



Connexions

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ROWE Helps Communities Meet Tight Funding Deadlines

This summer, ROWE worked swiftly to ensure three Michigan communities met tight funding deadlines for safety improvements and traffic signal design projects. ROWE also helped these Safety Grant and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds go farther.

To receive federal funds through the Michigan Department of Transportation's Local Agency Programs this year, ROWE had to complete plans by September 1. That meant when ROWE was hired for the projects in June, engineers had to complete the plans within a two-month time frame instead of the four to six months this work typically requires.

By meeting the deadline, a project to reconstruct the intersection of Grand River and Colby Lake roads near Laingsburg received \$400,000 instead of \$300,000. The extra funds will be used to construct the project in the summer of 2011.

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Day 1



Day 7

ROWE Brings Community Together with Playground

From design to fundraising, ROWE helped children have a common area to play together in Horry County, SC.

Filling approximately one acre of land on Carolina Forest Boulevard near the Plantation Lakes subdivision, Palmetto Adventure Land can accommodate 300 children and is the largest playground on the eastern South Carolina coast. It was the vision of Brent Taylor, Horry County Parks and Recreation director, to bring the community together. The playground was entirely built by volunteers, about 1,000 in all.

ROWE and subconsultant Leathers Associates assisted the Horry County Parks and Recreation Department with the design process, which included meeting with students from Ocean Bay and Carolina Forest elementary schools to collect their ideas for the nautical-themed equipment and layout. ROWE also worked with the county on incorporating the playground within an overall design for a 35-acre complex that will include a library and recreation center.

Funding for the project began with a grant from Sen. Luke Rankin. ROWE then solicited contributions and made presentations requesting donations from organizations and businesses. ROWE coordinated the efforts of project champions, who were in charge of such groups as child care and food, and worked hand-in-hand with the county to make sure everything was in place for the week-long build.

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➤ *Tight Funding Deadlines... continued from page 1.*

The City of Mt. Morris received CMAQ funds from MDOT to install a new wireless interconnect system for its four traffic signals to “communicate” better with each other so vehicles can move more smoothly through the intersections. Cross-span traffic signals will be replaced with box spans, improving the visibility of traffic signals and therefore safety.

With help from ROWE in completing an application for CMAQ funds, the City of Lapeer received money to complete a similar project. Box-span traffic signals will replace existing cross spans at the West Genesee Street / DeMille Boulevard and DeMille / McCormick Drive intersections. Three intersections along the DeMille corridor will be upgraded to include a wireless interconnect system.

The Cities of Mt. Morris and Lapeer received more funding than anticipated and will use the extra money for construction engineering. Construction is slated to begin in June 2011.

Retirements

ROWE announces the retirement of two key staff members after many years of much appreciated dedication and service.



Bonno

Long

Following more than 18 years with the Genesee County Road Commission, Thomas C. Long, PE joined ROWE in 1996. In January 2001, he was named a principal and manager of the transportation division. Tom retired in September and has been fully dedicated to his golf game ever since.

After 13 years at ROWE, and nearly 40 years in the surveying profession, Deputy Director of Surveying Gilbert G. Bonno, PS has also retired. He joined ROWE in 1997, was promoted to his deputy director position in 2000, and was named an associate (owner) in 2001.

Although everyone at ROWE will miss seeing them daily, they have both agreed to help out with projects so their expertise and experience can continue to assist our clients on an as-needed basis. They have worked hard their entire career and have earned the opportunity to enjoy more time with their family. We extend to them our gratitude and best wishes.

ROWE a Factor in \$1 Million Savings

Due to ROWE’s innovative design, and low construction bids, the City of Lapeer saved more than \$1 million on projects to improve its wastewater collection system and renovate its wastewater treatment plant.



ROWE worked closely with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment to get the two projects approved and permitted. The projects were budgeted for \$10 million from the State Revolving Fund, but the final cost will be less than \$9 million.

The plant and portions of the collection system are overburdened during heavy rainfalls and the proposed improvements will help alleviate the problem. Another benefit is with the predicted population growth, the plant and collection system will now be poised to handle some increase in flow. The work is slated for completion in 2011.

ROWE Names New Principals

Jack T. Wheatley, PE and Leanne H. Panduren, PE have been promoted to principals at ROWE. They join a team of six principals.



Wheatley

Panduren

Wheatley joined ROWE in 1989, was named an associate in 1995, and promoted to senior project manager in 2006. He is now principal / director of corporate marketing.

He is active in several professional organizations, including the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers and American Public Works Association. He is currently a trustee on the Flushing Community Schools Board of Education and secretary of the Flint River Corridor Alliance Board.

Wheatley earned a B.S. degree in civil engineering from Michigan State University in 1989 and is a licensed professional engineer in Michigan.

Panduren joined ROWE as an assistant project engineer in 1994. She was promoted to project manager and named an associate in 2000, and named manager of the Civil Utilities Division in 2006. She is now principal / civil utilities division manager.

She is the treasurer of the National Society of Professional Engineers, president of the Lapeer Family Literacy Center Board of Directors, and a member of the Thumbworks Workforce Investment Development Board of Directors.

Panduren earned a B.S. degree in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University in 1993 and is a licensed professional engineer in Michigan and South Carolina.



Volunteers of all ages assembled the playground, including ROWE's Doug Schultz, LLA (top left) and Brad Jordan, project development specialist (in green, top right).

➤ Community Playground... continued from page 1.

Due to depth limitations caused by subsurface conditions, it was a challenge to design shade structures for the playground equipment that would withstand hurricane force winds, but ROWE successfully accomplished the task. Other project challenges included staking more than 400 points for play equipment posts. ROWE's landscape architecture staff coordinated the assembly of a mosaic seascape after securing a donation for this major entry element with an estimated value of more than \$100,000. ROWE also helped the county put together packages for future pavilion locations and rubberized safety surfacing to assist with universal accessibility through the site.

The result of the community-build is a truly unique playground with a 30-foot-high wall depicting a wave, a yellow submarine, a clamshell sandbox, and a climbing wall featuring a scene sketched by local high school students. ROWE staff was part of the project from the beginning and through each 13-hour day of the seven-day build. They worked alongside county parks staff, emergency services personnel, and the many other volunteers who made this project happen. Each day, there were groups of 20-150 volunteers working on the projects. Palmetto Adventure Land playground has allowed the design dreams of local children to become reality.

ROWE Plays Part in Gratiot County Wind Farm

ROWE engineers' skills are aiding in the creation of Michigan's largest wind farm.

In September, Invenergy Wind announced it has made lease agreements with more than 240 landowners in Gratiot County, Michigan through its affiliate, Gratiot County Wind LLC, and will break ground on a 30,000-acre wind farm this fall near Breckenridge, Michigan. This state-of-the-art wind farm will produce 200 MW of new wind energy, which has the capacity to power nearly 54,000 homes. The wind farm should be operational in late 2011.

ROWE was hired to complete:

- Turning radius analyses on all major road intersections shown on the Gratiot County construction traffic route plan, and designs for intersections needing upgrades to accommodate vehicles used during the project.
- Structural analyses on bridges and culverts along the proposed route plan.
- Field surveys of all overhead roadway obstructions based on the route plan, including a review of all access drive entrances at the main road.
- Design of typical wind turbine access road cross sections and entrance details.
- A pre- and post-project report of roadway conditions to outline any repairs needed to support construction activity, or repairs necessary as the result of construction activity.

ROWE is excited to be involved in another wind energy project – helping our environment and economy. In 2007, ROWE staff surveyed 28 separate sites in an 11-square-mile area of Huron County, Michigan in preparation of Michigan's first wind farm, the Harvest Wind Farm.



ROWE provided survey services for the Harvest Wind Farm, which has been in operation since 2008.

Staff Updates



Matonich

CEO Appointed to Natural Resources Commission

ROWE President and CEO John D. Matonich, PS has been appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (MNRC) for a three-year term.

The MNRC is a seven-member public body that establishes general policies for the Michigan

Department of Natural Resources.

Given his interest in the outdoors, as well as ROWE's expertise in a number of resource arenas, Matonich hopes to be a positive contributor to the diverse issues facing Michigan's natural resources.

Surveyors, Engineer Further Their Education

- Project Surveyor Aaron F. Leach, PLS earned a Professional Land Surveyor license in New York.
- Principal / Vice President, Special Services Division Manager Kent B. Alexander, PE earned a Professional Engineer license in Vermont.

- Survey Project Manager Henry B. Horton, PS recently passed the exam for a Professional Land Surveyor license in Indiana.

Staff Receive Promotions

- Eric N. Johnston, PE was promoted from senior project manager to transportation division manager.
- Jonathan H. Rick, PS, CFedS was promoted from assistant project surveyor to project surveyor.
- Three assistant project engineers were promoted to project engineer: Timothy M. Bradshaw, PE, Kevin P. Royston, PE, LEED® AP, and Matthew J. Seitz, PE.
- Four graduate engineers were promoted to assistant project engineers: Sarah Royce, Scott Saigeon, Jeremy Schrot, and Justin Westbrook.
- Jason R. Strong was promoted from engineering technician II to designer.

To receive newsletters via email, visit rowepsc.com or email newsletter@rowepsc.com.



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