

Foreman's Report March 10, 2012 thru April 10, 2012

There has been quite a bit accomplished during the past six weeks. The crew put away the snow plowing equipment, just so they scurry about getting a couple of plows back on for the snowstorm on the 16th. The partitions were put back up at the rec center, the engine swap completed in the 1990 pick-up, the new park attendant building is $\frac{3}{4}$ finished, signs have been replaced, asphalt cuts made for the culvert replacement project, benches and park decorations painted, the sanitary dump station has been repaired and turned on, all the bathrooms opened up, some equipment maintenance in preparation of the grading and construction season, ditch cleaning of tree debris, cleaning sidewalks, curbs and gutters, with many small odd jobs too. Besides me being gone for two weeks, others on the crew have been taking vacation days as well, since nothing has been really pressing.

We will be in a few training, safety and continuing education classes this month.

Dick is back to work, and I want to hire Merrill back as soon as spring gets here, or whatever it is called nowadays when the grass starts growing.

I have asked Patty to post Class I notices for culverts, fire rings and dust control.

I have met with Howard Dallin, and hope to be able to work out his concerns amicably, but it is going to require me filling out a Water Quality Certification application.

It seems that the chip sealing is going to be bid on by possibly up to four different companies, which is double of what I expected. I have been meeting with estimators from the various companies, and all have varying input on what is best for the island. I have instructed them to submit different bids if they wish to stray from the specs, as I believe the TB will accept the bid that is in the best interest of the island. It may be that I request time to review the bids before recommending the best bid for this work, and we would chose at the first May TB meeting. I have been told by three estimators they will be at the TB meeting on the 25th. At the regular TB meeting on the 24th I would like to take a couple of minutes to explain the process I have been through leading up to the bid opening, as to not take time at the bid opening, due to the fact the estimators will all be trying to catch the ghost boat back...which MIFL had graciously guaranteed.

I met with Emmer the other day to discuss the County doing the asphalt patches for us after we replace the culverts, since they are going to be here anyways doing some paving at the State Park. This will work out well for us. Also while they are here they are going to scale out the 5/8" aggregate we need for the park project, and then they will move their portion of the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ " gravel, and it will never become an issue. The County is going to repair the couple of bad draining spots on Big Bay Road at the intersection of Herring Street and across from the Norvado office.

Big Bay Town Park

The DNR Stormwater Permit is already in place and we are free to begin construction on the south/east side of Big Bay Road and the crew will begin some stumping and some rough in work for the new entrance and comfort station. The buildings will not be ready to place out on bids for a couple of weeks, as there as been some confusion between myself and CBE concerning exactly what the plans need to include. I think we have it worked out, but CBE is going to have to update the drawings to include more inclusive electrical and plumbing diagrams that can be signed of by the State, which I think is ultimately James Price.

As the TB has seen, the consultation meeting with the tribes is set for May 1st at the Bayfield Inn. To me it seems that the TB may want to try and establish the Tribal Relation Committee as sanctioned in the annual meeting, as I believe this Committee should be at this meeting as observers.

Jane Edwards has submitted the grant application to Otto Bremer Foundation. I have also asked LeeAnn Schaub to help me submit two more applications for the DNR Stewardship Program, one for an amendment for what we have already received to cover increased costs for the comfort station and picnic shelter and another for Phase II of the campground that is mostly for the electric installation in the new campground, but also covers the trails and bridge associated with the walk in campsites, some landscaping and engineering. I am also going to have LeeAnn re-do portions of the website, as we have received considerable questions about the park by people interested in a reservations, and most of these questions, if not all could be answered by the website. Basically the website needs be more about the park itself rather than Madeline Island.

We received word that the Plum Creek Foundation regretfully denied our grant application.

The Duluth/Superior Area Community Fund has informed us that our application meets all their criteria and will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees on April 25th for possible funding.

I will have or be very close to having submitted the application to the La Pointe Center by meeting time, as it is basically finished.

Reservations just keep picking up, and have started to take more and more of Dick's and mine time, and even quite a bit of Scott's when I was gone and Dick hadn't started yet. But fortunately Dick has started to get a good grasp of the system and computers and seems to be getting it under control. Somehow I was always under the impression that we had approved a new employee for BBTP to deal with the reservation system and Friday and Saturday check-ins, but in looking over the budget and minutes from the budget time it was even the opposite. I am not sure how that went down, and have asked Beth for her recollection, and she as well thought it had been discussed for additional help. But it is what it is, and we need another employee for the summer that is strictly dedicated to BBTP. This year and next, they can be busy doing work that will be grant reimbursable, and once the park is finished this person would stay in place for the reservation system, cleaning of bathrooms, garbage and selling wood, etc.

Respectfully Submitted

Keith Sowl
Town Foreman
Town of La Pointe