



The Orange Brigade



Winter 2015

Logan County Engineer's Office

Volume 46



Coleman's Comments

Most of you have probably heard about the road salt shortage for this winter season, however, I will recap the situation for those who have not. The winter of 2013-2014 was very severe throughout the northern states and Canada. Near the end of last winter, many communities had exhausted their salt supplies and the road salt companies were struggling to meet the demands. In Logan County, we had used all of our available salt supply, but thanks to the help of Champaign County selling us additional material, we were able to make it through the season.

Since the previous salt shortage in 2009, Logan County has participated in a statewide cooperative bid to acquire winter road salt with ODOT. Due to the fact that many communities had exhausted their salt supplies last winter, ODOT offered a summer salt refill bid in the spring. We were successful in receiving salt bids and filled all of our available storage with 1,400 tons of salt. The refill bid price was \$67.12 per ton which was a significant increase from \$47.09 in the previous winter.

In the fall, ODOT opened bids for the winter salt refill and many counties including Logan did not receive any bids from suppliers to provide salt for the winter. ODOT requested bids for the winter fill a second time, and there was still no bid for Logan County. In September, the Logan County Engineer's Office requested our own bids for winter road salt refill. We received only one bid from Cargill, Inc. to supply 700 tons of ClearLane (magnesium chloride treated road salt) at a cost of \$106.88 per ton delivered. Later in the year, ODOT notified us that they had acquired an additional supply of salt and they would make that available to communities at a cost of \$105 per ton picked up at various sites in Ohio.

Fortunately, we have added liquid prewetting systems to our snow plows over the last several years and we are able to utilize liquid deicing products with our road salt mixture. With the ability to supplement our salt and grit mixture with BEET HEET deicing liquid, we have been able to successfully treat roads so far this winter while using less salt. It was also very helpful that during this fall through the end of 2014, we experienced only 5 snow events, which is significantly down from 16 events last

year. Through the end of 2014, we have used 292 tons of mixed salt and grit and 764 gallons of Beet Heet. We have had 493 hours of regular time and 141 hours of overtime during these snow events with a total labor, material, and equipment cost of \$54,529.39.

In March of 2014, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) notified Logan County officials that they had updated the base flood elevation (BFE) and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Logan County without any input or consultation with any Logan County agencies. In July, ODNR and FEMA held public meetings to present the revised flood maps to the public. After the July meeting, we requested that ODNR/FEMA consider several adjustments. In December, ODNR/FEMA notified Logan County that the 90 day appeal period for the new flood maps had begun.

Since this notice, the Logan County Commissioners have hired DLZ Engineering to prepare an appeal to the base flood elevation, flood maps, and represent Logan County in the appeal. Our office has been working very closely with the Logan County Commissioners and DLZ to ensure that the new flood maps will be accurate and that the residents of Logan County are protected.

In December, we finalized a road exchange with Liberty and Lake Townships. We traded our CR 14 and CR 189 to Liberty Township and the loop of CR 9 south of SR 47 was transferred to Lake Township. The Logan County Engineer's Office has taken over the maintenance of TR 200 from CR 18 to the Bellefontaine corporation limit. This section of TR 200 has a very high traffic count and can be difficult for the township to maintain. We will also be able to make some improvements to this section of TR 200 over the next few years. The county roads that we traded to the townships have much lower traffic counts and will be much easier for the townships to maintain.

Please lookout for the new signs on these roads identifying them as TR 14, TR 189, TR 9, and CR 200. Bridge 21-1.00 update: After our public input meeting in June, on bridge 21-1.00 we applied for federal aid funding for the construction of a new two lane bridge on a new alignment over the Great Miami River as requested by the residents of the community. This fall, we were notified that our application was approved for funding in fiscal year 2020. We have completed some of the preliminary engineering and will proceed with construction plan development in the next several months.

County Bridge News

By Cale Jacobs
Assistant Engineer

During 2014, the Logan County bridge crew completed the replacement of four bridges/culverts in the county. Two of these structures were large four sided concrete box culverts with precast concrete wing walls, one was an 8' - 6" diameter corrugated metal pipe culvert that was sleeved inside the existing concrete abutments therefore reducing construction costs, and one received a new steel substructure and concrete deck while utilizing the existing concrete abutments. All of the replacements were major improvements to the roads they carry.

We are currently completing the 2015 annual inspections of nearly 300 bridges in Logan County and will be finished by March. Our office will then use these inspection reports to finalize bridge replacements for 2016 and minor bridge repairs for 2015. After many years of an aggressive bridge replacement program, our office is seeing a decline in the overall number of bridges that need replaced. However, timely maintenance and repairs is becoming more important to maintain their good condition.

Bridge replacements and repairs take the combined efforts of both the Highway Department and Engineer's Office staff, in addition to the patience of the traveling public. Listed below are the bridges replaced in 2014 and the bridges tentatively scheduled for replacement or major repair in 2015.

Bridges Replaced in 2014:

- C.R. 34-4.78 (Pleasant Twp.)
- C.R. 40-3.11 (Bokescreek Twp.)
- C.R. 2-0.89 (Jefferson Twp.)
- C.R. 24-4.58 (Washington Twp.)



Bridges (Tentatively) Scheduled for 2015:

- T.R. 160-1.41 Replacement (Zane Twp.)
- C.R. 87-1.50 Replacement (Stokes Twp.)
- T.R. 3-1.66 Replacement (Miami Twp.)
- C.R. 66-1.43 Beam Replacement (Miami Twp.)
- C.R. 120-1.32 Wing Wall Extensions (Bokescreek Twp.)
- C.R. 2-5.69 Replacement (Perry Twp.)
- C.R. 5-4.30 Deck and Wing Wall Extensions (Monroe Twp.)
- C.R. 5-4.31 Deck and Wing Wall Extensions (Monroe Twp.)
- C.R. 2-0.25 Replacement (Jefferson Twp.)

Bridge Crew Update

By Dan McMillen
Bridge Superintendent

The bridge crew has had a very busy summer and fall work season. During this 6 month period the following projects were completed:

- Bridge replaced on County Road 24
- Box culverts replaced on County Roads 2, 34, and 40
- Bridges on Township Roads 32 and 95 were needle scaled and painted. . In addition to being responsible for all of the bridges on county roads we have responsibility for bridges on all township roads.
- Installed new guardrail on Township Road 221 bridge
- Installed 240 feet of new 18 inch tile on County Road 34
- All of the bridge crew hourly employees are assigned to snow and ice control during inclement weather

Project Update

Todd Bumgardner
Administrative Coordinator

The Logan County Engineer's Office administers many local, state and federally funded projects each year. These projects are not only for our county highway system they are also for township roads, village streets and state highways. They say history repeats itself and 2014 was no different as much of the field work for these projects was completed late summer and early fall. The following is a list of the larger projects and the total project dollars that our office administered in 2014. The total dollar amount listed combines local, private, state and federal funds as noted.

County Highway Paving – County Sales Tax Funds - \$1,442,719.13

Township Road Paving – Ohio Public Works Commission and Local Funding – \$1,427,293.17

State Route 347 Honda East Liberty Turn Lane – Private and State Funding - \$264,298.65

County Highway Rejuvenating Sealer Program – County Sales Tax Funds - \$212,265.86

Township Road Chip seal – Township Sales Tax and Local Funding - \$95,573.79

County Highway Pavement Markings – Local Funds - \$88,018.67

County Sign Upgrade - Federal and Local Funding – \$64,957.55

Curve Sign Upgrade Project – Federal Funds - \$2,421.15

Also in 2014 we continued our shared service projects with Logan County townships and villages. Major projects for the end of last year were:

Complete sign replacements for 3 Townships

Chip seal project for a village

2 small township paving projects

Multiple culvert/tile replacements for various townships

Township mowing and spraying for various townships

Map Room Update

By Susie Yoesting
Map Room Supervisor

In 2014 the Map Room staff checked 2,522 legal descriptions on real estate documents. There were 1,986 deeds, 356 Affidavits, 89 Certificate of Transfers, 35 easements and 56 land contracts. Additionally, 1 condominium plat, 1 street dedication, 1 annexation plat were approved and recorded. New property splits totaled 128 for the year with 79 documents being new surveys. Surveyor's submitted 286 new legal descriptions that were reviewed, approved, scanned and filed by the Map Room personnel. Additionally 29 new house numbers were assigned in 2014.

Employee News

After 24 years of outstanding service to the Logan County Engineer's Office and the citizens of Logan County Harvey Grimes, Administrative Coordinator, retired on December 31, 2014. Promoted to Administrative Coordinator replacing Harvey is Todd Bumgardner who was formerly the General Superintendent. Mark Hilty, former Ditch and Traffic Superintendent, has been promoted to Operations Superintendent replacing Todd. Steve Tracey, former Ditch Technician, has been promoted to Ditch and Traffic Superintendent

Two new hourly employees have been added to our rolls., Chris Hackley as a Ditch Technician and Allen Campbell as a Highway Technician.

Joining the engineering staff as an assistant engineer is Cale Jacobs who has many years of engineering experience and formerly worked for the City of Bellefontaine Engineering Department.

Traffic Department

By Mark Hilty
Ditch/Traffic Superintendent

Along with their normal duties the Traffic Department had a very busy summer and fall season. Sign replacements were completed for Pleasant, Harrison, Bloomfield, and Union Townships. Sign inspections were conducted for Monroe and Jefferson Townships with sign replacements scheduled in the spring of 2015. Vehicle crash data from an ODOT study was used to obtain a grant from the County Engineers Association of Ohio to upgrade signs on dangerous curves. Signs were installed on the curves of County Roads 10, 28, and 130. The traffic department currently maintains over 6,550 signs throughout the county

Ditch Department

By Mark Hilty
Ditch/Traffic Superintendent

Ditch maintenance work was performed throughout the county with center dips being performed on the Madriver, Houchin-Slough, Pryor-Elliot and Liggett Ditches. Mowing was completed on all county roads and our newly purchased boom-axe mower was used to mow behind all of the guardrails. The new mower also was used to mow behind bridge guardrail on both the county and township bridges and the maintenance ditches.

Highway Update

By Joel Miracle
Highway Superintendent

The highway department has complete several major projects during the last six months. The crews chip sealed 32 miles of county highways. Chip sealing extends the life of a road by five years. Installed 20 culverts and tiles in advance of the 2015 highway paving project. Dead ash and other trees have been removed from county road right of ways. An asphalt mill was purchased to grind joints on roads. This new piece of equipment will reduce the cost of paving projects. We performed the following work for townships and villages

- Chip sealed driveway of DeGraff Park
- Installed culvert for McArthur Township
- Paved culverts for Richland Township
- Performed guardrail repair for multiple townships

