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ROWE Assists Clients After Flooding

After more than half a foot of rain flooded Mid-Michigan June 22, ROWE quickly responded to client requests for assistance with short notice, at all hours and on the weekend so communities could keep travelers safe. ROWE staff immediately began communicating with clients after widespread news reports about flooding that caused major infrastructure damage in Isabella, Midland, Bay, and Gladwin counties, all of which the governor declared a state of disaster.

Isabella County received the most rain – more than 7 inches within 24 hours. Mt. Pleasant’s city engineer was in close communication with ROWE, including a text the evening of June 23 asking for an inspection of a closed bridge they wanted to reopen the following day once the water level subsided, which was a Saturday. A project manager on call for the weekend performed the inspection, which allowed the city to reopen the bridge, and staff also inspected a dam for the city that Monday.

After speaking with the Midland County Road Commission managing director / engineer Friday night and offering assistance, another ROWE project manager spent six hours the following day traveling throughout the county inspecting a list of roads, culverts, and bridges.

ROWE is available 24/7 for clients. Staff recognize the importance of safety and take after-hour requests for emergencies ranging from infrastructure damage due to floods or traffic accidents to failures at wastewater treatment plants. We know roads, bridges, etc. can be repaired or replaced but that is not always the case with the lives of the *people* who travel them.



Above is Shaffer Road; below is Alamando Road over Bluff Creek. Both photos were taken by ROWE staff on June 24 in Midland County.



ROWE Clients Awarded More Than \$930K in Scrap Tire Grants

ROWE prepared full applications for six clients to receive funds from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality’s 2017 Scrap Tire Market Development grants; every client has been awarded funding. The Village of Ortonville and cities of Caro, Davison, Flushing, Imlay City, and Imlay Township are on their way to paving or repairing a total of 19 streets with the assistance of \$931,500 in grant money.

Scrap Tire Market Development grant applications are due at the end of each year and awarded in early summer the following year. They provide up to a 50-percent match for communities to complete paving or pavement-repair projects with bituminous asphalt containing ground tires. If you would like more information about how ROWE can help you apply for these grants, contact your project manager or ROWE Project Manager Louis P. Fleury, PE, at 800-837-9131 or LFleury@rowepsc.com.



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New Medical Marihuana Licensing Act May Affect Your Community

On December 20, 2016, The Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act PA 281 went into effect. It requires the establishment of a licensing board that will be able to accept applications for licenses for various types of medical marihuana facilities starting in December 2017. It has raised many questions for municipalities. Below, ROWE's senior planner answers some of the most commonly asked questions.

Q: What types of facilities can be licensed?

A: See the following list.

- *Provisioning centers* will be retail establishments for the sale of medical marihuana to people approved as qualified patients or primary care givers under the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act of 2008.
- *Processors* will be facilities authorized to acquire medical marihuana and process it into "edibles" and other products for sale to provisioning centers.
- *Safety compliance facilities* will be sites where medical marihuana can be tested for potency and also for the presence of contaminants, such as pesticides, before sale to the provisioning centers.
- *Growers* will be facilities where marihuana can be grown for sale to provisioning centers or processors. There will be three type of grower licenses limiting the maximum number of plants to 500, 1,000, or 1,500 per facility.
- *Secure transporters* will be businesses authorized to transport medical marihuana and the cash associated with sales between the other four types of facilities.

Q: Can local communities prohibit any or all of these facilities?

A: Yes. None of these facilities can operate in a community unless that community adopts an ordinance allowing some or all of them. The ordinance can limit the number allowed of each type and where they are located. If the community does not adopt an ordinance allowing them, they are prohibited.

Q: Are there incentives for a community to allow these facilities?

A: Yes. A local municipality may levy an annual fee of as much as \$5,000 to cover their administrative costs for regulation of a facility. They will share with state, counties, and other agencies the proceeds of a 3% tax that will be levied on the sales of medical marihuana at provisioning centers.

Q: Can local municipalities regulate the operation of these facilities?

A: To a limited extent. The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs is preparing rules related to the operation of these facilities for adoption by the state. These rules would preempt local regulations, but any area not addressed by these rules or PA 281 of 2016 may be addressed by local regulations.



FREE Seminar: How Municipalities can Regulate Small Cell Wireless Construction

Registration is now open for a FREE community education program ROWE is hosting. Representatives from the Distributed Antenna System Consortium will be presenting information about how municipalities can regulate the construction of small cell wireless towers/poles in their communities.

The session is 12-1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14 at The Rowe Building, 540 S. Saginaw Street, Suite 200, Flint, MI.

RSVP by Friday, Sept. 8 to Rachel at (800) 837-9131 or RYankee@rowepsc.com.



Learn from ROWE Experts from the Comfort of Your Own Office

ROWE's staff enjoys sharing their expertise to help communities and we are now expanding opportunities for clients to learn from our team. A password-protected client portal can be accessed from the *Visitor Resources* page of rowepsc.com. Logging on allows users to view past Community Education Series (CES) presentations. This is a great opportunity for people who don't live close to the office in which a seminar is hosted, or those who simply had conflicting commitments, and could not attend a session.

Our fall 2016 CES presentation "Tips for Effective Public Engagement and Conducting Public Meetings with Ease" is currently available for viewing and more presentations will be posted soon.

To have an account set up to access these presentations, please email your name and organization's name to Jack Wheatley, PE, at JWheatley@rowepsc.com.

Building Demolition Improves View, Creates Green Space

Underutilized buildings don't need to be taking up precious space in your community; ROWE has the experience to help with the process of removing such structures so the property can be repurposed. One recent project ROWE assisted with is the demolition of the Sarvis Conference Center in Flint, MI.

The Flint Cultural Center Corporation had completed a master plan for its 30-acre campus on which several cultural institutions are located, such as performing arts venues, a planetarium, a history museum, a visual arts museum, and one of the top performing arts schools in the country. One aspect of the plan was to increase visibility of the campus from Robert T. Longway Boulevard, a well-traveled road bordering the campus. Demolishing the unsustainable 43,000-square-foot conference center would accomplish this, and ROWE was hired to oversee the demolition. ROWE completed land surveys, contract documents, and construction administration. ROWE also assisted with obtaining a grant from the Genesee County Land Bank, and coordinated with AKT Peerless, for the environmental abatement of the property.

The open view from Robert T. Longway and other streets bordering the campus allows visitors to see more frequented and picturesque buildings in the cultural center. The green space that fills the area once occupied by the Sarvis Center provides the cultural center with an additional location for outdoor programs.



Above left is the Sarvis Conference Center prior to demolition; in the center is during the demolition; at right is the new green space visitors can see when entering the campus (same area as far left photo).

School Parking Lot Improvements Become Multifaceted Projects

Parking lot reconstruction projects often go beyond pavement replacement and that has certainly been the case with ROWE's parking lot projects for Imlay City Community Schools. ROWE spent the last three summers working within the limited timeframe the schools' summer closure allows to redesign traffic circulation, improve storm drainage, and even create a trailhead from one lot adjacent to the Polly Ann Trail.

ROWE is currently designing the reconstruction of the Borland Elementary School parking lot. During the past two summers, ROWE converted a two-way drive for student drop-off the middle school shares with Weston Elementary School into a one-way drive to ease traffic congestion. This improved safety for students and created space to add parking spots. Along with repaving the lot, storm drainage was improved, which will increase the longevity of the pavement.

ROWE also designed pavement and entryway sidewalk replacement at the high school. ROWE suggested creating an ADA-accessible trailhead to the Polly Ann Trail since people were parking in the lot, then walking/cycling over grass and along the roadway shoulder to access the nearby trail. ROWE contacted the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, who agreed to the plan, and assisted the city and schools with funding the trailhead.



Pictured clockwise from above is the new trailhead, the high school parking lot before the project, and the same area after the lot was paved.

Staff Updates

Staff Member Earns Engineering License

Kevin P. Janes, PE, earned his professional engineer license. Kevin is an assistant project engineer in the Construction Services Division in the Flint, MI corporate office. He is a four-year ROWE employee who has a B.S. in civil engineering from Michigan State University.



K. Janes

The ROWE Team Expands

- **Ryan D. Bair, EIT**, joined ROWE as an assistant project engineer in the Design Division in the Flint, MI corporate office. He has a B.S. in civil engineering from Michigan State University and four years' full-time engineering experience.
- **Ashley J. Baldes** joined ROWE as a graduate engineer in the Design Division in the Flint, MI corporate office. She has a B.S. in environmental engineering from Michigan Technological University and experience as a co-op for the Michigan Department of Transportation.
- **Zachary P. Case** joined ROWE as a graduate surveyor in the Survey Department in the Flint, MI corporate office. He has a B.S. in surveying engineering from Ferris State University and experience as an intern for ROWE and the Michigan Department of Transportation.
- **Timothy E. Cleaver** joined ROWE as a senior engineering technician in the Construction Services Division in the Flint, MI corporate office. He has 26 years' engineering technician experience for a Michigan road commission.
- **Taylor J. Cook** joined ROWE as a graduate engineer in the Design Division in the Flint, MI corporate office. He has a B.S. in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University and construction observation experience as a co-op for other engineering firms.
- **Kyle T. Isaacson** joined ROWE as a project engineer in the Design Division in the Flint, MI corporate office. He has a B.S. in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University and five years' civil engineering experience.
- **Shane R. Snyder** joined ROWE as a graduate engineer in the Design Division in the Flint, MI corporate office. He has a B.S. in civil engineering from Michigan State University and experience as a co-op for the Michigan Department of Transportation and a road commission.
- **Gregory D. Strand** joined ROWE as an engineering technician I in the Construction Services Division in the Mt. Pleasant, MI office. He has a master's degree in administrative sciences and a B.S. in criminal justice from Saginaw Valley State University.

- **Dirk M. Welte** joined ROWE as an engineering technician II in the Construction Services Division in the Flint, MI corporate office. He has more than 20 years' construction experience.

Promotions Announced

Survey Department

- **Cole A. Sorenson, PS**, from assistant project surveyor to project surveyor.
- **Dane O. Clark** from survey field technician III to survey crew chief.
- **Amanda R. Neville** from survey field technician I to survey field technician II.

Engineering Divisions

- **Louis P. Fleury, PE**, from project manager to senior project manager.
- **Michael A. Royalty, PE**, from project manager to senior project manager.
- **Kent A. Edwards, PE**, from senior project engineer to project manager.
- **Amanda N. Hemeyer, PE**, from senior project engineer to project manager.
- **Dean A. Oparka, PE**, from senior project engineer to project manager.
- **Matthew J. Seitz, PE, PTOE**, from senior project engineer to project manager.
- **Sarah M. Whiting, PE**, from project engineer to senior project engineer.
- **James G. Brock** from graduate engineer to assistant project engineer.
- **Jesse F. Kenniston** from graduate engineer to assistant project engineer.
- **Dakota P. Roberts, EIT**, from graduate engineer to assistant project engineer.
- **Douglas J. Robert** from engineering technician II to engineering technician III.
- **Robin L. Barrie** from engineering technician I to engineering technician II.

Staff Member Honored with Project Award

The International Right of Way Association recognized the work of **Survey Office Technician II Jason H. Plummer, CST I**, recently by selecting the map he made for the Consumers Energy Company's Macomb Junction project for an award in the oil and gas category. This is the ninth IRWA map competition award Jason has received since 2011.

For questions about these projects and more, contact Director of Corporate Marketing Jack Wheatley, PE, at JWheatley@rowepsc.com or (800) 837-9131.

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Grayling: 2342 Industrial St., Ste. A, Grayling, MI 49738, (989) 348-4036
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