

# Redwood County Connection

Vol. 3, No. 1

The Official Newsletter of Redwood County

Fall Edition 2021

## Road and Bridge Projects

*Anthony Sellner, P.E.; County Engineer*

The Redwood County Highway Department has had a busy summer, both in construction and maintenance.

Our maintenance crews have installed over 40,000 tons of gravel on roadway surfaces and shoulders, almost double than a typical year. Our efforts were primarily focused in the south-west portions of Redwood County. We intend to focus re-graveling efforts in the south-east portion of Redwood County in 2022, and in the north half of Redwood County in 2023. Additional work completed this summer has included crack filling, pot-hole patching, ditch and bridge mowing, tree removal and various erosion control projects alongside our roads and bridges. Our team will begin preparing for winter in October by mixing salt and sand and hauling to various shop locations.



*CSAH 101 MN River Bridge on September 2, 2021*

has also been completed and both bridges are open to traffic. Our 19.5 miles of paving projects are all complete which included CSAH 1, from MN 67 to the south county line, CSAH 101 from the Minnesota River bridge to TH 19, and CSAH 101 from MN 67 to TH 71. Pending manufacture of box culverts, two additional bridges will be reconstructed in October, which includes Granite Rock Township Bridge on 230th Street and Sherman Township Bridge on 300th Street. Both locations will have new box culverts installed and construction is expected to last 3 weeks, pending weather.

revenue over these five years. The plan is intended to be flexible, recognizing road and bridge priorities may shift due to rapid changes in highway and bridge conditions, public input, goals, priorities and budget constraints. Despite the very large upcoming construction program, Redwood County still needs an additional 60 miles of roadway improvements and an additional 18 county and township bridges reconstructed within the next five years, of which has an unfunded value of \$30.6M dollars.

All of the work completed this year has been possible due to the diligent work of our small 24 person team at the highway department. Every single employee makes substantial contributions on a daily basis, whether it be hauling gravel, patching roadways, installing signs, repairing equipment, Accounting work or planning and inspecting construction projects. As the County Highway Engineer, I constantly remain impressed by the level of talent, dedication, ingenuity and professionalism that our team exhibits. If you ever have a question regarding our work at the highway department, please do not hesitate to call our office at (507) 637-4056.



*Redwood County Highway Department crews re-gravelling shoulders in August 2021*

Construction work is nearly complete on the CSAH 101 Minnesota River bridge. The CR 68 bridge reconstruction just east of CSAH 13

The Highway Department completed extensive public involvement on the Road and Bridge 5 Year Plan, which included 1 township meeting, four City Council workshops and an additional 3 County Board workshops over a 4 month period. The plan was approved on July 6 and is available on our website under Information – “5 Year Road and Bridge Plan 2022-2026”. We have 92 miles of roadway rehabilitation and 29 bridge projects planned utilizing \$47.4M in state and federal funds, state aid highway bonds, sales tax and wheelage tax

# Start Your 2022 Building Project Permitting Process!

*Nick Brozek, Planning and Zoning Supervisor*

County permits for general construction are valid for 12 months from the date they are issued. We encourage you to apply for your permit this winter for projects to be completed during the 2022 construction season.

Permits are required for any structure over 100 square feet in area. This includes decks and concrete slabs, signs over 6 square feet in sign face area and privacy fences.

Be prepared to provide building dimensions (including the height to the top of the roof, or tallest point of the structure), building location, well and septic location, and estimated project cost. For new house projects and home additions, floor plans are also required.

Larger projects such as feedlots, solar farms, gravel pits, some commercial and industrial uses may also need a Conditional Use Permit. This type of permitting process takes up to 45 to 60 days so it is even more important to start early as a Conditional Use Permit is valid for 18 months. The permit remains valid as long as substantial construction begins, and continues, within that time.



The Environmental Office staff are happy to answer your questions and assist you in the permitting process so you can be ready to go as soon as the weather clears and the ground is dry. Stop in the Environmental Office or call (507) 637-4023 to get ahead of the Spring rush.

**United Community Action Partnership**  
 Helping People. Changing Lives.

Funding available for residents in Redwood Falls and Lamberton

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Eligible homeowners will be able to use UCAP's Small Cities Development Program to make necessary repairs and improvements to their homes.

The average grant amount is \$25,000 and can cover up to 80% of the project total costs.

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For questions on eligibility criteria or to get an application visit [www.unitedcapmn.org](http://www.unitedcapmn.org) or call 507-537-1416 ext. 2134

EO/AA/ADA

**INTRODUCING THE 2021-22 COHORT**

**LINC**  
 Redwood County  
 • LEAD • INSPIRE • NETWORK • CREATE •

[lincredwoodcounty.org](http://lincredwoodcounty.org)

*The Redwood County EDA is a financial supporter of LINC Redwood County*

....nature awaits your arrival

PLUM CREEK PARK  
 WALNUT GROVE, MN

[plumcreekpark.com](http://plumcreekpark.com)

The EDA recently published a quality of life video featuring County assets, industries & community members!

YouTube

**"Home is Redwood County"**

watch the video on our home page

[redwoodcounty-mn.us](http://redwoodcounty-mn.us)

# FEMA Funding for Redwood County Ditch Repairs

*Scott Wold, Environmental Director*

For most of the 2021 growing seasons Redwood County has been begging for rain. However, looking back to 2018 and 2019, the County was inundated with excessive precipitation. Both years led to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Disaster Declarations. This designation allows public entities to request funding assistance for the repair of public infrastructure.

The Redwood County Environmental Office is responsible for the maintenance and management of the County 103E Public Drainage Systems. This includes more than 500 miles of open drainage ditch and over 1,200 miles of drainage tile. The flooding events in 2018 and 2019 led to extensive damage to our open ditch drainage systems. Immediately following the rain event in 2018, our Ditch Inspector, Brent Lang, started documenting and surveying the damages from the event. To qualify for FEMA assistance funding every single damage location needs to be recorded which includes pictures,

GPS coordinates, and detailed damage dimensions. We estimated the repair costs from the 2018 event at +/- \$2.1M. Due to disagreements with FEMA on the cost to conduct repairs, we had to appeal the initial grant award. While our appeal was successful, we are currently waiting to sign the final paperwork.

While working on the 2018 appeal documentation, the worst-case scenario happened and we had another disaster in the Spring of 2019. Once again, our Ditch Inspector was back in the field surveying in detail each of the damage locations. If you look at some of our drainage ditches you will see 2 different colored flags along the ditch, orange for 2018 damage locations and blue for 2019 damage locations. While the 2018 event was massive, the 2019 event was even bigger! Redwood County's grant award for the 2019 event has been awarded in the amount of \$8,344,591. In addition to this award, we received an additional \$417,229 to pay for staff time while working on the disaster repairs.

Please be patient as we mobilize and complete all the necessary repairs. Some repairs have been on hold since the day of the event to ensure that we secured



*Repair work has begun, but sloughing ditch banks can be seen past the excavator.*

FEMA assistance dollars to complete them. Most repairs are simply just waiting in the docket as we work through the thousands of repair locations and complete them in the most cost-effective manner. If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Office at (507) 637-4023, or at [Environmental@co.redwood.mn.us](mailto:Environmental@co.redwood.mn.us).



*Example of a completed rip-rap job on an outside curve of a ditch bank.*



*Repair work completed on the left side of the ditch bank. Material has been removed from the ditch and the banks have been hard armored.*

# VA Health Care Overview

*Dustin Hunter, Redwood County Veterans Service Officer*

## Basic Eligibility for VA Health Care:

If you served in the active military, naval or air service and are separated under any condition other than dishonorable, you may qualify for VA health care benefits. Current and former members of the Reserves or National Guard who were called to active duty (other than for training only) by a federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty also may be eligible for VA health care.

## Minimum Duty Requirements:

Most Veterans who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to Veterans who were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, were discharged for a hardship or received an "early out." Since there are a number of other exceptions to the minimum duty requirements, VA encourages all Veterans to apply to determine their enrollment eligibility.

## Getting Enrolled:

Once the Veteran has met the minimum duty requirements (as outlined above), the VA Health Care system determines if you are service connected and if not, your household income eligibility.

## How do I enroll?

- 1) Contact Dustin Hunter, Veterans Service Officer for completion of the VA application VA 10-10EZ or
- 2) Call VA Health Benefits toll-free help line at 1-877-222-VETS (8387) and visit [www.va.gov/healthbenefits](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits)

## What if I have ER/Hospital visit?

Veterans must be actively enrolled in the VA Health Care system and have completed their yearly physical with the VA. Please note the following requirements:

- 1) VA needs to be notified within 72 hours of being admitted into the Hospital or ER. Request the ER nurse to contact the VA at (844) 724-7842 or you can go online to provide notice at [VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov](mailto:VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov)
- 2) VA needs to be contacted every 24 hours after the initial contact for availability in a VA facility. If this is not done the Veteran may be billed. This is not commonly known, and would not assume medical staff are completing this.

## How do I get medical help at home?

To receive VA Healthcare System assistance, a Veteran must work with their VA Health Care System Primary Care Doctor. The following are the most common items:

- In home nursing care
- Medical equipment: wheelchairs,

walkers, shower or bathroom equipment

- Community Care: being able to get medical procedures done closer to the Veterans home instead of at the VA due to availability and distance.

## If a Veteran is enrolled in the VA Health Care, can he/she drop their private supplemental insurance plan to cover their medical expenses?

Absolutely not! The VA is a health care system, not a health insurance company. This also means Veterans who are 100% service connected, are not always covered 100% by the VA Health Care System for emergency care received outside of the VA.

If you are a Veteran or you are a family member, with any questions please contact the Redwood County Veterans Service Office Monday - Friday, 8 am to 12 pm, and 1 pm to 4:30 pm. Check out our recent video on our website!

## *Dustin Hunter, Redwood County Veterans Service Officer*

Redwood County Government Center  
403 South Mill Street  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Email: [veterans@co.redwood.mn.us](mailto:veterans@co.redwood.mn.us)

Phone: (507) 637-4034

Website: [redwoodcounty-mn.us/departments/veterans-services](http://redwoodcounty-mn.us/departments/veterans-services)

## VETERAN INDICATOR OPTION

Minnesota Veterans can now add a "Veteran" indicator on the front of their Driver's License. To place veteran's status on the license, a veteran needs their DD-214. This is the only form or identification that can be used at this time to get the indicator put on the license. The veteran indication is there to show the person is a veteran and the ID then may be used at businesses for veteran discounts. If a veteran does not have this indication status on their license, it does not affect any of their VA benefits or anything else.



# Broadband Update from the EDA

*Briana Mumme,  
Economic Development Coordinator*

Broadband plays an essential role in the growth of rural Minnesota communities. Businesses need it to connect to customers, students need it to participate fully in their education, and we all need it to access information and resources that impact our everyday lives. But the benefits of being connected are not yet shared by all Minnesotans -- and there are a number of reasons why. Redwood County currently ranks number 87 out of 87 counties to access a minimum speed of 25 mbps download and 3 mbps upload speeds. In an effort to work towards increasing access, Redwood County EDA has invested in hosting a Fellow, Patrick Garry, through the Lead for America, American Connection Corps program to serve as the Redwood County Broadband Coordinator over the next two years. During the next two years, Patrick and the Redwood County EDA will focus on developing a broadband needs assessment, identify service area gaps, develop public awareness to advocate for broadband investment to the County, and seek state, federal and local funding to support broadband investment. To achieve these goals, a number of activities will need to take place. Patrick, Briana and a team of 8 community members will participate in the Blandin Community Broadband Resource: Accelerate Program which provides broadband technical assistance to counties with the greatest need; host meetings with internet service providers, businesses, school districts, industry leaders, agricultural producers,

medical facilities, and cities and townships; research case studies to learn best practices; partner with the Minnesota Office of Broadband to collect data and maps; and much more. The Redwood County EDA appreciates the financial investment from the Blandin Foundation and the Southwest Initiative Foundation in hosting Fellow, Patrick Garry. Interested in learning more? Contact Patrick at (507) 637-1362 or [patrick\\_g@co.redwood.mn.us](mailto:patrick_g@co.redwood.mn.us).



*Lead for Minnesota Board Member, Bruce Tiffany of Tiffany Farms and Fellow, Patrick Garry, Redwood County Broadband Coordinator*




**SUBSCRIBE**

Redwood County's YouTube Channel

[redwoodcounty-mn.us](http://redwoodcounty-mn.us)

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[redwoodcounty-mn.us](http://redwoodcounty-mn.us)



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Redwood County

# Update

## FROM THE LICENSE CENTER

### **TABS & TRANSFERS**

Current Proof of Insurance must be provided at the time of registration renewals for all vehicles, including title transfers for vehicles. Utilize the contactless drive thru option for all tab renewals.

### **REAL ID & ADDRESS CHANGE**

If you have a REAL ID & have moved to another MN address, you will need to reapply for a duplicate REAL ID. You'll need to provide two proofs of residency.

### **ID REQUIREMENT DATE CHANGE FOR FLYING IN THE U.S.**

Effective May 3, 2023, air travelers 18 yrs or older will need a REAL ID, enhanced driver's license, or passport to fly within the U.S.

### **DNR CHANGES FOR COMBO FISHING LICENSE**

Married couples interested in purchasing a combination angling or hunting license, both must present in person at the time of purchase.

### **REAL ID & ENHANCED LICENSE REQUIRE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS**

For a complete list of required documents for each ID visit [dvs.dps.mn.gov](https://dvs.dps.mn.gov) or contact us at (507) 637-4029

### **DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REAL ID, STANDARD DRIVER'S LICENSE & ENHANCED LICENSE**

- Standard License: driver's license
- REAL ID: driver's license + Federally compliant to fly within the U.S.
- Enhanced License: driver's license + Federally compliant to fly within the U.S. + crossing the border of Mexico & Canada.

### **LICENSE CENTER HOURS**

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### **LEARN MORE**

[redwoodcounty.mn.us/departments/license-center](https://redwoodcounty.mn.us/departments/license-center)

just a  
reminder!



**REAL ESTATE/  
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY  
TAXES DUE  
OCTOBER 15, 2021**

**AGRICULTURAL  
TAXES DUE  
NOVEMBER 15, 2021**

### **PAYMENT OPTIONS**

**In-Person:** Redwood County Government Center Auditor/Treasurer  
403 South Mill Street, Redwood Falls

**Mail:** Redwood County Government Center  
P.O. Box 130, Redwood Falls, MN 56283

**Drop Box:** located on the north side of the Government Center

**Online:** [redwoodcounty-mn.us/departments/auditor-treasurer](https://redwoodcounty-mn.us/departments/auditor-treasurer)

Redwood County Auditor/Treasurer Office  
(507) 637-4013 Monday - Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm

### **REDWOOD COUNTY TAX FORFEITED SALE**



Parcels of land forfeited to the state for non-payment of taxes, which have been classified and appraised as provided by law. Sale will be governed, as to terms, by the resolution of the County Board of Commissioners.



October 26, 2021 at 9 a.m.



Redwood County Government Center  
*Commissioners Board Room*  
403 South Mill Street, Redwood Falls



Open to the public



[redwoodcounty-mn.us](https://redwoodcounty-mn.us)



Redwood County  
Auditor/Treasurer (507) 637-4013





# Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District

## OUR MISSION:

The mission of the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District is to educate and assist the citizens of Redwood County to efficiently and economically manage the soil and water resources of the county for present and future generations.

## SERVICES AVAILABLE

### CONSERVATION PROGRAMMING

Redwood SWCD professionals are available to assist landowners and producers in Redwood County to identify and develop solutions for any natural resource conservation concerns. Our team will work with you to develop solutions and achieve your conservation goals!

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Redwood SWCD is available to help with all of your conservation needs, via consultations or full start-to-finish project management. We work with you to evaluate your situation and develop an effective conservation plan to implement yourself or with our support.

### EDUCATION

Education is key to implementing conservation on the landscape. Much of the education we provide falls under the umbrella of soil health, water quality, and conservation land management. Through field days, workshops, trainings, demonstrations and tours we share up-to-date information, provide technical assistance and initiate discussions about issues which affect conversation in the County.

### CONSERVATION INITIATIVES TO FIT YOUR NEEDS & GOALS:

- Cover Crops
- Erosion Control
- Nutrient Management
- Pest and Weed Control
- Energy Conservation
- Land Restoration
- MN Ag Water Quality Certification
- AgBMP Loans
- and more!



**REDWOOD**  
SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



(507) 637-2427



redwoodswcd.org



1241 East Bridge Street Suite C  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

# Local Postal Customer

## Contacts

Administration	637-4016
Assessor	637-4008
Attorney Office	637-4010
Auditor/Treasurer	637-4013
Court Administration	616-4800
Economic Dev.	637-1122
Emergency Mgmt.	637-4035
Environmental	637-4023
Extension	637-4025
Highway Dept.	637-4056
Human Services	637-4050
License Center	637-4029
Public Health	637-4041
Probation Office	637-4047
RRRSWA	637-1800
Recorder	637-4032
Restorative Justice	637-1139
Sheriff's Office	637-4036
Veteran's Office	637-4034



### Commissioners

Jim Salfer	342-2431
Dennis Groebner	692-2235
Bob VanHee	616-1000
Dave Forkrud	938-4269
Rick Wakefield	859-2369

## Redwood County Recycling

### Curbside Recycling:

A detailed recycling schedule can be found on the website at:  
[renvillecountymn.com/services/RRMRF/index.php](http://renvillecountymn.com/services/RRMRF/index.php)

### Household Hazardous Waste (HHW):

Household products that can present a hazard to our health and our environment when not properly used, stored, and disposed of, are considered Household Hazardous Waste. The Redwood County HHW Facility accepts hazardous materials from both Redwood and Renville County residents for NO CHARGE.

For more information about acceptable items and drop off schedule go to:  
<https://www.renvillecountymn.com/services/RRMRF/index.php>

## Need to dispose of old Holiday\* Lights?

The Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority has drop off sites located throughout Redwood County to help you recycle them:

Tersteeg's Store	Wabasso City Office Building
Wanda State Bank	Morgan City Office Building
Runnings Store	Belview City Office Building
Redwood Falls City Office Building	Walnut Grove City Office Building

Recycling Facility in Redwood Falls\*\*

\*\*Please do NOT put them in your recycling cart or rural recycling collection box

\*Holiday lights can include decorative string lights from the following holidays (and more!):

- ♦ Valentines Day   ♦ Easter   ♦ Halloween   ♦ Christmas
- ♦ St. Patrick's Day   ♦ Independence Day   ♦ Thanksgiving

The following holiday items are NOT recyclable through our program:

- ♦ Wreaths   ♦ Wire lawn decorations (deer, snowmen, etc.)
- ♦ Christmas trees   ♦ Jack-o-lanterns (real OR artificial)

Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority:

**507-637-1800**  
**OR**  
**320-523-8002**

