



POLK COUNTY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2018



Construction of the new Polk County Transfer Station in Crookston is taking shape. Completion planned for late December.

Completion slated for \$24.25(m) in solid waste projects

Polk County applied for and received state bond financing through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) Capital Assistance Program (CAP) grants for multiple inter-related regional solid waste projects.

Broken into phases (I & II) in 2015 and 2017, Polk County and its partner counties (Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Mahanomen and Norman) applied for and received \$17.25 million in grants to upgrade facilities and construct new facilities in Beltrami, Hubbard and Polk counties.

Polk County bonded for the \$7 million dollar "local share" of the total project cost for the facilities in the county. The \$7 million dollars was split amongst the transfer station in Crookston (\$2 million), the land-

fill complex near Gentilly (\$1 million) and resource recovery facility in Fosston (\$4 million).

The pro-rated bond payments for each facility are paid for out of their operational budgets. The local bond payments began in 2017. Bond payments are funded from tip fees from additional waste accepted, additional recycling revenues and steam sales.

There are no general fund tax dollars in any of the waste-related budgets, and no tip fees or solid waste assessment increases were made in 2018 nor are budgeted for 2019.

State funding for the projects was appropriated by legislative action via bonding bills in 2015 and 2017.

Rep. Deb Kiel, Sen. Leroy Stumpf (retired) and Sen. Mark Johnson were the

authors of those bills. Each of them provided much support, effort and assistance to get these projects included in their respective bonding bills and keep them in those bills when they were being pared down at the end of each session. Many of our current and former local legislators throughout the six-county partner area were supportive of and instrumental in passing those bonding bills.

The appropriations by the legislature were directed to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) CAP grant program and earmarked for the Polk partnership group. An MPCA CAP grant was then allocated to Polk, which allowed these local projects to move forward.

As a result, Beltrami and Hubbard counties were to construct new transfer stations in Bemidji and Park Rapids, respectively. Polk was to construct a new addition to the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) in

See SOLID WASTE on Page 2

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Solid waste projects

Continued from Page 1

Fosston, upgrade the material processing equipment at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Fosston, construct a new transfer station in Crookston, and construct a new Source Separated Organic Material Compost Facility (Compost Facility) at the Landfill Complex near Gentilly.

Even though the Bemidji and Fosston projects started in 2017, the summer and fall of 2018 represented the peak of construction activity for Polk County and the CAP projects.

The building addition at the RRF – with the exception of a few minor projects – was completed this spring.

The MRF equipment upgrade was broken into two phases. The first phase was completed in the spring of 2018. The second phase is scheduled to be completed this month (October).

The Compost Facility project began this

Project Financing	
Phase 1 — Minn. CAP Grant.....	\$8.00 (m)
Phase 2 — Minn. CAP Grant.....	\$9.25 (m)
Polk Co. 'Local Share' Bonding.....	\$7.00 (m)
Total Project.....	\$24.25 (m)

summer and is also scheduled to be completed this month.

The Transfer Station project began this past spring and is scheduled to be completed in two phases, the tip floor in October and the office in December.

During the same 2017-2018 period, Polk County applied for and received two other grants for waste-related projects: a \$225,000 shredder project based at the landfill complex in 2017 and a \$250,000 organics compost collection project to be implemented across the six-partner counties.

In addition, due to the RRF and MRF

projects diverting more waste to the landfill during construction, it sped up the timetable to build a new MSW Landfill cell at the landfill complex. Cell #13 will be completed in October.

Throughout this newsletter, the various projects will be described in more detail. However, it is important to acknowledge that during this busy period an incredible amount of patience, cooperation and assistance were received from multiple sources, including the public, our haulers and partner counties who endured the interim measures needed to operate, our contractors and host communities for their willingness to accommodate us as needed, and finally to our employees who also struggled with continual change in schedules and work environment yet were able to deliver the services required.

Thanks to all of you! — **Jon Steiner, administrator, Polk County Environmental Services**

Inmate housing for Mahnomon County to be increased

The Northwest Regional Corrections Center has experienced record-setting population through the first seven months of 2018.

The Corrections Center has maintained an average daily population of 188.4 through August, which is a nearly 4% increase from 2017.

The increase in facility population for the year has been driven by high local county numbers during the first four months of the year, though more recently local numbers have stabilized (actually reduced slightly), which has allowed for increased housing of inmates from other jurisdictions.

Since the Corrections Center opened in 2008, revenue generation in the form of selling beds for inmate housing to agencies experiencing overcrowding has been utilized to control costs.

Since 2014, the Corrections Center has generated in excess of \$1 million on an annual basis by housing inmates for other jurisdictions. In anticipation of three new jails opening in our region in 2018 - 2019, Tri-County Community Corrections (TCCC) continues to explore alternative contract

options to replace the contracts, that will soon expire. TCCC is currently developing an inmate-housing proposal to potentially expand the current Mahnomon County inmate-housing contract, which stands at 12 beds per day.

Technology expansion

Both the NWRCC and Red River Valley Juvenile Center (RRVJC) saw significant changes in April 2018 with the implementation of a new video visitation system.

This technology has helped to reduce staff workload thanks to on-line registration while also increasing the visiting options available to the offender population at the jail. Family members can now visit from the comfort of their home using off-site visitation options.

The implementation of video visitation at the RRVJC is meant to enhance visitation opportunities for family members, who may otherwise have to travel significant distances to visit their loved one. Since its inception, off-site video visitation has proven to be the preferred visitation option with 58% of all visits occurring by this capacity. The reduced volume of on-site visits has less-

ened the workload on jail staff as well as front security at the Justice Center.

Health records

In an effort to move into the 21st century and improve care for offenders and residents, both the NWRCC and RRVJC have made a push to implement electronic health record (EHR) systems.

The implementation of electronic health records will have numerous advantages for nursing and correctional staff at the jail and juvenile center, some of which include easier access to health data, establishing and maintaining effective workflows, the ability to gather and analyze patient data, fewer medical errors and improved patient safety. PH-Doc (Public Health Documentation System) has been implemented as the EHR at the RRVJC, while Uniek EHR (a branch of Securus Technology, the NWRCC phone and video visitation provider) is being implemented within the NWRCC.

Probation Department

The old saying “the only constant in life is change” has certainly held true for the TCCC Probation Department. Long-time Chief Probation Officer Tami Jo Lieberg left Tri-

County Community Corrections in May to assume the director of probation position with Kandiyohi County. This move created a domino effect within the Probation Department that resulted in Jessica Hajicek being promoted to the position of chief probation officer. Dale Arnold, a long-time intensive supervised probation agent for TCCC, was promoted to the position of deputy chief probation officer.

In addition to personnel changes, actual office locations have also changed. In anticipation of some building restructuring at the Human Service Building in East Grand Forks — to make room for additional mental health staff — the satellite probation office there has moved to space in the East Grand Forks City Hall.

While the location change will likely result in some minor operational adjustments for staff, the warm welcome from building occupants and the closeness in proximity to the East Grand Forks Police Department has more than made up for any minor inconveniences caused by the move. — **Andrew Larson, TCCC executive director**

Property valuation total dips

As determined by the Polk County Assessor for the purpose of assessing property taxes that will be payable in 2019, the 2018 valuation of real estate in the county now totals \$5,462,505,900.

This new total amount of valuation represents a decrease of \$103,483,100 over 2017, or about 1.86 percent.

Of the new 2018 total valuation amount:

- 56.8% is for tillable agricultural lands.
- 7.1% is for all other agricultural property.
- 25.9% is for residential properties.
- 4.1% is for seasonal recreational properties.
- 2.5% is for commercial properties.
- 2.1% is for industrial properties.
- 3.0% is for building sites (rural homes and garages on 1 acre *).
- 1.6% is for "all other" property classifications.

New construction accounted for \$26,865,300 of the total valuation.

The overall decrease is mainly due to a drop in the tillable agricultural market in the western portion the county, despite a solid residential market throughout the county.

Note — the figures above are based on the 2018 PRISM 2 report (Preliminary).

The valuation total does not take into account railroad or utility values.

*— Included in "all other" agricultural property

Updated: Sept. 20, 2018

For sheriff and 4th District commissioner Election will decide 2 positions

Two Polk County positions will be decided in the General Election on Nov. 6.

The race for sheriff, the only countywide contest, will decide who will succeed Sheriff Barb Erdman when she leaves office at the end of the year. Chief Deputy Jim Tadman and Sgt. Randy Sondrol are competing for that position.

In Commissioner District 4, Joan Lee, the incumbent, and challenger Dennis Boucher are vying for the opportunity to represent that eastern area of the county.

The only other county positions up for election this year are those for county attorney and District 2 commissioner. Neither County Attorney Greg Widseth nor Commissioner Warren Strandell has opposition for re-election to their positions.

There are no contests for the Soil & Water Conservation District supervisor positions.

In East Polk County, Kenneth Pederson, the incumbent, is seeking re-election in District 1. No one filed for the District 2 position, which can be filled by write-in vote. For a county position, a candidate must file as a write-in candidate for a write-in vote to count.

In West Polk County, the candidates for re-election are: Mark McWalter, District 1; Jonathan Sorenson, District 3; and Chris Cournia, District 5.

27 polling places

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Election Day in the 27 precincts that maintain polling places. Those polling places are in the cities of Crookston (6), East Grand Forks (5), Fertile, and Fosston, and in the townships of Brandsvold, Bygland, Columbia, Esther, Garden, Garfield, Hill River, Huntsville, Keystone, Queen, Sletten, Sullivan, Winger, and Woodside.

Of the county's total of 82 precincts, 55 now use the mail ballot option. Those precincts include Andover, Angus, Badger, Belgium, Brandt, Brislet, Chester, Crookston, Eden, Euclid, Fairfax, Fanny, Farley, Fisher, Gently, Godfrey, Grand Forks, Grove Park-Tilden, Gully, Hammond, Helgeland, Higdum, Hubbard, Johnson, Kertsonville, Keystone, King, Knute, Lessor, Liberty, Lowell, Nesbit, Northland, Onstad, Parnell, Reis, Rhinehart, Roome, Rosebud, Russia, Sandville, Scandia, Tabor, Tynsid and Vineland townships, and the cities of Beltrami, Climax, Erskine, Fisher, Gully, McIntosh, Mentor, Nielsville, Trail and Winger.

Mail balloting is available to non-metro townships of any size and to cities with less than 400 registered voters. By state

law, mail ballots are to be delivered to voters between 14 and 46 days prior to the election date.

Mail ballots

In Polk County, mail ballots are sent out about 30 days before an election, according to Michelle Cote, the county's election administrator. "This is so that ballots won't arrive so early that people forget about them," she says, "or so late that we are getting phone calls from voters who are looking for them."

Approximately 5,000 General Election mail ballots will be mailed to registered voters in the mail ballot precincts.

Besides usually resulting in greater participation in the election process, advantages for precincts that use mail voting are that they reduce election judge costs along with issues of staffing a polling place on Election Day. In addition, they do not have the expense of updating election equipment. The cost of a mail ballot including postage is approximately \$2 per ballot.

"Mail balloting is a decision made at the township or city level. Most have chosen this as a fiscally driven decision but also to ease the burden of finding election judges" Cote says.

When voting by mail

Mail ballots can be filled out and mailed back to the Polk County Taxpayer Service Center as soon as the voter has determined who to vote for up until Election Day. On Election Day, mail ballots can be delivered to the Taxpayer Service Center in Crookston.

New in the polling places this year are electronic rosters and tabulators. "The initial roll out for the Primary Election went really well with many positive comments from the election judges regarding ease of use of the electronic rosters in addition to ability to safeguard voter information," says Cote.

Also new for 2018 is that the City of East Grand Forks has been named an absentee ballot location. So, an East Grand Forks resident may have gone to City Hall to cast an absentee ballot beginning on Sept. 21, which was 46 days before the General Election. All other Polk County residents may utilize the Polk County Taxpayer Service Center in Crookston to cast an absentee ballot.

There were no county contests in the Primary Election that was held on Aug. 14. Then, only 3,282 voters — or 21.9 percent — of the 15,943 registered voters cast ballots.

Candidates for Sheriff

Randall Sondrol

Sgt. Randy Sondrol has been a law enforcement officer for 27 years including the last 24 years in Polk County. He started his career with the Grand Forks Sheriff's Office in 1991 before moving to work under Polk County Sheriff Doug Qualley in 1994.

Sgt. Sondrol has held positions as an investigator and as a drug task force investigator, boat and water coordinator and special response (SWAT) team leader. His current assignments include serving as the East Polk County patrol supervisor, as a member of the Grand Forks Regional SWAT Team, and as a police training officer, a firearms instructor, a department radio programmer, the Project Lifesaver coordinator, as Program 1033 screener, and as the liaison with the Polk County Sheriff's Mounted Posse (he was a founding member).

As new law enforcement programs are developed and technology advances are implemented, Sondrol would balance the sheriff's office needs with being fiscally responsible and transparent to the citizens of Polk County.

Community safety, he says, is his main focus. This would include providing a strong patrol unit and drug task force



Randall Sondrol

presence while expanding interaction with the community and with youth.

Sgt. Sondrol grew up in the Climax-Buxton area on the family farm that his brothers now operate. For the past 18 years, he and Lisa have lived on a hobby farm near Erskine where they raised their twin daughters, Hanna and Jenna, who are now in college.

His involvement in the community includes serving as a Badger Township supervisor for the past 10 years, as a member of the Fosston-Lengby Lions Club, as a member of the board of directors of the Rydell and Glacial Ridge Friends Association (receiving the Volunteer of Year Award in 2017), and as a member of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #8. He has also served the 4-H program and as a Minnesota DNR firearms safety instructor.

James Tadman

Chief Deputy James Tadman has held the top management position in the Sheriff's Department under Sheriff Barb Erdman. A 30-year veteran of the department, he has been overseeing all of the day-to-day operational aspects of the department since 2013.

Tadman, who earned a criminal justice degree at Hibbing Technical College in 1988, has completed numerous management and specialized law enforcement courses during his career.

In his time with the Polk County Sheriff's Department he has performed duties including patrol deputy, criminal investigator, drug task force investigator, K-9 officer, training instructor, and boat & water and snowmobile patrol.

He has worked in the development and maintenance of department policies, training supervision, program development, and budget oversight.

He is also currently involved with the Advisory Committee of the Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Board, Polk-Norman-Mahnomen Community Health Improvement Planning Group, and the Polk County Wellness Coalition.

In addition to providing effective and professional law



James Tadman

enforcement, Tadman plans to increase collaboration with citizens in crime prevention and to work with schools to expand education programming. He was the county's first canine officer and hopes to re-establish that program for drug enforcement and other safety needs.

Tadman has served on the Win-E-Mac School Board for the past 14 years and has been a member of the Erskine Fire Department for 22 years. He is a member of Grace Lutheran Church, the Winger Lions Club, Salvation Army, and the Crookston TRIAD (a partnership of law enforcement, senior citizens and community groups that work to reduce criminal victimization of seniors).

Tadman and his wife, Stacy, have three children: Austin, 21; Sydney, 19; and Kianna, 13.



Jacob Snyder

Snyder is the Planning & Zoning administrator

Jacob Snyder, a field technician for Polk County Environmental Services for the past 10 years, is now the administrator of the Planning & Zoning Division of the department.

The director position opened in February when Josh Holte left to become director of the Hubbard County Environmental Services Department

based in Park Rapids.

A native of Crookston and a graduate of Crookston Central High School, Snyder earned a bachelors degree in Natural Resources Management with a biotic emphasis at North Dakota State University.

After working for the West Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District for a summer and a brief time in

Thief River Falls, Snyder joined Polk County Environmental Services as a summer intern in 2008.

When a staff vacancy developed that fall, he quickly earned the required state certifications needed to become a field technician and then a permanent member of the department.

Candidates for 4th District Commissioner

Dennis Boucher



Dennis Boucher

Dennis Boucher, rural McIntosh, grew up in the Brooks area and graduated from Plummer High School in 1967. After serving in the Army in Vietnam, he started a trucking company that he operated for 27 years. Boucher has been a heavy equipment operator for the Strata Corporation for the past 19 years.

"I am a road and machinery guy and have a really strong interest in maintaining the county's road infrastructure and in operating the county in the most efficient way possible," he says of his interest in becoming a county commissioner.

"I don't have any issues, just a strong interest in having a good county government operation and in developing a road system that meets today's bigger trucks and farm equipment and I feel like I have a lot of experience in those areas," Boucher says.

A Lessor Township officer for the past 9 years, Boucher notes that the township has made important improvements to its road system in recent years.

Boucher served on the McIntosh School Board for 7 years during the time that the Win-E-Mac School was being planned and built at Erskine. He is a member of the Our Savior's Lutheran Church in McIntosh and is a member of the board of directors of the King Town Mutual Insurance Co.

Boucher and his wife, Diane (Rustad), purchased her grandparents' homestead building site near McIntosh in 1978 and raised their five daughters there. They now have six granddaughters and three grandsons.

Mrs. Boucher, a 1968 graduate of McIntosh High School, is the office manager for King Town Farmers Mutual Insurance Co.

Joan Lee



Joan Lee

I am currently finishing up my first term as the Polk County commissioner for District 4.

My husband, Mark, and I live on his family farm north of McIntosh where we raised our three children. We sold our dairy herd in the fall of 2014 but still continue to farm our 400 acres of organic hay, corn and oats. We rent our milking facilities to a young couple who wanted to start milking.

I have become involved with many committees. Some of these include Polk County Finance, Negotiations, Personnel, and Public Works. I represent our county on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Household Hazardous Waste, which is comprised of 10 counties, and am serving my second year as chairperson.

I am chair of the Polk County Extension Committee. I serve as treasurer for the East Polk Co. DAC Board. Other committees include: Drug Task Force, Aquatic Invasive Species, Red Lake River Corridor, Inter-County Community Council, chair of the Agassiz Recreational Trail Committee, the Polk, Norman, Mahnomen Community Health Board. I also am currently the chair for the Polk County Commission.

I have also become involved at the state level with the Association of Minnesota Counties. I am a member of the FUTURES Committee, the Education & Training Committee, and also the Health and Human Services Committee.

I represent the Polk, Norman,

Mahnomen Community Health Board as a delegate on the State Community Health Advisory Committee and was elected to serve on the SCHAC Executive Board to represent northwestern Minnesota.

Involvement in other organizations is important to me. I am the secretary/treasurer for the East Polk County Farm Bureau and serve on the Resolutions Committee for the Minnesota Farm Bureau.

I graduated from the Minnesota Agriculture Rural Leadership (MARL) program in 2014 and have served on the board since. I have been a release time teacher (religion class) for 18 years. For the Polk County Midwest Dairy Association, I serve as vice-chair. Our family has hosted the Polk County Breakfast on the farm for 15 years.

Polk County was chosen to receive services of a strategic planning session through my involvement on the AMC Education & Training Committee.

I would be honored to be able to continue to use my leadership skills and knowledge working for the residents of Polk County.

2018 Plat Book

Polk

County, Minnesota

Thousands of property owners are listed in the new Polk County plat book, which is available for purchase for \$35 at the Taxpayer Service Center in Crookston.

The 192-page spiral-bound book features the standard ownership maps for all rural parcels and also has enhanced LiDAR aerial view maps that show the actual topography of the land.

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County Board Meeting Times

8:00 a.m. on 1st Tuesday of the month
10:00 a.m. on the 3rd Tuesday
8:00 a.m. on the 4th Tuesday
All meetings are open to the public

County Commissioners
Dist. 1 — Jerry Jacobson
Dist. 2 — Warren Strandell, v. chair
Dist. 3 — Gary Willhite
Dist. 4 — Joan K. Lee, chair
Dist. 5 — Don Diedrich

'Unknowns' now complicate the usual budget issues

Chuck Whiting, County Administrator



At this time of year when I write my article for the newsletter it is usually about the budget and choices or options the county faces going into the coming year.

This year is a little unusual in that we are dealing with several unknowns and these unknowns are cause for some consternation.

Let me elaborate. In mid-summer county staff starts working on the next year's budget and a couple of concerns are coming to the forefront.

First, we are seeing increased costs in our "out of home" placements, being those social services costs related to legal cases that require the county to pay for state operated hospital placements for individuals for specialized treatment (mostly mental health) due to the nature of their circumstances or the requirements of court judgments.

Costs in the hundreds a day

These costs are often hundreds of dollars a day, repeat, a day, and they fall squarely on county taxpayers, not just in Polk County but in counties around the state. The short of it is these costs are going up and at this early point in the county's budget making process is forcing the board to look at a higher levy for 2019 than we've seen in recent years.

On September 25th, the board approved (with reluctance) a 5.5% preliminary levy increase, which would be an addition of just over \$1.2 million over the 2018 levy.

This is the preliminary levy, meaning the county will continue to work on the levy through November, clearly with the goal of reducing that amount before the final budget and levy are adopted in December.

While the levy is our major concern, we are also facing the prospect of being required to refund property taxes to Enbridge for their pipeline taxes paid in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Valuations too high

As is Enbridge's right, they appealed the Minnesota Department of Revenue's property valuation for their pipeline properties running through 13 northern counties. The tax court's ruling closely agreed with Enbridge's contention that their valuations were too high — in fact over \$2 billion too high for their 2014 values, out of just over \$5 billion. That is a huge discrepancy.

The scale of this impact still seems theoretical but could force the county to refund hundreds of thousands of dollars to Enbridge. The decision is currently under review in the state Supreme Court and counties may find out their fate early next year.

Amidst all this, of course, is election season. While we have had plenty of communication with our legislators on these issues, clearly all remains in limbo until after first of the year.

In the meantime, Polk County and other counties are left to address these real out of home placement costs and the prospective Enbridge property tax refunds within our own budgets and unfortunately our property tax levies.

I've always had faith that in the end we will come up with an acceptable but prudent budget and levy and, as we work through the fall to that end, I still have hope but this will be a real test.

Stay tuned.

Soil & Water staff will help implement buffers

Minnesota Statute §103F.48 requires water resource protection requirements (buffers) on public waters and public drainage systems.

Buffers are areas of perennial vegetation adjacent to all (indicated) bodies of water that are intended to protect water resources of the state from runoff pollution, stabilize soils, shores and banks and protect or provide riparian corridors.

Required buffers on Public Waters (50 feet) were to be in place by Nov. 1, 2017; buffers on Public Drainage systems (16.5 feet) must be in place by Nov. 1, 2018.

If a landowner is out of compliance with the requirement (failure to establish and maintain a buffer), Polk County Planning and Zoning will issue a Corrective Action Notice to the parcel owner, the notification provided to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) with potential Administrative Penalty Order (APO).

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are not the regulatory entity regarding buffers under MN Statute. Polk County has affirmed jurisdiction and amended its Zoning Ordinance (08/2017) to incorporate enforcement procedures of §103F.48.

Map shows where needed

Minnesota DNR has released a landowner resource "buffer protection map" (updated August 2018) www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers that identifies areas that require permanent vegetative buffers.

Landowners are encouraged to visit SWCD staff for technical assistance determining buffer requirements. The action of contacting/seeking SWCD technical evaluation on specific parcels may allow for a reasonable timeline for completion concurrence and prevent a (parcel) status determination of non-compliance.

Landowners are ultimately accountable for the installation and maintenance of buffers as identified on the DNR buffer protection map. Please inform SWCD staff when buffers have

been seeded!

SWCD staff are available to assist with any inquiries relative to buffer legislation/requirements and are qualified to identify options for compliance with direction.

State Buffer Compliance Cost-Share funds are available as per/acre flat rate for site preparation/seed costs for buffer implementation or 75% Cost-Share for design/installation of an (SWCD) approved "Alternative Practice" that provides comparable water quality benefit to a standard filter strip, i.e. surface water inlet pipes (SWIs) intercepting all field ditches entering Public Drain/Watercourse (a 10-year practice lifespan contract is required).

If you are an absentee landowner, we recommend that you instruct your renter or manager to contact our office. If a parcel (adjacent to a Public Drain/Watercourse) has an expiring (C)CRP contract, exemption status from §103F.48 is no longer applicable and requires the water quality benefit provided by the prescribed buffer width as identified on the DNR Buffer Protection Map.

Help is there

It is our certain intention to assist you with technical guidance and field all inquiries. A "self-initiative" approach to compliance (without any contractual state or federal program assistance or compensation) allows a landowner to determine the seed mix of perennial vegetation for establishment and required maintenance of buffer obligation.

Please view www.westpolkswcd.com and/or www.eastpolkswcd.org buffer page(s) and utilize direct links to BWSR and MnDNR web pages for current available information regarding buffers or visit our field office(s)- West Polk SWCD (co-located with NRCS) at 528 Strander Ave. Crookston. East Polk SWCD is in the Bjella Building, 240 Cleveland Ave, McIntosh.

— **Aaron Habermehl is district technician, Wetland Conservation Act administrator LGU, West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District**

Financing practice to be repeated in 2019

\$6(m) in bonding to speed-up road work

The Polk County Highway Department is always looking for ways to fund its construction projects. Currently, the annual funding sources (estimated) include:

- County State Aid Fund – \$5,000,000.
- Local Option Sales Tax – \$700,000.

Federal funding is used when we have an approved federal aid project.

Funding possibilities that are available and not used are:

- Polk County property tax - \$0.
- Polk County Wheelage Tax - \$0.

(Note: The \$10 per vehicle Wheelage Tax option, which was in effect for several years before being terminated last year, raised about \$300,000 per year for "County Road" projects. State law allows counties the option to levy up to a \$20 per vehicle tax. Polk County's Wheelage Tax was replaced by the local option quarter percent sales tax that went into effect in January.)

Bonding option

Another option that Polk County has to raise funds for projects on its "County State Aid Highway (CSAH) system" is to bond for them.

With that option, Polk County plans to sell \$6 million in bonds in 2019 for work on CSAH system roads. This will not be the first time Polk County has bonded for highway construction. The county has bonded every 6 years since approximately 1995.

Bonding allows us to construct some of our CSAH road projects quicker. We use a part of our annual allocation of state aid payments to pay off these bonds over a 5-year period.

The map on **Pages 8-9** shows our 5-year construction plan. In 2019, Polk County will use \$2.6 million in bonding on its CSAH 3 projects. In 2020, we will use \$2.1 million on CSAH 23 and in 2021, we'll use \$1.3 million on CSAH 46. Without this funding, the 5-year construction plan would become a 7-year or even 8-year construction plan.

From the 5-year construction plan, you can see a blend of different project types.

Polk County's first priority is safety for the traveling public. Grade widening projects will increase the shoulder width to 5 feet and flatten the slopes from 3:1 to 4:1.

Next is to make sure our roadways are in good condition. Being an agricultural county,

Polk County roads have the stress of carrying heavy loads. It also has the climatic stress of going from normal to frozen and back to normal conditions. Therefore, you see a list of overlay projects.

Overlays strengthen the roadway and makes it smoother and more efficient for the traveling public.

The last projects you will see are some grading and aggregate surfacing County Road projects.

We have numerous county roads that do not connect with other county roads or County State Aid Highways. These are roads to nowhere. After construction of these roads, they will be revoked back to the townships, as per MN Statute 163.11 Sub 5.

If you have questions or concerns about the 5-year construction plan, there are two opportunities to voice them: Show up at the public hearing at 11 a.m. on Nov. 6 in the Polk County Board Room at the Polk County Government Center or call Darin Carlstrom or me, Rich Sanders, at the Polk County Highway Department at 218-281-3952. — **Rich Sanders, county engineer**

Proposed 5-year Polk County Highway Construction Projects

Plan is based on the following:

• Receiving County State Aid Highway (CSAH) funds at the current annual level of \$5.1 million.

• The county bonding in January of 2019 for \$6 million.

• The Local Option Sales Tax continues at current ¼ percent.

If CSAH funding increases due to a transportation bill some projects could be done sooner.

If Local Option Sales Tax is adjusted to ½ percent projects on list could be done sooner.

Note — Projects are shown in the map on Pages 8-9.

2019

1. Overlay of CSAH 36 from CSAH 34 to CSAH 42. 2.5" of Bituminous, paved/aggregated shoulders to allow for peds/bike usage.

2. Overlay of CSAH 42 from CSAH 36 to CSAH 41. 2.5" of Bituminous, paved/aggregated shoulders to allow for peds/bike usage.

3. Overlay of CSAH 24 from TH 2 to CSAH 27. 2.5" of Bituminous and aggregate shoulders

4. Grade/surface CSAH 3 from CSAH 30 to CSAH 6. Current Twp. Road that will be dedicated as CSAH 3. Grading will include purchasing of Right of Way and Utility Relocation. Paved with bituminous. 12' foot lanes 4.5 foot shoulders.

5. Widen/overlay CSAH 3 from CSAH 6 to CSAH 29. Widen shoulders from 2 feet to 4.5 feet. Inslopes from 3:1 to 4:1. Will include Right of Way and Utility relocation. Will include township road approach realignment at curve. 2.5" overlay and aggregate shoulders.

6. Overlay CSAH 3 from CSAH 29 to E. County Line. 2.5" overlay and

aggregate shoulders

7. Surface CR 201 from TH 2 to 200 feet South. Done in conjunction with BNSF Crossing upgrade with concrete panels and signals and gates.

8. Mill/Overlay CSAH 113 and CSAH 1 in Beltrami, MN

9. Mill/Overlay CSAH 115 in Fosston, MN

10. Mill Overlay CSAH 15,61, 111 in Fisher, MN

11. Reconstruct CSAH 10 (East Shore Maple Lake) remove old highway pavement, reconstruct CSAH 10 to allow for parking along roadway, curb and gutter.

12. Overlay CSAH 41 from CSAH 42 to CSAH 34. 2.5" overlay and paved/aggregated shoulders to allow for peds/bike usage.

2020

13. Widen/Mill/overlay CSAH 23 from TH 220 to 1 mile E. of Tabor. Will include Right of Way and Utility relocation. Mill existing bituminous, crack and seat concrete, overlay with 4" of bituminous and aggregate shoulders.

14. Overlay CSAH 21 from TH 220 to TH 75. 2.5" overlay and aggregate shouldering.

15. Overlay CSAH 20 from CSAH 19 to CSAH 21. 2.5" overlay and aggregate shouldering.

16. Reconstruct CSAH 11 (Fisher Ave.) from N. Broadway to E. Limits of Crookston (approach into housing development on north side of road). Construct Urban curb and gutter section with 12' lanes and center left turn lane. Sidewalk and storm sewer. Change flasher at N. Broadway to Rapid Flash Beacon and install RFB at Barrett for ped/bike traffic going to

CSC.

17. Overlay CSAH 11 from E. Limits Crookston to CSAH 46. 2.5" overlay.

18. Overlay CSAH 16 from TH 75 to CSAH 9. 2.5" overlay aggregate shoulders.

19. Overlay CSAH 1 from CSAH 10 to TH 59. 2.5" overlay aggregate shoulders. Mill and overlay in Winger.

20. Mill/overlay CSAH 109 in Nielsville, MN

21. Reconstruct Bridge 7041,7042 between Fertile and CSAH 10

22. Nielsville Bridge and approaches. Same alignment. Widen and overlay roadway from Bridge to W. Limits of Nielsville. Stay within existing ROW due to cultural resource requirements.

23. Grading CR 202 from CSAH 35 and 2 miles North. Will include purchase of Right of Way, Utility Relocation. After construction is complete the road would be revoked back to the township.

24. Grading CR 203 from CSAH 30 to Hill Lake. Will include purchase of Right of Way, Utility Relocation. After construction is complete the road would be revoked back to the township.

2021

25. Overlay CSAH 6 from TH 92 to N. County Line. 2.5" overlay aggregate shoulders

26. Grading/Surfacing CSAH 46 from TH 102 to TH 2. Grading will include purchasing of Right of Way and Utility Relocation. Paved with bituminous. 12-foot lanes 4.5-foot shoulders.

27. Overlay CSAH 45 from TH 32 to CSAH 12. 2.5" overlay aggregate

shoulders.

28. Overlay CSAH 45 from TH 220 to TH 75. 2.5" overlay aggregate shouldering. Will include revamping intersection with CR 280/CSAH 56 to allow for center left turn lane and bypass lane.

29. Overlay CSAH 20 from CSAH 17 to CSAH 19. 2.5" overlay and aggregate shoulders.

30. Overlay CSAH 73 from TH 2 to CSAH 19. 2.5" overlay aggregate shoulders.

31. Overlay CSAH 76 from TH 2 to CSAH 17. 2.5" overlay aggregate shoulders.

2022

32. Widen/overlay CSAH 12 from TH 32 to CSAH 41. Widen shoulders from 2 feet to 4.5 feet. Inslopes from 3:1 to 4:1. Curves from 50 to 55mph. Will include Right of Way and Utility relocation. 2.5" overlay aggregate shoulders.

33. Overlay CSAH 44 from South County Line to TH 102. 2.5" overlay and aggregate shoulders.

34. Overlay CSAH 14 from CSAH 45 to TH 75. 2.5" overlay and aggregate shoulders.

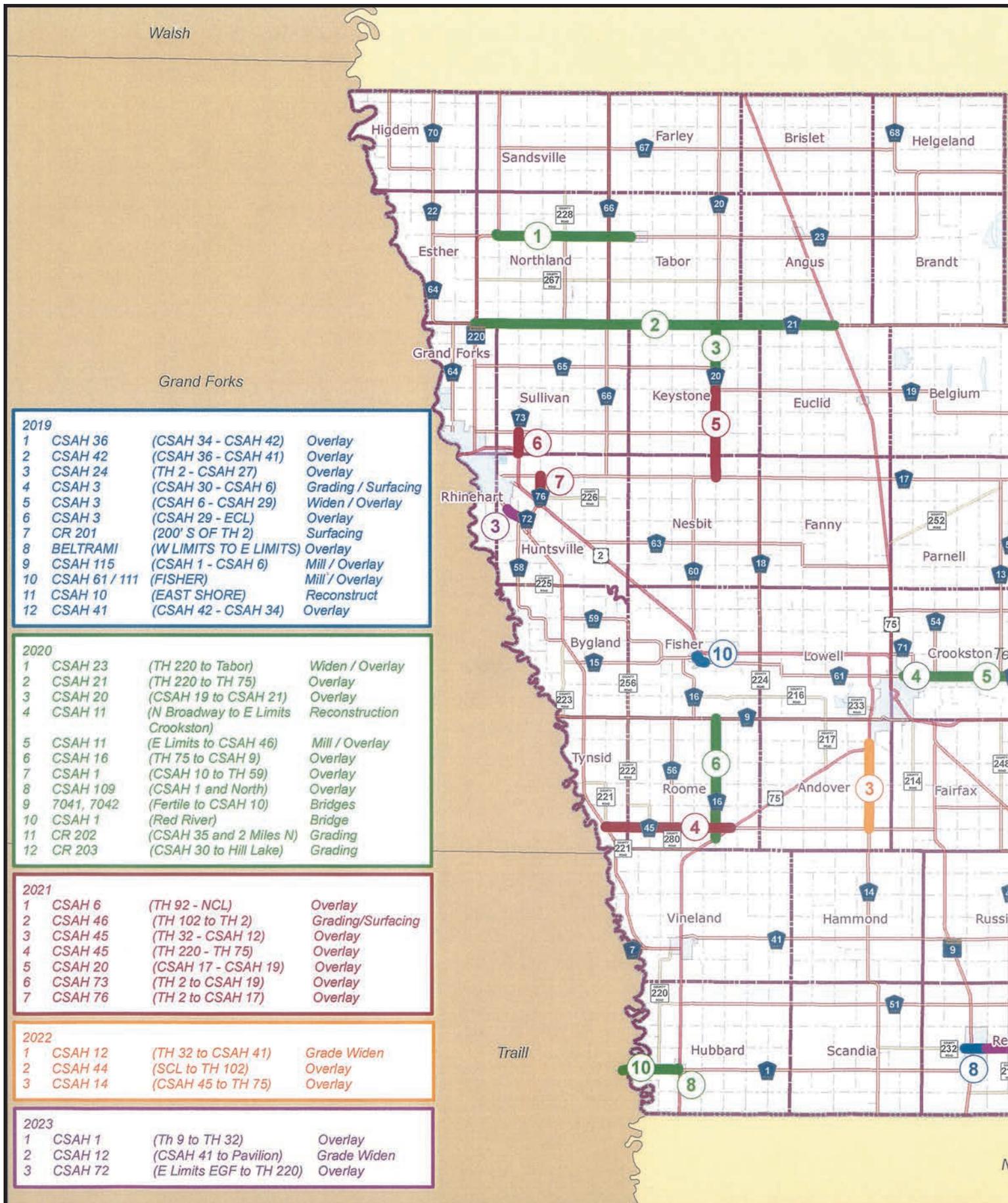
2023

35. Overlay CSAH 1 from TH 9 to TH 32. 2.5" overlay and aggregate shoulders.

36. Widen/overlay CSAH 12 from CSAH 41 to CR 231(Pavilion). Widen shoulders from 2 feet to 4.5 feet. Inslopes from 3:1 to 4:1. Curves from 50 to 55 mph. will include Right of Way and Utility relocation. 2.5" overlay aggregate shoulders.

37. Overlay CSAH 72 from E. limits EGF to TH 220. 2.5" overlay and paved/aggregated shoulders.

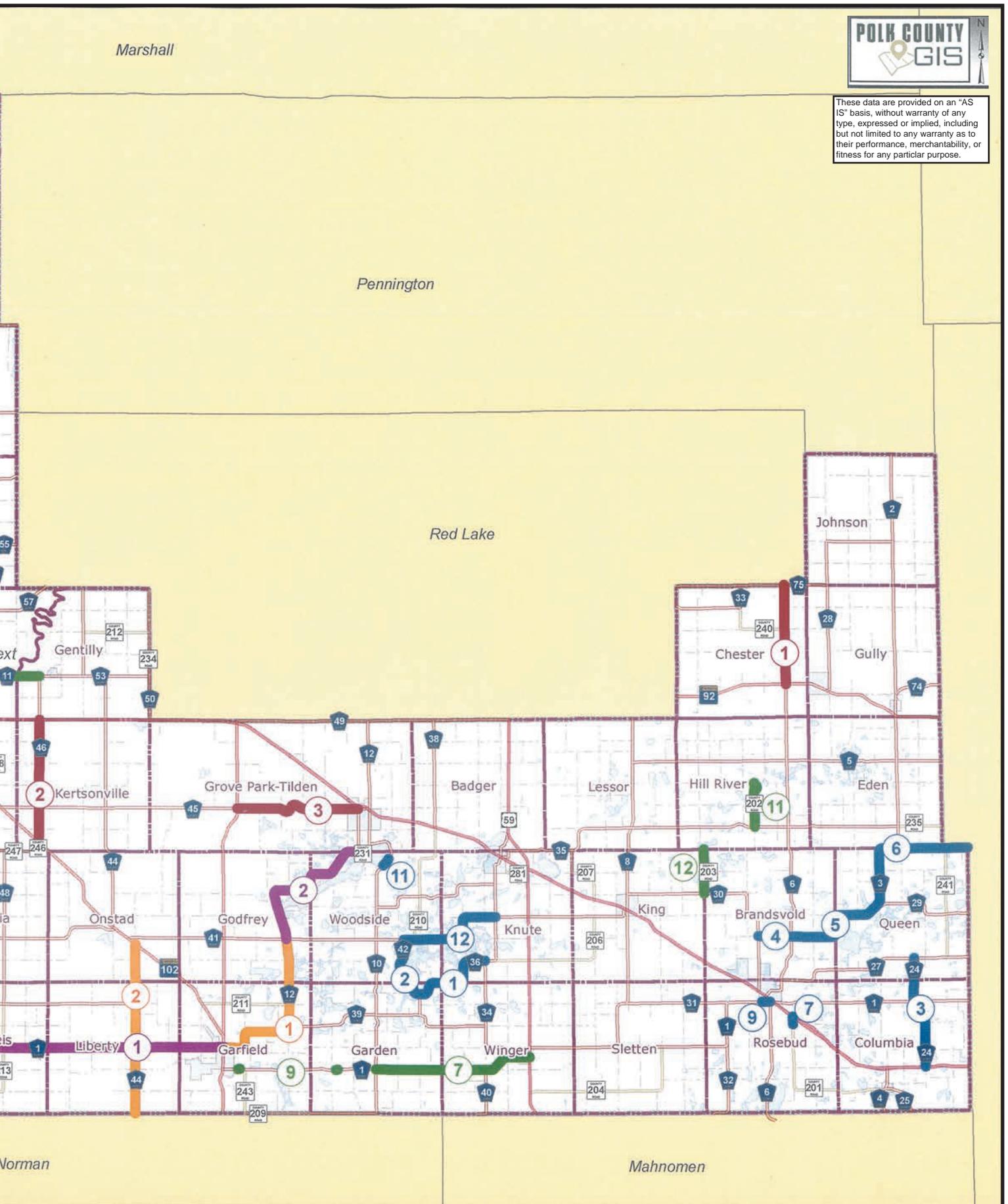
5 YEAR PROPOSED ROAD CONSTRUCTION



- POLK COUNTY, MINNESOTA



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Johnson ends 34-year career in social services

After 34 years with the Polk County Social Services Department, including 21 years as its director, Kent Johnson has exercised the option to retire.

Early in his time with the county, Johnson worked in the areas of child support and income maintenance in the Crookston office. He then moved to East Grand Forks to work as a supervisor and office manager for several years before Bill Brock, who was the director of Social Services at the time, called him back to Crookston to fill the role of administrative assistant.

"It was at a staff meeting in 1997, that Bill announced to the staff that I was the assistant director of the department," Johnson says. "He never asked if I wanted the position, he just announced at the meeting that I was the assistant director."

The assistant director title changed to interim director later that year when Brock left the department. Johnson became the director in June 1998.

"It's been a really good experience. I've worked with a lot of great, talented people and have always had the support of administration and the County Board. It has not always been easy. There have been a lot of challenges and more are coming.

"Social Services often gets a bad rap that it doesn't deserve. I hope that somehow in the future the role of human services can be better explained... that the good things that we do get told and not all of the negatives that are said. There are many who believe that social services just hands out money to people who don't deserve it. That just isn't so. Until you need it, you don't understand and it becomes easy to poke at it."

Johnson says the present challenges and those that are coming are daunting in many ways. "There are so many issues in society that are extremely challenging and expensive. We aren't seeing the full effects of these things yet.

Sedgeman becomes director

Peter Sedgeman, who has been a financial analyst with Sanford Health in Thief River Falls, will succeed Kent Johnson as director of Polk County Social Services beginning on Oct. 8. Johnson, who retired on Aug. 31, had worked for the county for 34 years.

"I'm really excited to have the opportunity to work with the dedicated and knowledgeable people of Polk County Social Services. While at Sanford Health, I worked closely with the area county social service directors and learned much from this interaction. With this knowledge and my financial background, I hope to work with the social service personnel to improve the lives of many people in Polk County."

Sedgeman grew up in Warren where his father, Bill, was director of music at Warren/Alvarado/Oslo High School and his mother, Carol, was a social worker at Good Samaritan Nursing Center. In high school, with the musical background provided through his father, Peter was involved in music and drama and was a student council member.

After graduating in 2002, he earned a degree in industrial engineering & management at North Dakota State University in 2006 and then worked in that field in the Product Distribution Center at Digi-Key Corporation in Thief River Falls for 4 1/2 years.

He returned to school at the University of North Dakota in the spring of 2011, while at the same time working as a graduate assistant and for a time also as a senior technical account manager for Amazon.

Since earning an MBA degree at UND in December 2012, he worked first as an operations analyst and then a financial analyst at



Peter Sedgeman

Sanford Health in Thief River Falls. Duties in those roles included budgetary oversight and business management of the behavioral health service lines.

He comments, "It's very interesting working as a technical individual in a field that is driven strongly by emotion. It's fun to get to understand and respect the perspective of the clinicians and what's important to them and to in turn explain my technical justifications for process or procedure adjustments. It's rewarding to see a mutual respect develop between people with very different ways of thinking."

Sedgeman has been very active in church activities including mission work with a sister church in Sahunivka, Ukraine. He has visited there nine times developing many close relationships.

He notes, "I believe it's a good thing to occasionally be exposed to different cultures and ways of thinking. It has a way of helping a person to evaluate what's really important."

When returning from his most recent visit in August, he brought back with him a boy — that he has known for 10 years — who is a foreign exchange student in Warren for the 2018-2019 school year.

The money needed to fully address these issues just isn't available today. Dollars are hard to come by but if we don't invest in these situations on the front-end, we'll pay for them on the other side.

"I'm very proud of the

agency for what it has accomplished over the years, very proud of the work that we have done, especially in the area of out of home placement. We can thank the board for that. The board listened and took the jump to hire six family based

service providers at a time when the county was experiencing extreme post-flood financial problems. It was a leap of faith and good things happened.

"By 1998," Johnson says, "the cost of out of home placements had ballooned to \$2.4 million a year. But through the work that those new family based service workers provided, we both reduced costs and served families well. This occurred thanks to the work done by Bill Green (a social services supervisor) and a number of other county and associated agencies. We were able to reduce the cost to less than \$1 million in just a few years. And it stayed in the \$1 million range or less for most of the next 20 years until the effects of inflation and other costs increased it \$1.4 million a year in 2017. But that increase was over 20 years.

"The complications and complexities of family life," Johnson says, "are becoming greater and greater all the time. There will have to be some legislative changes. There's no question about that because counties can't continue to bear the load that has been passed down by the state to local government."

About how society has changed, he says, "I just don't know how things are going to be righted, how we are ever going to turn this ship around. It's very depressing as you look at what is occurring out there. What are going to be some of solutions going forward in the next generation?"

"This makes it easier to step away. When you've seen it for this long, it just becomes too much. You can't leave it at the office when the day is over. It wears on people. It is just tragic what is going on with events and family life in our society.

"I wish my successor well. There are going to be real challenges for meeting the needs of the work that needs to be done, for providing consideration for the staff, and for managing an extremely tough budget."



Jessica Hajicek



Dale Arnold

Hajicek, Arnold have new roles in probation

Jessica Hajicek is the new chief probation officer at Tri-County Community Corrections (TCCC) and Dale Arnold has taken over her old job as deputy chief probation officer.

Their new positions became effective on June 1. Both Hajicek and Arnold are 10-year employees of the Probation Department.

Hajicek succeeds Tami Jo Lieberg, who after 24 years in probation roles for Tri-County, became director of the Kandiyohi County probation department in April.

For Hajicek, the move to the top position in the department completes a series of advancements beginning with her start as an agent in January 2008.

She became a senior probation agent in 2011, a career probation agent in December 2017, the deputy chief probation agent in March of this year, and the chief probation agent in June.

Hajicek has worked in a number of roles at TCCC with both adults and juveniles. She has also worked with victims of domestic violence as a shelter support staff member with the Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC) in Grand Forks and with youth in the role of a violence prevention/chemical health specialist for the Climax and Fisher schools.

She has B.S. degrees in both psychology and human resource management along with an associate degree in criminal justice from Park University at Grand Forks Air Force Base.

Hajicek received the Recognition of Excellence Award presented by TCCC in 2010 and the Minnesota Outstanding Agent Award given by the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties in 2017.

Arnold, who earned a B.A. degree in criminal justice along with a minor in psychology at the University of North Dakota, has worked as an associate probation agent with the probation Department's Intensive Super-vised and Adult Substance Abuse program.

He has also worked to advance evidence-based practices and is a trainer in the Thinking for a Change and Carey Guides programs that are used to address the needs of offenders.

Dufault becomes new extension educator

Heather Dufault became the University of Minnesota Extension Educator for Polk County in August. She also serves Clearwater and Red Lake counties on one day each week.

"I'm looking forward to working with everybody and hopefully being able to answer questions or guide them to where they are going to be able to find the answers that they might need," she says.

Dufault, who succeeds Eli Gindele as the extension educator, grew up on a farm in McLeod County in south central Minnesota where her family had dairy cows, pigs, and horses and where she was involved in 4-H for 10 years.

After graduating from Brownton High School in 1992, she earned an associate degree in animal science with a dairy emphasis and a B.S. degree in ag industries sales & management at the University of Minnesota Crookston, graduating in 1996.

After working for an independent insurance agent in Red Lake Falls for 5 years and for 15 years as an insurance specialist for Ag Country Farm Credit Services, Dufault was hired first as the interim extension educator for Polk County and then as the fulltime educator in August.

She and her husband, Kevin, live on a farm near Gently where they raise wheat, soybeans, corn and



Heather Dufault

sugar beets. They have three children: David, who is attending Northland Community & Technical College in Thief River Falls, and a daughter, Katelynn, and son, Dominic, who attend school in Red Lake Falls. Heather is also a parish trustee at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Gently.

Dufault works from her office in McIntosh on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. She is in Red Lake County on Tuesdays and in Clearwater County on Thursdays.

In Polk County, she can be reached at (218) 563-2465. Dufault also may be reached on her Extension cell phone at (218) 280-1129 or by email at poh10024@umn.edu.

Child seat questions?

Do you have questions regarding your child's car seat or booster seat? Don't have a seat or need help finding the right seat for your child? We have recently received a Buckle Up for Life award making child passenger safety seats more available in Polk County. Call us at 218-281-3385. Our Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians are here to help you find the correct seat for your child! This has been made possible in partnership with the Buckle Up for Life program, state car seat grant and Medical Assistance. #PCPHPCS

Picture: Brenna Olson, certified child passenger safety technician for Polk County Public Health



Text 9-1-1 only when you can't call

When an emergency takes place, the first instinct is to call 9-1-1. That's good for most people but there is now a way to get help when calling is not the best way to get through to the Polk County PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point).

Now, when making the call by voice cannot be done dependably because of hearing issues, or safely because someone of questionable character could be listening, that call can be made by text.

The new service, which became available in Minnesota last December, comes with the motto: "Call if you can, text only if you can't."

People who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, or who are in danger are encouraged to Text-to-9-1-1 as a first contact option. All others should do so by voice, preferably via a Smart Phone that provides its location to dispatchers.

"Texting is a resource that can be used

by persons with disabilities and those in dire need situations when talking may not be done or be advisable," Polk County Dispatch Center Director Nancy Shafer says.

"But, whenever possible, calling is by far the best because that way the dispatcher, while getting the emergency response personnel and vehicles on the way, can keep the caller on the line to gather additional information that will give responders a better idea of what can be expected at the scene.

"Getting this additional information becomes more difficult when done by texting. Knowing more about the situation in advance of arrival at the scene is a big benefit to both the victims and those coming to assist."

Because of the cost of the new equipment needed to take Text-to-9-1-1 messages, all text calls made from north-

western Minnesota counties are being received at a single regional center in Beltrami County (Bemidji) that was specifically developed to receive them. The information is then relayed back to the PSAP in the county where the incident has occurred.

The regional Text to 9-1-1 capability came after three years of work by various stakeholders and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Emergency Communication Network (DPS-ECN).

Each county has just one designated PSAP and all voiced-generated 9-1-1 calls go to that facility. The Polk County PSAP is located in the Dispatch Center in the Law Enforcement Center in Crookston.

Polk County expects to be able to receive 9-1-1 text calls in 2019.

December completion set for \$5 million project

New transfer station to provide several benefits

The replacement of the Transfer Station in Crookston is being done as a Capital Assistance Program (CAP) grant project that was funded in 2017.

The grant contributed \$3 million of the \$5 million total project cost — up to 75% state cost-share on the transfer station, less non-eligible demolition costs and non-waste related office space.

The project consisted of the demolition of the old transfer station, the replacement of an exterior truck scale, construction of a new transfer station (including offices), installation of a new interior truck scale, installation of two lighted canopies (to shelter outdoor waste containers) and related processing equipment.

The building was designed by Wenck Associates of Maple Plaine, Minn., with architectural by Widseth, Smith & Nolting of Bemidji. The project was awarded to Nor-Son Inc of Baxter, Minn., for the price of \$4,579,751.

The project had two deadlines for completion: Phase I required completion of the

south lot and tip floor area for use by Polk County on or before Oct. 1. Phase II requires completion of the office space by Dec. 21.

The new station will have several improvements over the previous facility. It will be more user friendly, energy efficient and allow for future needs.

The tip floor area is larger and offers a much higher ceiling height throughout — which was a limiting factor with the old tip floor. The overhead doors are larger and higher, which will allow trucks to unload inside the building and not hit the overhead doors with the boxes extended. Translucent panels will allow natural light to illuminate the tip floor, allowing less lighting to be required for operations.

An indoor truck scale will be installed for loading trucks and maximizing payloads.

Canopies in the lot will provide protection from rain/snow, and provide overhead light when it is darker during the winter months.

The office area is larger in size, provides a better layout, is

more energy efficient and includes space for future offices. A separate parking lot (west) will be constructed for non-waste related use by the public.

The opportunity to replace the old transfer station utilizing the CAP grant resources was both beneficial and timely. The old transfer station building had many issues that were in need of immediate attention, the cost of which would surpass the 25% local match requirement — or \$1.25 million — of the CAP grant program.

A new roof was needed and had previously been bid. Significant structural and foundation issues were in need of attention. The fire suppression system technology was no longer supported and required replacement. The covered entry — specifically the concrete pad under it — moved considerably with the seasons and needed to be redesigned and replaced. The truck scale was in need of replacement.

The list went on. The County held off on some of these repairs and replacements over

the last few years as it worked to secure these CAP grant funds.

Despite the operational inconvenience tolerated by all during the construction process, the county believes the end result is justified. A similar local expenditure would have been required, whether repairing the old transfer station or matching the CAP grant funds to construct a new station, it was obviously a better return on the county's investment to opt for the new facility via the CAP grant. — **Jon Steiner, administrator, Polk County Environmental Services**

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Expansion, upgrading at 'MRF' nears completion

Of the two Fosston projects, the building addition was started in 2017 and substantially completed this spring. It was the first to start and finish.

The building addition contract was awarded to Vercon Inc., Menahga, Minn. The cost of the addition was \$2,878,496. The 2015 state allocation under the CAP grant would provide up to 75% of building addition cost.

The addition was constructed on the east side of the building and provided a new, expanded tip floor for incoming waste and recyclable materials. It was constructed to hold the front portion of new, upgraded material processing equipment.

The new processing equipment makes up what is referred to collectively as the Material Recovery Facility (or MRF).

Polk County hired Titus MRF Services, Fontana, Calif., to upgrade the MRF. The "design-build" contract (called an integration contract) had a value of \$8,494,801 for design, equipment and installation.

However, due to the unique nature of the contract, Titus guaranteed it could deliver the specified equipment and install it for \$7,900,164, which was the executed contract amount.

Polk County was allowed to direct-purchase the large, specialized equipment, which made up a significant portion of the contract value. This allowed the county to up-size critical equipment, such as the ballistic separators, optical sorters and baler without incurring additional cost.

Two phases

Due to how the funding through the CAP grant was allocated — in two separate appropriations — the project had to be split into two distinct projects, Phase I and Phase II.

The state cost-share for the MRF projects was 50%. Installation of Phase I started in January 2018 and was completed in the spring of 2018. Phase II began this summer and will be completed this fall.

Though the project timeline became extended by breaking it into two phases, it allowed Polk County to operate on a limited scale during a majority of the Titus construction work. The unique elements of this project were to the benefit of Titus, Polk County and



Installation of processing equipment underway in the MRF addition at Fosston

the other partner counties.

In new building

The upgraded, new material processing equipment (referred to as Phase I) is located in the new building addition. Starting with a large, high-capacity material metering bin, which determines the feed rate for the MRF, it passes to a drum feeder that both opens garbage bags and regulates the flow of material up the incline feed belt.

At the top of the incline feed belt, a pick station is staffed to manually remove problem and objectionable materials from the waste before it gets to the remaining process equipment.

From the pick station, recyclable material passes over a cardboard screen that mechanically extracts cardboard from the other materials. That equipment is bypassed when processing waste.

The material then passes into a large trommel screen that opens additional garbage bags and sorts materials by size into two streams: over 6" and under 6" in size. The under 6" stream passes over a debris roll screen to remove dirt, grit and glass under 2" in size.

The 2" to 6" fraction continues on for further processing. The over 6" fraction exiting the trommel screen continues on for further processing. Both streams get processed by the Phase II equipment being constructed in the summer/fall of 2018.

Started with removal

The Phase II MRF project started with the removal of all of the existing equipment. This did not occur until the Phase I portion of the project was operational and temporary equipment was installed to allow us to run on a limited basis on the Phase I equipment while the Phase II work commenced.

The Phase II project picks up where the Phase I left off. Once the area was clear of existing equipment, new equipment was delivered and installed. The two material streams from the trommel screen (2"-6" and over 6" materials) both go to their own ballistic separators. The ballistic separators separate material into 2-dimensional (2D) and 3-dimensional (3D).

The 2D materials proceed to a large, optical sorter that can scan and eject materials to produce a clean paper product. The clean paper product goes to a large bunker that is then conveyed to a baler to be bound and marketed. Reject materials proceed to the tip floor to be used as fuel for the incinerators.

The 3D materials proceed to a pair of large, optical sorters that can scan and eject various types of plastic materials. This equipment is programmable. Up to four different types of materials can be separated from the 3D stream, collected, baled and marketed. The materials separated will be blown by

large fans through pipes to overhead collection silos until baled.

The materials that are not ejected will proceed under a cross-belt magnet to remove ferrous metal (tin cans and scrap metal) then over an eddy current separator to remove aluminum and non-ferrous metals.

The ferrous metal is conveyed to a large bunker and the non-ferrous metal is blown into an overhead silo where both will await baling and shipment to market. The remaining materials will be conveyed to the incinerator tip floor where it will be either used as fuel for the incinerators or excess material that will be hauled to the landfill for disposal.

Completion delayed

The Phase II equipment is currently being installed by Titus. Installation was scheduled to be completed by Oct. 1, but due to issues with receipt and installation of overseas equipment and other equipment supply issues, that timeline has become extended.

Once the MRF Phase I and Phase II are completed and tied together, it will be one of the most flexible, advanced MRFs in the upper midwest, capable of processing both waste and recyclable materials using the same equipment. — **Jon Steiner, administrator, Polk County Environmental Services**



Construction of Cell 13 at the landfill is underway

Organic compost facility, shredder, collection container, and new cell...

Work at landfill includes several projects

Of the state funded projects occurring in 2018, the Polk County Source Separated Organic Material (SSOM) Compost Facility is the only one funded under by a capital assistance program (CAP) grant.

SSOM is the organic fraction of the waste stream that is separated out for the purpose of composting. It is primarily made up of fruits, vegetables or other food scraps that were not, or cannot, be consumed.

SSOM is typically collected from grocery stores, school cafeterias, food and lodging facilities and other institutions that prepare food for large groups. In other locations, curbside pickup of food scraps from residents have been established — usually in conjunction with curbside garbage and recyclable collection services.

At the time Polk County applied for and received its Landfill Permit in 2017, it was the first SSOM compost facility to be permitted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). A select few other compost facilities had been taking SSOM at their compost facilities under MPCA variances, as Polk had been on a limited scale since 2011.

The SSOM compost facility was designed by Wenck Associates, Maple Plaine, Minn. The project was awarded to Lyle Wilkens, Inc., Crookston, on its low bid of \$370,578. The CAP grant provid-

ed a 50% cost-share for the construction of the SSOM compost facility and related equipment.

The Polk County SSOM compost facility is approximately 5.7 acres in total size, with approximately 2.5 acres of work surface.

The work surface is a durable, all-weather pad that was constructed using ash-amended class 5 materials from the Fosston Resource Recovery Facility — the same engineered material used in multiple county road projects under MPCA permit.

The pad is designed and constructed in a manner that slopes toward two separate collection sumps which capture stormwater that comes in contact with compost materials. One sump collects water that came in contact with raw materials that have not undergone the critical stage of composting. The other sump will capture water that came in contact with compost materials after the critical stage of composting has been achieved.

The unique C-shape on the south end of the compost facility allows drivers to pull straight in, unload their SSOM and drive straight out.

The SSOM unloading area is near the sump. This allows for the SSOM to de-water in this area before being placed into a windrow for composting. The long, narrow section of the pad to the north is for the compost

windrows to be constructed and managed. A compost turner will be used to keep windrows close together to maximize space and keep the materials composting efficiently.

The frequency of compost turning decreases as the compost ages and the breakdown of organic material becomes more complete. Once the composting process has been completed, materials are set aside to be screened and utilized.

Two other grants

Two other grants have been applied for, and received, from the MPCA under a different program. In 2017, Polk County was awarded an Environmental Assistance (EA) recycling grant to purchase a low-speed shredder.

The EA grant provided \$225,000 of the \$705,000 paid for the shredder. The shredder purchased is unique in its ability to process a variety of materials received at the landfill and allow the county to reuse, recycle or compost them.

The shredder is able to process large stumps, root balls, trees and brush. It is also able to process clean, untreated lumber. Both material types can be composted rather than disposed of.

In addition, the shredder can be used to process shingles for use in roads or other potential purposes rather than disposal.

It can also be used to shred materials — large tarps or covers that

would not otherwise be accepted for disposal due to their ability to retain water.

SSOM container

Polk County also applied for and was awarded another EA grant by the MPCA in 2018 in the amount of \$250,000 to collect SSOM from various locations throughout the six-partner county area and process it at the new SSOM compost facility.

The grant utilizes a unique roll-off container with an air purification and recirculation system to promote composting during collection and minimize odors.

Because traditional SSOM collection methods are not cost-efficient at this time, Polk and its partner counties decided to apply for this MPCA grant.

The intent of the grant is to “jump-start” the collection and processing of SSOM throughout the region by trying various types of collections — both by different collection methods and different generator groups.

It should be noted that the 2017 EA shredder grant, the 2018 EA SSOM collection grant and the CAP grant for the compost facility all compliment each other and use each other for the overall benefit of all.

Any material that can be composted in lieu of disposal (either at the landfill or incinerator) ulti-

See LANDFILL on Page 15



New shredder can process shingles, large stumps, root balls, trees and brush, and clean and untreated lumber — all for some type of re-use rather than disposal

Landfill

Continued from Page 14

mately results in conservation of valuable landfill capacity for materials for which disposal is the only option.

Cell #13 construction

A large, non-grant funded project was also undertaken at the landfill this year. Polk County began construction of Cell #13 of the Mixed Municipal Solid Waste Landfill (MSW Landfill).

Cell #13 is situated to the east of the existing portion of the MSW landfill and is connected to Cell #9-#11.

Construction of Cell #13 was awarded to R.J. Zavoral & Sons Inc., East Grand Forks, in the amount of \$989,829. R.J. Zavoral & Sons has constructed the last few MSW landfill cells.

MSW Landfill Cell #13 is an approximate 3-acre lined cell in the MSW landfill disposal area. It accepts MSW that is objectionable, oversized or difficult to process at the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) in Fosston, or the excess MSW processed by the RRF that was not removed for recycling/reuse or exceeds the burn capacities of the incinerator units.

Construction of Cell #13 was anticipated to occur in 2019. However, the timing of the improvements to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) resulted in an increase in the amount of waste bypassed to the landfill due

to processing limitations.

Also a factor was the receipt of additional waste over the last few years that was not anticipated.

As such, the capacity to make it through the summer of 2018 into the construction season of 2019 was in question. In order to ensure Polk County could make good on its commitments, construction of Cell #13 was undertaken in 2018.

Cell #13 should have a 3-5 year capacity to hold waste. Once the cell is completed, it will be inspected by the state and tested for integrity.

Once confirmed, the MPCA approval to begin placement of waste will be received. The landfill is then tasked with getting 6 feet of waste materials over the entire lined area prior to Dec. 1 to prevent frost damage to the liner system. This would be accomplished by placing all incoming waste into that area as well as pushing much of the waste already located in Cell #11 and #12 into #13. The landfill will then begin waste filling activities in the newly excavated Cell #11 and then #12 before placing additional material into new Cell #13.

After all of this work is complete, the landfill should be in good shape for several years to come. — **Jon Steiner, administrator, Polk County Environmental Services**

Slight increase in 'gravel tax' collections noted in 2017

The \$146,4342 in aggregate material tax collected for gravel excavations made in Polk County in 2017 was a slight increase from the \$141,271 in 2016.

Distribution of the 2017 tax included \$59,122 each to the Township Road & Bridge Fund and to the Polk County Road & Bridge Fund, \$20,867 to the Reserve Fund for Pit Restoration, and the \$7,322 that was credited to the county auditor-treasurer for administration.

Active pits

For townships, the method of distribution of the gravel tax is based on the number of "active" pits within the township rather than on the number of miles of road that are affected by the hauling.

The tax is used as a way to help maintain roads. By law, the tax rate is set at 21.5 cents per cubic yard or 15 cents per ton of aggregate material excavated.

The ability to collect the tax was created by special legislation at the request of Polk and Norman counties when Bernie Lieder was the Polk County engineer. It has been available to counties since 1980.

Initially, the tax called for voluntary compliance by aggregate producers. In an effort to bring all producers into compliance, the law was amended in 1997 to give county auditors (and/or

township clerks) full access to the business records of an operator or importer.

Distribution

The settlement payments sent to each township for 2016 included: Chester, 7 pits, \$16,554.23; Columbia, 2 pits, \$4,729.78; Gentilly, 5 pits, \$11,824.45; Grove Park-Tilden, 3 pits, \$7,094.67; Hill River, 2 pits, \$4,729.78; Lessor, 1 pit, \$2,364.89; Liberty, 1 pit, \$2,364.89; Queen, 1 pit, \$2,364.89; and Trail City, 2 pits, \$4,729.78; Woodside, 1 pit, \$2,364.89.

History of Gravel Tax collections

1997	\$3,325
1998	\$78,035
1999	\$77,655
2000	\$90,678
2001	\$90,391
2002	\$73,975
2003	\$86,007
2004	\$72,362
2005	\$104,077
2006	\$98,378
2007	\$66,497
2008	\$64,299
2009	\$124,766
2010	\$144,334
2011	\$165,101
2012	\$197,253
2013	\$177,846
2014	\$254,861
2015	\$175,864
2016	\$141,271
2017	\$146,432

POLK COUNTY

2018 ASSESSMENT TILLABLE CHANGES

PRIOR TO STATE BOARD ADJUSTMENTS

KEY
TILLABLE PERCENTAGE CHANGE
AVERAGE TILLABLE VALUE PER ACRE

COUNTY WIDE
-6%
\$3,252

HIGDEM -15% \$3,443	SANDSVILLE -15% \$3,461	FARLEY -15% \$3,967	BRISLET -10% \$2,692	HELGELAND -10% \$1,866
ESTHER -15% \$4,134	NORTHLAND -10% \$4,276	TABOR -10% \$4,563	ANGUS -6% \$3,298	BRANDT 0% \$1,632
GRAND FORKS -10% \$5,032	SULLIVAN -10% \$5,094	KEYSTONE -5% \$5,136	EUCLID -6% \$3,445	BELGIUM 0% \$1,976
RHINEHART -5% \$5,172	HUNTSVILLE -5% \$5,400	NESBIT -5% \$5,490	FANNY -6% \$3,878	PARNELL 0% \$2,063
	BYGLAND -10% \$4,917	FISHER -10% \$5,596	LOWELL -5% \$4,834	CROOKSTON -5% \$3,545
	TYNSID -10% \$5,029	ROOME -10% \$5,570	ANDOVER -10% \$4,657	FAIRFAX -10% \$4,193
	VINELAND -5% \$4,851	HAMMOND -5% \$4,044	RUSSIA -5% \$3,555	ONSTAD 0% \$1,506
	HUBBARD -5% \$4,552	SCANDIA -5% \$3,631	REIS -5% \$3,027	GARFIELD 0% \$2,198
				LIBERTY 0% \$1,684
				GODFREY 0% \$1,782
				WOODSIDE 0% \$2,335
				KNUTE 0% \$2,495
				KING 10% \$2,213
				BRANDSVOLD 10% \$2,515
				ROSEBUD 10% \$2,471
				WINGER 0% \$2,671
				SLETTEN 5% \$2,645
				LESSOR 20% \$1,821
				HILL RIVER 10% \$2,163
				EDEN 10% \$1,845
				CHESTER 10% \$1,559
				GULLY 10% \$1,463
				JOHNSON 10% \$1,372
				TILDEN 0% \$1,320
				GROVE PARK 0% \$1,632
				BADGER 0% \$1,632
				WATSONVILLE 0% \$1,680
				KERTSONVILLE 0% \$2,275
				GENTILLY -5% \$2,275