

Milwaukee Will Fight Slippery Roads with Cheese Brine

Source: Claire Suddath/ September 16, 2013/Bloomberg Business Week

Milwaukee might not salt its icy roads this winter. Instead, the city plans to cover its potentially hazardous motorways with cheese brine, the salt-and-water solution used in the production of cheese. The brine, considered a wasteful byproduct, is apparently cheaper and much more abundant than rock salt. (Well, at least it is in Wisconsin, the country's leader in cheese production.)

Milwaukee got the idea from the folks in Polk County, Wis., who've been using cheese brine on their roads since 2008. They use it in conjunction with regular salt. Since it's a waste product they had to go through the proper channels to get approval to spread a waste product on the roads.

They strain any bits of cheese out of it and use 35,000 to 50,000 gallons of brine a year, depending on the winter. The liquid smells like cheese before they apply it. But when it's on the road, they say you don't smell it.

Now that's recycling!




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Managing Director's Message THE YEAR IN REVIEW – 2013

Here is a look back at the year in review ...

- We welcomed Commissioner Worthams to the team
- January, February came and went with 51 inches of snowfall, December remains to be seen
- We continued our joint KCRC/MDOT presentation to the County Board
- We once again re-organized and welcomed 8 new employees in 2013; while maintaining the lowest staffing level in years
- We created an interactive map from our ACT 51 certification maps and a new County map
- We became the first road commission in the State to upgrade to the .NET road commission software platform
- We hit the social media circuit with our new FACEBOOK page
- We updated our joint township meeting presentations
- We used over 18,000 tons of slag and over 49,000 tons of asphalt; along with all our routine maintenance operations
- We were are most proud of our V Avenue and Nichols Road projects – but we can't forget all those in between☺;
- Thanks to our township partners, our contractors and vendors
- We helped organize a variety of educational workshops including participation with our State legislators in Transportation 101
- We talked mailboxes, local road participation funds, roadside vegetation and non-motorized
- We worked our way through health insurance updates
- We continued numerous equipment and material demos and installed a 8,500 gallon emulsion tank
- We continued collaborative efforts including traffic signal maintenance and traffic services bids, sharing the use of the emulsion tank and working with County Planning on the map
- We reached out in public relation events including Touch a Truck, press releases, etc.
- We learned "How to teach a Pig to Sing" with the Michigan Township Association Kalamazoo Chapter and continued our management team leadership training as we introduced new staff
- We looked at a 2-year budget process and completed it 1-month prior than we had done in the past...

So when we take the time to **"PAUSE"** () we continue to have a team of dedicated public servants dedicated to maintaining service and continuing to challenge our operations for improvements as the Best Road Commission in the State. **Thank you to our Board, employees and their families, all our contractors, vendors and local officials – all the best in 2014!**

Sincerely,
Joanna I. Johnson
Managing Director



WINTER MAINTENANCE

As part of the KCRC's on-going winter maintenance assessment for the 2013-2014 winter seasons, we have identified a level of service adjustment to provide improved and advance coverage during peak travel and commute times. KCRC has incorporated a 3 shift program;

4:00p.m.

12:00a.m.

7:30a.m. (also available at 4:00 a.m. if necessary)

These changes incorporate our limited staffing and equipment for optimal coverage during winter storms. The priorities within these shifts will continue to be;

**Designated snow route roads,
balance of primary roads,
through local roads,
subdivision or plat streets,
and dead-end and cul-de-sac roads.**

One important fact has not changed, road crews must have ample room in order to safely clear the many miles of roadway of snow and ice. "Snowplows Need Room to Groom!"

The KCRC offer the following reminders for motorists:

- **Snowplows have limited visibility and drivers cannot see directly behind their trucks**
- **Snowplows often throw up snow clouds, reducing visibility on all sides of the truck**
- **To remain focused on driving, motorists should not text or talk on cell phones while they are behind the wheel**
- **Motorists should never attempt to pass a moving snowplow on the right. With new wing-plow technology the blade can clear the shoulder and the lane of travel simultaneously. Motorists attempting an illegal pass through a snow cloud on the right and/or shoulder of the road most likely won't see the plow blade and run the risk of a serious crash**
- **Always wear your safety belt and allow extra time to reach your destinations this winter.**

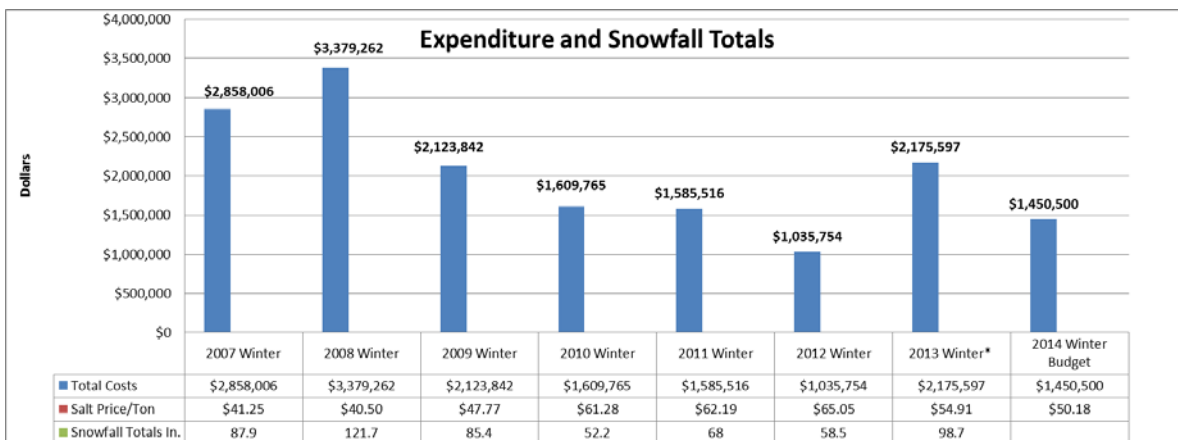
Remember – in Ice and Snow, Take it Slow!

Help us also educate the children on the risks presented by snowplows and the dangers of playing on the high piles of snow and ice that are near the roadway during snow removal –

- **Please KEEP THE CHILDREN AWAY from roadside piles of snow**
- **Don't build snow forts, make tunnels, or play in or on snow banks next to roads**
- **Keep away from the edge of the roadway as you wait for the school bus, get the mail, or watch the plow trucks**
- **Stay away from the end of a driveway when a snow plow is approaching**
- **Hidden objects under the snow, when thrown by the plow truck could cause serious injury**
- **Keep sleds and toys away from the roadways at all times**

REMINDER:

- **MCL 257.677a prohibits pushing snow and ice onto, or across, roadways and requires that people do not obstruct the safety vision of motorists.**





What is a Watershed?

We all live in a “watershed”. No matter where you are, the land under your feet drains to a ditch, stream, river or pond whenever there is a rain storm or snow melt. A watershed is all of the land that drains into a common body of water. Picture a funnel – anything that you put into it, will eventually flow through it and out the bottom. That is what happens everytime we do something on land.

Our watersheds are impacted by two general types of pollution. “Point source” pollution occurs when the pollutant flows directly from a source through a pipe, outfall or conveyance channel, usually from a treatment facility of some type. Since the 1970’s much of this pollution has come under regulation.

“Nonpoint source” pollution is broader in scope and results from rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the land. It can include runoff from a parking lot or barnyard, fertilizers improperly applied, or disturbed soil from a construction site or a farm field. We, the stakeholders all contribute to nonpoint source pollution through our everyday activities.

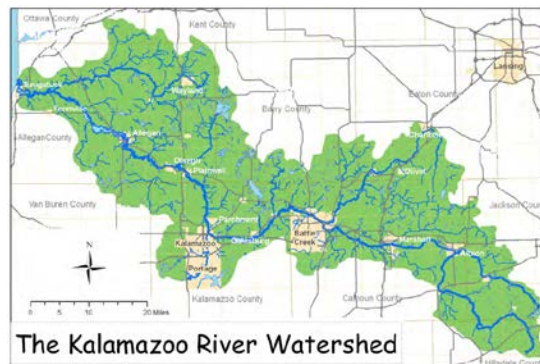
Improving our waterways is the responsibility of everyone. It is estimated that at least 40 percent of our streams and rivers are still polluted despite years of environmental regulations. (*source: Basin Bites – St. Joseph River Basin Commission*)

The KCRC is a designated Authorized Public Agency for Erosion Control for its own major construction projects. As such, we are responsible for control during and after construction. This includes large area projects disturbing multiple acres of soil (road and bridge projects) and smaller construction maintenance sites such as ditching and culvert replacement. Most projects where this applies involve competitive bid construction projects. KCRC depends on the Kalamazoo County Enforcing Agency to review and approve appropriate soil erosion and sedimentation control design for private development sites off the KCRC’s right of way. KCRC works closely with this agency in monitoring activities around the county. Typical best management practices available to KCRC staff for soil erosion control include silt fence, straw mats, hydro seeding, created bio-swales and stone spillways.

Key KCRC staff are certified or in the process of receiving training as Construction Site Storm Water Certified Operators. Other employees are certified Storm Water Operators. They are responsible for erosion controls on their maintenance sites. They are, by certification, responsible to do post storm event site reviews and are authorized to make corrections as necessary. Periodically KCRC projects need Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Permit by Rule because of the potential impact in the waters of the State of Michigan.

The KCRC staff includes inspectors who monitor utility projects and new plat developments. As erosion problems arise, they contact responsible persons for corrections. Their enforcement ability in this regard, varies depending on whether we issued a permit for the work or if it falls under the responsibility of the Kalamazoo County Enforcing Agency or local jurisdiction officials.

The KCRC staff also reviews new plat/road construction design for storm water management and potential erosion impacts. Most projects for new road building include self-containment of storm water in infiltration/ recharge areas. These areas are owned by individuals, associations or Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner, depending on the developer and township approvals. New road projects involving stream crossings will incorporate best management practices for stormwater management, as approved by the MDEQ.



Staff Highlights



We welcome **Mark Worden** as our **Project Superintendent**.

Mark has 20 years' experience in the road construction industry while working at Oldcastle Materials (Michigan Paving) and Thompson-McCully. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration from Western Michigan University with emphasis on Total Quality Management and a minor in Economics. Welcome Mark!

We also welcomed road department staff to our field operations; **Michael Morrison, Joseph Rix and Brian Boodt**

Travis Bartholomew - Operations Director

Together with our Superintendent Management team is dedicated to provide the best in public service. Our road maintenance management team includes;

Jim Wessing – General Superintendent

Jim Wessing is our General Superintendent who is available to assist with both road maintenance and project inquiries in the absence of the respective maintenance and project superintendents. Jim's responsibilities at KCRC include: managing our road maintenance activities with the assistance of Bill DeYoung-Maintenance Superintendent along with project planning and development with the assistance of Mark Worden-Project Superintendent. Jim also manages our Equipment/Facilities at KCRC.

Bill DeYoung –Maintenance Superintendent

Bill DeYoung is our Maintenance Superintendent that manages our routine maintenance activities including: patching, snow/ice removal, storm sewer maintenance, tree pruning/removal, roadside mowing, street sweeping, guardrail, sign maintenance and gravel road maintenance.

Mark Worden – Project Superintendent

mworden@kerc-roads.com/381-3170 Extension 246
Mark Worden is our Project Superintendent that lead's with asset management planning, project development and construction of local road projects.

Visit our Website

- **Board Meeting Information**
- **Construction Guidelines**
- **2014 Budget**
- **2014 – 2018 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan**
- **2014 Projects**
- **Brochures**
- **Permits**
- **Maps – *view our new interactive map***
- **Purchasing**
- **Road Data**

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www.kalamazocountyroads.com or email us at info@kerc-roads.com

Road Commissioners of Kalamazoo County

To better serve our County and local officials, each Road Commissioner has also been assigned as a liaison to various townships we serve as follows:

- **Daniel J. Moyle – 2014 Chairman;**
Alamo, Oshtemo, Richland
- **Kenneth R. Oscarson– 2014 Vice Chairman;**
Brady, Prairie Ronde, Wakeshma
- **Dennis J. Berkebile –** Charleston, Schoolcraft, Texas
- **Jeffrie M. Maddox –** Comstock, Cooper, Ross
- **David Q. Worthams –** Kalamazoo, Climax, Pavilion

Educational Opportunities

- **Local Road Millage Ballot Campaign Workshop** Friday, February 7, 2014; 8am – 5pm
\$85/pp – Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant MI
- **Building of the Kalamazoo County Map – Date TBD**
- **Public Act 51 – 101 – Date TBD**

The goal of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Kalamazoo County is using our expertise, energy and funds to provide the safest and most convenient road system possible, and to contribute to economic development and high quality of life throughout the county.

We are committed to providing a safe and convenient road system for our county motorists. As our customers and as residents of Kalamazoo County you are also entitled to excellent service from us at all times.

We aim to provide answers to your service requests. We encourage our residents and the motoring public to report road conditions that need attention. To make sure our service to you is prompt and courteous we strive to continually improve our methods of contact.

Office hours 7:30am – 4pm, Monday through Friday
269-381-3171 or info@kerc-roads.com
Call 911 for road related emergencies.

