

2010 HIGHWAY CONFERENCE RECAP

The 2010 Highway Conference brought together more than 270 representatives from 75 road commissions, in order to discuss and examine issues facing Michigan's county roads.

The President's Reception welcomed travellers to Lansing and gave colleagues from across the state a chance to reacquaint.

Ever popular Capitol Correspondent Tim Skubick captivated the audience Wednesday morning as he dove into a myriad of possible issues in the forthcoming elections.

Representatives Opsommer, Gonzales and Byrnes each took the time to address those present on the status of roads and road funding in the House. Senators Gilbert and Basham took the stage shortly afterward to explain the Senate's road-related positions and activities. Both groups of legislators took questions from the audience, providing answers as best they could.

Kenyon Gleason, ARTBA National Field Director, spoke about efforts to improve the road funding situation currently underway in Washington D.C. Mr. Gleason noted that while ARTBA's Average Annual Price Index had seen some declines, material costs still far exceed inflationary growth.

MDOT Director Kirk Steudle joined us for lunch. Always gracious, Mr. Steudle gave his presentation explaining the bleak future of Michigan's transportation systems if the legislature continues to refuse to act on increasing transportation funding.

As always, the legal issues session had a packed crowd, but presentations on GPS Vehicle Tracking and Communicating Across the Generational Divide were also well attended.

Wednesday night's Legislative Reception allowed forty-four legislators to spend time with their road



commission constituents. If you met with your legislator and have not notified the CRAM Office, please e-mail Sandy and let her know at sandy@localroads.net.

Thursday's Awards Breakfast recognized several people and road commissions for their outstanding efforts (see inside for more information). The business meeting that followed was fairly quick and easy. The 2010-11 Legislative Priorities were adopted with only a few minor changes—and the deletion of one priority that had been accomplished.

The session ended with President Hassan A. Saab, Wayne, passing the gavel to President-elect John M. Hunt, Huron (more information on the 2010-11 CRAM Board of Directors is inside).

While no formal decision has been made with respect to next year's venue, the Causeway Bay Hotel in South Lansing did a great job—in spite of ongoing remodeling.

Lastly, we thank the sponsors who so generously supported this year's Conference as well as the vendors who participated.

CRAM RUSH-PAC

RUSH-PAC has received over \$9,400 in memberships dues in 2010. Thank you to all who have contributed. If you have not mailed in your membership, please do so ASAP. With the election in November, this will be a busy year for RUSH-PAC.



Political Action Committee

\$50-\$99	Annual Contributing Member
\$100-\$499	Team Player
\$500-\$999	Life Member
\$1,000-over	Second Life Member

Please make checks payable to: CRAM RUSH-PAC and mail to: PO Box 12067, Lansing MI 48901.

RUSH-PAC sponsors four golf events at beautiful golf courses across the State. Please mark your calendar for these fun events!

Southwest Golf Outing - Wednesday - June 9 - 9:00 a.m.

L.E. Kaufman Golf Course in Wyoming - Hosted by Kent

Watch your mailboxes. Registration will be forthcoming very soon!

Southern Mid-Michigan Golf Outing - Friday - July 30

Cascades Golf Course in Jackson - Hosted by Jackson

Southeast Golf Outing - Friday - August 6

Selfridge AFB Golf Course in Harrison Township - Hosted by Genesee

Northern Golf Outing - Tuesday - September 7

Black Bear in Vanderbilt - Hosted by Cheboygan

CRASIF/MCRCSIP JOINT SAFETY WORKSHOPS

ALL Road Commission Managers, Employees and Commissioners are invited, and encouraged, to attend a Safety Workshop presented by CRASIF and MCRCSIP Loss Control Departments.

April 6	Big Rapids Dept. of Public Safety, Big Rapids
April 7	Ramada Inn, Grayling
April 27	Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth
April 28	Causeway Bay Hotel, Lansing
April 29	Kalamazoo County Road Commission, Kalamazoo
May 3	Audie's Inn, Mackinaw City
May 4	Delta County Road Commission, Escanaba
May 5	Ojibwa Resort, Baraga

Please support a safer workplace. Look for registration forms and more information in the weeks ahead. Check the MCRCSIP Web site (www.mcrcsip.org) for a link to online registration form or call the MCRCSIP Office, 517.482.9166.

BETTER ROADS MAGAZINE HIGHLIGHTS PLIGHT OF LOCAL ROADS

“Against the backdrop of stalled federal surface transportation reauthorization and threats from reduced state and local funding, secondary roads are at an intersection.”

This quote opens the article “At a crossroads” in the March 2010 issue of Better Roads Magazine. This feature article highlights the plight of the nation’s secondary road system using the NACE “Local Roads Matter” campaign information.

The article proceeds to explain what secondary roads are and how they are developed, reasons for the state of today’s secondary road network, and materials and technologies to help the owners of the secondary road network cope with continued funding reductions. Some excerpts from the article are listed below, please take time to read this article.

**VIEW THIS IMPORTANT *BETTER ROADS* ARTICLE AT:
[HTTP://WWW.BETTERROADS.COM/ROADSCIENCE-2/](http://www.betterroads.com/roadscience-2/)**

“Most roads and bridges in the United States are under local jurisdiction, but national and state transportation funding policies starve them of the resources necessary to maintain a state of good repair and meet growing mobility needs... The consequences of this shortsightedness range from an appalling highway safety record, to pervasive negative impact on local and regional economies.”



”Battered by heavy agricultural and truckloads, most [secondary roads] were not built to withstand long term, and by age and by elements, secondary roads serve essential areas of the nation that would not otherwise be accessible. But because they serve remote areas with rural populations they lie out of the public eye, and they suffer, perhaps not coincidentally, from chronic underfunding.”

“A new and more enlightened federal, state and local partnership is needed to restore balance to highway investments and achieve important economic, environmental, and safety goals.”

More information on the NACE “Local Roads Matter” campaign can be found on-line at:
<http://countyengineers.org/LRM/local-roads-matter/nationwide.html>

EIGHT MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR EFFORTS

Jerry Byrne, Kent, and **Ron Wohlford**, Wexford, were recognized with Distinguished Service Awards for their work on the Negotiating Committee. Both Jerry and Ron have spent many hours reviewing contract details, reviewing related data, and negotiating items with MDOT. *(Winners are listed from Left to Right in the picture on the Right.)*



Merit Awards were presented to **Bob Peterson**, Ingham, for his contributions to the Engineering Committee; **Michele Zaverucha**, Tuscola, for her leadership in chairing the 2010 County Engineers' Workshop; and **Brian Wendling**, Saginaw, for his leadership as Chair of the 2009 Superintendents' Seminar. *(Winners are listed from Left to Right in the picture on the Left.)*

Three Commissioners were recognized for serving six continuous terms. **Richard M. Harris**, Iosco (pictured at right); **Frank Leiva**, Iosco; and, **Donald J. Sisung**, Clinton. Regrettably, Frank and Donald were not available for the photo.

Over the last 24 years, these gentlemen have shaped the course of Michigan's county road system while providing a consistent face for their road commissions. Their dedication is admirable and we thank them for their commitment.



FOUR COUNTIES RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC RELATIONS



CRAMmy Award Recipients from Left to Right, Craig Bryson, Oakland; Larry Hummel, Van Buren; Linnea Colgren, Van Buren; Lance Malburg, Oceana; and Alan McTaggart, Huron

Public relations is without a doubt one of the hardest aspects of road commission operations. Nine counties submitted eleven nominations for the 2009 CRAMmy Award, which recognizes outstanding public relations activities. Winners included *(From Left to Right in the picture on the Left.)* Oakland's Perfect Storm Brochure, Van Buren's Transportation Partners Brochure, Van Buren's Facebook Page, Oceana's Winter Services Educational Campaign, and Huron's Millage Renewal Campaign and Educational Outreach.

HURON EXEMPLIFIES BEST PRACTICES

Best Practices Award was conceived to help disseminate best practices and efficiencies among road commissions. One county submitted a nomination for the 2009 Best Practices Award, and they earned it. We were pleased to recognize Huron (HCRC) for their cooperative efforts to bring wind power to the thumb.



Alan McTaggart accepts a 2009 Best Practices Award on behalf of Huron County

HCRC overcame engineering, language, and other difficulties in order to lay the groundwork to accommodate the long loads and heavy equipment needed to construct two wind farms.

COPIES OF EACH NOMINATION, AS WELL AS THE PRESENTATIONS, ARE BEING SENT ON CD-ROM TO ROAD COMMISSION OFFICES WITH TODAY'S MAILING.

ASK YOUR OFFICE FOR COPIES.

2010 DIRECTORY DISTRIBUTION TO BRING CHANGES

CRAM is modifying the manner in which Directories are distributed beginning with the 2010 Directory. These changes are part of an effort to reduce the cost associated with packaging and mailing copies and they come in light of recent changes in the rules and rate structures of the United States Postal Service.

Road commission offices will be mailed copies for their commissioners. Please make certain that your commissioners receive their copy in a timely manner. We will provide notice in the Legislative Update the week before mailing, as well as the week after, to remind commissioners and offices of this change.

In some cases, we will also be adjusting the number of copies mailed to road commission offices, Associate Members, and related agencies. A range of standardized quantities will be mailed and in some cases this may mean that your office will receive slightly more copies than you have in the past (in addition to the increased number to reflect the inclusion of commissioners in office mailings).

If you have any questions, or if you wish to adjust the number of copies your office receives, please contact Tom at the CRAM Office, teldred@localroads.net or 517.482.1189 ext. 10, as soon as possible.



2009 DIRECTORY CHANGES

BENZIE	Nancy A. Roseman, CHE/Manager, replaces Robert Weaver
BERRIEN	Delete R.J. Burkholz, Commissioner
GENESEE	John G. Mandelaris, Commissioner, replaces Mike Harvey
HOUGHTON	James Markham new address is 49713 Canal Rd., Houghton 49931
LAKE	Jay Syrewicze, Superintendent, replaces Gary Truxton Marc Smith, Asst. Superintendent, replaces Jay Syrewicze Brian Kessel named Road Foreman

*We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of:
Norman E. Brown, Retired MDOT Act 51 Administrator,
R.J. Burkholz, Berrien County Road Commissioner,
and
J. Pat Farrell, former Marquette County Road Commissioner*

“Bring Your Child To Work Day”

Michael Shultz – Director of Loss Control / Training

Occasionally MCRCSIP gets inquiries from members about an annual event called “Bring Your Child To Work Day”. Three typical questions are:

1. Do we have coverage if we decide to participate?
2. What liability exposures can be foreseen?
3. Is there any policy prohibiting this?

For most parents, it’s an opportunity for their children to learn what it is exactly they do and visualize the environment. Depending on the company or organization, the employer considers it a positive experience or a costly distraction away from important work activities. Some can easily adapt to this one day a year event, where others must prohibit it totally. Operational demands, confidentiality and potential safety risks are just a few reasons. As it applies to county road commissions, we believe most members do not participate. It is just too difficult to coordinate and manage this type of activity.

As it pertains to MCRCSIP, we lean on the side of caution and discourage this practice. When factoring loss control and risk management, it would be a definite concern. Having activities for children including (but not limited to) riding in plow trucks, off road equipment or being in the maintenance garages during work activities is dangerous. An office environment is considered safe compared to other described areas, however this represents a small percent of the work force. Making management exceptions as to who can and cannot participate can be problematic and viewed as unfair.

Listed are a few additional concerns for which the list could go on and on...

- What would an employee do with their child in a vehicle, should a situation require the driver to exit the vehicle for a period of time along the roadway. Do they leave the child unattended or allow them to get out in the right of way?
- How would someone like a mechanic keep an eye on a child when they are performing truck maintenance or repairs?
- Imagine an accident along the roadway involving an employee and his/her child.
- What would the public think if important work was being stopped or altered for such an activity?

NOTE: Also keep in mind the Motor Carrier Safety Regulation Subpart G. Prohibited Practices – 392.60 Unauthorized Persons To Be Transported.

2010-11 CRAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2010-11 CRAM Board of Directors was announced at the March 11 Business Meeting.

In addition to our new President and Vice President, we also welcome Blair Ballou of Eaton County as the new three-year representative of the Southern Association.

Our best wishes to Bruce Culver as he leaves the Board. We thank him for his many years of service and wish him and his wife Deloris the best.

Effective April 1, here is your Board of Directors:

Pres.	John M. Hunt	Huron
VP	Luke D. Houlton	Cheboygan
ST	Jon F. Rice	Kent
	Brent O. Bair	Oakland
	Blair E. Ballou	Eaton
	John H. Daly III	Genesee
	Jack Deming	Otsego
	Orrin Gregg	Lenawee
	Kevin P. Harju	Houghton
	Robert P. Hoepfner	Macomb
	James M. Iwanicki	Marquette
	Michael A. Maloney	Ontonagon
	Douglas J. Mills	Baraga
	Hassan A. Saab	Wayne
	Burt R. Thompson	Antrim
	Ronald A. Young	Alcona

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www.drivemi.org
and sign the on-line
petition today!



THE ROAD AHEAD



April

- 11-13 Commissioners' Seminar
Holiday Inn West Bay, Traverse City

- 22 Vacationland Council
Canadian Steak-Fish-Sandwich Co.
Grayling

- 22 Bluewater Highway Council
Vassar Golf & Country Club, Vassar

- 25-29 NACE Annual Conference
Fort Worth, TX

May

- 3 Southeastern Council
Cascades Manor House, Jackson

- 4 37th Senatorial District Council
Audie's Restaurant, Mackinaw City

- 6 Great Lakes Highway Council
Baraga Lakeside Inn, Baraga

- 8 NMARC Skeet Shoot
Cheboygan Sportsman Club, Cheboygan

- 10 Southwestern Council
Location to be announced

May (Continued)

- 18-20 Finance and Human Resource Bus. Seminar
Holiday Inn of Marquette, Marquette

- 20 Paul Bunyan Council
Bungalow Inn, Manistee

June

- 16-17 UPRBA Summer Meeting
Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, Copper Harbor

September

- 8-10 NMARC Annual Conference
Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire

- 29- Oct. 1 SAM Annual Conference
Kewadin Hotel & Conv. Ctr.,
Sault Ste. Marie

December

- 6-8 ASMRC Annual Conference
Soaring Eagle, Mt. Pleasant

To post job openings or to include other items in CRAM News, contact Tom Eldred at the CRAM Office. Openings/information should be sent electronically to teldred@localroads.net no later than Wednesday of the last full week of the month before publication (i.e., openings to be included in the 5-7-10 edition would be due not later than 4-28-10).

MIS/CRAM

With fiscal year 2010 under way for many road commissions, it is time to remind everyone of the need to add your county's data to the MIS/CRAM system. A few road commissions have yet to enter the data for 2008 and 2007. Please do so at your earliest convenience. Those counties with 2009 data outstanding will be listed in July's CRAM News. Thank you to those who have entered your data in a timely manner.

NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK 2010

The 2010 National Work Zone Awareness Week is scheduled for April 19-23. The national kickoff event will be held in New York City on April 19. The theme for this year is "Work Zones Need Your Undivided Attention."

Visit www.workzonesafety.org to download free resources, or to order ribbons, wristbands,