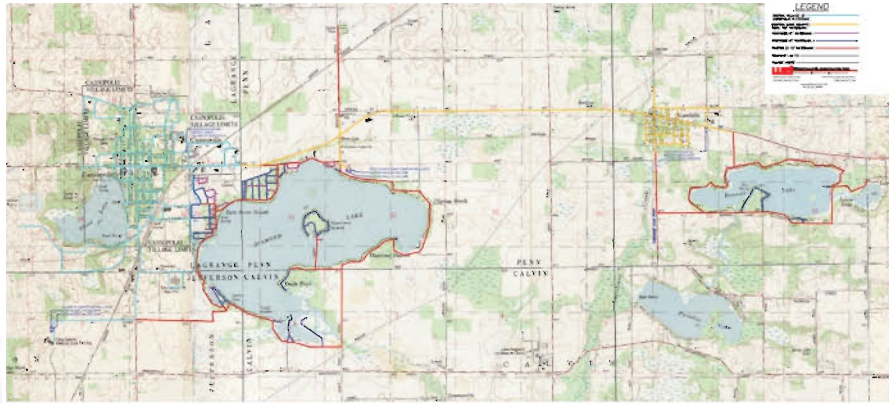


Making the News

In a recent national press release announcing funding for water and environmental projects in eighteen states, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack used the Cass County Regional Water System project as an example of how the investment

will advance the Obama Administration's economic recovery goals of improving infrastructure and creating jobs; and protect public health and the environment by improving water quality and public sanitation services.



The Cass County Regional Water System will receive a \$10.5 million loan through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and with regular USDA Water and Environmental Program funds to provide reliable water service and improved fire protection for residents and businesses in four townships. The project will extend water service and fire protection to over 1,800 dwelling units. This funding will provide fire hydrants and safe water, and will create or save an estimated 160 jobs. ■

Water Tower Perspective

Recently the WAI staff had a different perspective presented to us in our backyard. The landmark Ausco water tower, long past its usefulness, was torn down while we gaped, photographed and video recorded the event. We are so accustomed to designing and overseeing the building of water towers that this event made us pause out of respect. Built in 1954 to serve the former owner, Clark Equipment Company, the water tower was shut down in 2006 when our neighbor, Ausco Products, connected directly to the water system. ■



Ribbon cutting ceremony at WAI's new office in Portage, MI

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Water Tower Perspective

Trailways and pathways are becoming a hot topic in many communities. According to Michigan Trails and Green Alliance, a non-profit organization that facilitates the creation of an interconnected statewide system of trails, Michigan currently ranks second in the nation for the most trailway mileage.

Local people and visitors alike enjoy trailways and pathways for a safer and easier venue to walk to work or for recreational use away from vehicular traffic and noise. Additional benefits include protecting scenic areas while making them available to enjoy and preserving historic resources such as railroad depots and bridges along abandoned railroads.

So what is the difference between a trailway and a pathway? Pathways are typically for pedestrians and non-motorized activities such as bicycling or horseback riding. Trailways can be multi-use recreation and include motorized transportation such as snowmobiles.

One such scenic pathway is being constructed along M-62, a busy roadway connecting Cassopolis and Dowagiac, MI. The community has been concerned for many years about the high amount of traffic moving fairly fast around a curve located near four county buildings. An eight-foot pathway along the roadway will make it safer for non-motorized traffic such as walkers, bicyclists, and wheelchair bound pedestrians to get to these facilities and services. Most of the traffic on the pathway will consist of employees transporting documents by foot in-between the various agencies as opposed to using vehicles. The project is being funded utilizing CMAQ funds

through the Michigan Department of Transportation via the Cass County Road Commission.

Schools are utilizing pathways and sidewalks to make it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. Not only is it a great way for kids to get exercise on a daily basis but it cuts down on traffic near schools and air pollution. The Safe Routes to School (SR2S) initiative is internationally driven and federally mandated in the US. Michigan has dedicated dollars to help with infrastructure improvements and non infrastructure activities to encourage and enable students to walk and bicycle to school.



Though this grant process requires considerable coordination among school and community leaders, as well as constituents and students, the benefits of a healthier and more vibrant community with upgraded sidewalk infrastructure is well worth the effort. Just ask the Watervliet community. They recently completed \$92k worth of grant funded sidewalk improvements and pedestrian signage around several of the community's schools, as well as additional funding for community outreach and education of the program. The sidewalks look great and are promoting students to get out and be active on the safer routes created by the SR2S.

If you are thinking about a new path in your community, WAI can help update your master plan and help to find the best funding opportunity available. ■ Contact: Tom Deneau, P.E.



Fulfilling Daycare Needs

There is a need for more day care providers in Southwest Michigan. Fortunately for families in the New Buffalo area Journey Lutheran Church, led by Pastor Randy Johnson, has begun plans for a new facility capable of caring for over 50 infants and children. The center will be conveniently located at the US-12, Red Arrow Highway intersection on the north end of town. The building will be constructed next to the existing sanctuary and office building at 1615 East Buffalo Road.

The center will be fully licensed by the Michigan Department of Human Services. Parents will take comfort in knowing their little ones are in the care of a licensed center run by an established religious organization known for their dedication to the welfare of young children. Enrollment will be open to the general public. Journey intends to obtain their state license and place the facility in operation in early 2011.

WAI is providing architecture, engineering, and surveying services. Preliminary design concepts have been completed. According to Pastor Johnson, "We chose Wightman based on an expertly done proposal that covered all of our needs. We also based our decision on a very good word of mouth rating. All the people we spoke with said that Wightman does excellent work and completes their work on time."

The approval process for a day care facility is very comprehensive and takes quite some time to complete. The plans must be reviewed by not only the local authorities but also the State Department of Health and Human Services, The Bureau of Construction Codes, and the County Health Department.

There are very specific requirements for each age group served by the facility. For example, infants require more space than preschoolers. Preschoolers require more staff than school age



children but not as much as infants. The building must be able to meet the needs of all these age groups and must be flexible enough to account for shifting group sizes. Each time a child has a birthday it can affect the staffing ratios and square footage of the spaces required to care for that child.

As more and more parents return to the workplace the need for child care providers will continue to rise. Journey Lutheran is staying ahead of this trend. If you are considering expanding your day care operation, or are in the initial planning stages of a new one, WAI has the experience to help you. ■

Contact: Andrew Mollison, A.I.A.

Power of Water

As a result of record rainfall in September of 2008, the City of New Buffalo's transient marina seawall was undermined and two large sinkholes developed. WAI performed an engineering study which concluded that scour erosion caused by high velocity flows had undercut the concrete seawall panels in several areas allowing soil to flow under the seawall



resulting in sink holes. Our solution was placing a new deeper sheetpile seawall in front of the existing seawall along with improving the surface drainage.

Although the city was feeling the effects of the economy, they proactively had repairs made to the entire seawall instead of doing the work piecemeal and risking future sinkholes. The city awarded the work to Kaser-Spraker Construction, Inc. who implemented our design this spring in time for the summer boating season. Visiting boaters are once again enjoying the many attractions of this unique destination community. ■

Contact: Oscar Loveless, P.E.

Mother Earth's Heartbeat

The rich culture of Native American people is never more magnificent than at the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians annual Pow Wow. Native American drum groups and dancers meet, sing and renew and strengthen their traditions dressed in native regalia for a weekend long celebration.

Every year the Tribe built a temporary drummer's arbor from cedar poles lashed together with rope in the center of the gathering grounds. The pole located in the center of the arbor represents an extension of the earth reaching upward through the roof carrying the smoke from the burning cedar bows towards the heavens. Drum teams stand under the arbor and play while the dancers perform in the center ring of the gathering grounds. Spectators watch from the grand stand that forms the outer ring. The drum beats represent the heartbeat of Mother Earth and the dancers are honoring her as they circulate around the arbor.

The Band decided to construct a permanent arbor to embody the culture of the Band and to improve the structure for the growing event. More and more drum groups were attending the Pow Wow so there was a need to increase the size. Several Pow Wows are held in the heat of the late summer, so the new arbor needed to provide more ventilation to keep the

drummers cool. More drummers brought the need to incorporate materials to dampen the echo of the drums to improve the acoustics. The challenge was given to Charles Wright, WAI architect to design and construct the new drummer's arbor in less than eight weeks.

The eight sided arbor was increased to a diameter of 40' which prevented the use of the existing poles. The center of the roof was left open to provide natural ventilation and an upper roof was added to protect the drummers from the elements. The echo from the deep drum beats and singing was dampened by the use of acoustical Tectum structural panels for the roof decking.

After considering various materials, cedar and hand split cedar shakes were selected for their cultural significance. Cedar is one of the four sacred plants that provide spiritual strength. The arbor was built with structurally rated cedar timbers with a laminated 35' tall 12" diameter tapered octagonal center pole. The rafters were extended to allow the Band to place

cedar bows around the perimeter of the arbor roof during the Pow Wow. The new drummer's arbor is symbolic of the growing membership of the Band and their commitment to restoring the culture of their people.

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians next Pow Wow is the Leonard J. Pamp Memorial, August 14th and 15th and then they will celebrate their 25th Annual Kee-Boon-Mein-Kaa Pow Wow, on Labor Day Weekend, September 4 & 5 at Rodgers Lake in Dowagiac, Michigan. ■

Contact: Charles Wright, A.I.A.



Great Things are Happening People



Peter Siglow, P.E. recently joined the WAI staff as a project civil engineer. Peter will provide road design, sanitary sewer system design, treatment plant design, storm sewer design, right-of-way plans, site design, water system design, and construction inspection. He has a B.S. in Civil Engineering and in Environmental Engineering from Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI. Peter is licensed in Michigan, Indiana, Georgia, Minnesota, and Missouri.



Hannah Weber is a summer intern from Notre Dame. She is working in the Architecture department as an AutoCAD designer. Hannah graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B. A. degree in Architecture from Judson University, Elgin, IL. She is a native of Southwestern Michigan and graduated from Lakeshore High School in Stevensville, MI.



Matt Sinkovitz, a recent civil engineering graduate from Western Michigan University, is joining WAI as an E.I.T. Matt started earlier this summer as a construction inspector. During his senior year Matt worked on the Senior Capstone Design Project sponsored by WAI. His previous experience includes an internship with Nicholson Construction Company as a field engineer and as a co-op construction inspector for MDOT.



Alan Smaka just completed representing WAI as the project sponsor for the Western Michigan University Senior Capstone Design project for the engineering department. The design team of college seniors were given a hands-on assignment to design a wastewater collection system around Fish Lake located in Cass County, MI. Their project included completing a plan and profile layout of gravity sanitary sewers and force main, completing the necessary permit applications and design calculations, and the appropriate sizing and grading of the Fish Lake sewer system. The WMU project team included: Nathan Herberg, Kevin Phillips, Matt Sinkovitz and Jeff Terry.



Jeff Bradford recently was a finalist for the Ernestine M. Racine Community Leadership Award sponsored by 1st Source Bank. Jeff was nominated by WAI for his volunteer service to our community. Jeff is currently the Commissioner or head of the St. Joseph Baseball Association that is a local league that teaches the values of team playing and the sport to 225-250 kids ranging in ages from five to twelve. He also coaches his son's team. Jeff helps Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 568 at Stevensville American Legion Post 568 to raise money to support Veteran services such as the Fisher House Project, Blue Star Mothers, and The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.



Sheila Miller recently completed her first ever round of golf at the Pokagon Veteran's Golf Outing as a member of the WAI team. In her golfing debut she won the Women's Closest to the Hole contest. Butch Starrett, Vice Chairman of the Pokagon Band presented Sheila her award.



We are sad to report the loss of a very good friend, **Mike Kiewel**. Mike ended his 29-year engineering career at WAI as a municipal engineer responsible for water and sanitary sewer systems, storm sewers, roads and other projects. His smiling face, enthusiasm for ND football and caring nature for his co-workers will be greatly missed. ■

Great Things are Happening Projects

Cass County Board of Public Works
USDA Rural Development funded water project to serve Diamond and Donnell Lakes in Calvin, Jefferson, La Grange, and Penn Townships. Includes 25 miles of 12", 8" and 6" watermain. Estimated cost \$10.5 million.

City of Bridgman
USDA Rural Development funded water project including water main replacement and looping water main, water intake replacement in Lake Michigan, hydrant replacement, security upgrades and water plant office addition.

Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi
Design and construction administration for the development of a Type 1 water supply system.

Village of Three Oaks
Water system improvements funded by USDA-RD with interest rate assistance from the Build America Bond Program.

Berrien County Drain Commission
Engineering, surveying, and easement acquisition for S. Watervliet drain.

City of Watervliet
E. St. Joseph Road improvements project funded by MDOT Local Agency.

Village of Baroda
Streetscape design for First to Church Streets to Lemon Creek Road.

City of Springfield
Design & construction engineering for reconstruction and adding storm sewer on New Moon Terrace.

City of New Buffalo
Whittaker St. Bridge funding application 2010

City of Portage
Kilgore Road Bridge funding application 2010

Private Residence
Driveway bridge design

Private Residence
Seawall evaluation and design

Village of Paw Paw
WWTP lagoon pond erosion evaluation

Four Winds Casino Resort
Renovation of Credit and Host Services

Southwestern Michigan College
Site plan for Cherry Grove Road Entrance Drive improvements.

Oronoko Township
Application for USDA funding of water and sewer improvements.