheduled to be completed by mid-July.

### **Map Room Update**

By Susie Yoesting  
Map Room Supervisor

With summer upon us, the Map Room stays busy with the overall daily activities. Requests for new property addresses remain steady along with the approval and pre-approval of legal descriptions and surveys. The staff continues to answer the ongoing diversity of questions that get directed to them on a regular basis. Private surveyors are experiencing a dramatic increase in the number of mortgage location surveys being ordered and are more frequently visiting the Map Room for the survey records needed to complete their jobs.

In an effort to provide as much information as possible to the public, the house numbers have been added to the Auditor's Office interactive map to aid in identifying properties. As always, monthly map updates are completed for both the Engineer's and Auditor's websites to reflect the most recent property changes. The maps for both departments can be viewed on the Logan County website at [www.co.logan.oh.us](http://www.co.logan.oh.us) and questions can be directed to the Map Room at (937)599-7230.

## Shared Services

Todd Bumgardner  
General Superintendent

The Logan County Highway Department continues to perform work for other public agencies. During the Fall and Spring seasons our crews have completed work for nine townships, two agencies and three villages all within Logan County. This work is part of our "Shared Services" effort. The idea behind "Shared Services" is to aid public agencies in work that requires specialty equipment or additional labor that otherwise would not be available. In addition the work is performed mostly at cost with little to no overhead. Our crews take the same care and effort as with any of our own work. It is our hope to continue to provide these select shared services at low cost to our community.

## Employee Safety News

Todd Bumgardner  
General Superintendent

Heavy highway construction and snow plowing is labor intensive work often requiring the use large equipment as well as hand tools all while being exposed to traffic. The Logan County Engineer Office and Highway Department crews have logged over **234 days** with no injury accidents. On Wednesday June 18, 2014, the Logan County Engineer's Office had our 5th annual safety recognition event. Once again our employees were treated to fresh grilled hamburgers and hot dogs. Our crews take pride in their safety record and in reward for their accomplishment each employee received two safety colored tee shirts identifying the year and number of days without an injury accident. I want to say thanks to each of our employees for their efforts in staying safe and supporting the safety ideals at the Logan County Engineer's Office. Here is to another injury free year for our crews.

## Building Authority News

Michael Reffitt  
Building Official

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people, home owners, and contractors for the patience and understanding you had during our "Spring Time" health dilemma. I was recovering from pneumonia, Becky and Earl Evans were recovering from medical issues and our inspections were being performed by our back up residential building department—Union County.

Everything has returned to normal now and again I want to thank you for understanding as we had to "juggle" our inspections and plan review. From the team Becky, Earl, and myself have a **WONDERFUL SUMMER!**

## Employee News

**Bryan Dhume** was promoted to the position of Chief Deputy Engineer for the Logan County Engineer's Office effective May 1, 2014. Bryan joined the Logan County Engineer's Office in July of 2007. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Ohio University and is a Professional Engineer (PE) and a Professional Surveyor (PS).

Please join us in congratulating Bryan in his new position.

**Traffic Department**  
By Mark Hilty  
Ditch/Traffic Superintendent

The Traffic Department is responsible for maintaining over 6,200 signs throughout Logan County. During the summer we replace approximately 1,600 county signs. Additionally we are also contracting out to a few townships for sign replacement. Pleasant Township (145 signs), Bloomfield Township (94 signs), Harrison Township (153 signs-awaiting final approval). We are continuing to double post stop ahead signs to prevent the wind from twisting the single post and damaging it. The department is reviewing new traffic counters to replace our 20 year old counters that are not functioning properly.

**Ditch Department**  
By Mark Hilty  
Ditch/Traffic Superintendent

The mowers are on their second round of mowing county ditches and the first mowing of the maintenance ditches. The crews have been battling a warm, wet spring and are playing catch up with the grass mowing. We are working on roadside spraying and will start spraying maintenance ditches as soon as the second round of mowing is complete. This year we purchased a new boom mower which enables us to mow behind the guardrails. The guardrails will be sprayed and weed whipped as time permits throughout the summer.

Ditch crews have been working on several ditches this spring including Hoover Ditch, Stony Creek Ditch, Hankinson Ditch, Bokengehalas Ditch and Allen Ditch. Crews also completed a repair on Bokengehalas Creek for the Logan County Health Department. This was to fix a large wash out along the creek. Excavation was done to retain the alignment of the creek; the wash was filled in, and reinforced with dump rock.

**Highway Update**  
By Joel Miracle  
Highway Superintendent

The highway department continues to focus on maintaining the 370 miles of highway that we are responsible for throughout Logan County. This summer we are planning to resurface over 20 miles of county highway and to chip seal an additional 30 miles. To improve our productivity while chip sealing we are stocking number 8 stone at various locations around the county. Last fall and when the weather permitted this spring, we crack sealed the roads in preparation for this year's chip sealing work. In order to remove the stone used in chip sealing we have purchased a second road broom which enabled us to sweep the stone off the roads more quickly.

In order to protect our highway workers we ask you to please drive cautiously in the areas where our crews are working and we would like to thank you for your cooperation and patience.

