

County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

**March 20th, 2013
Wednesday**

**First Day of Spring
Vernal Equinox**

Spring begins with the vernal equinox at 7:02 A.M. (EDT) in the Northern Hemisphere.

Fred's Desk



FEBRUARY ENDS THIS WEEK and we can now start looking forward to spring. With spring comes the start of our construction season. At this time, we have no projects under contract, but we do have several projects now being designed by various consultants, which will be bid this year.

TranSystems of Cleveland have just about completed the plans for the rehabilitation of two historic stone arch bridges which are located on the old National Road. One is located on County Highway 40-B at Lloydsville, and the other is on Union Township Road 814 just east of Morristown. The estimated construction cost is about \$1,000,000 total, and should be bid late this spring. This is funded at 80% federal enhancement funds and 20% local.

M-E Companies of Canton has completed plans for the replacement of the traffic signals at the intersection of Mall and Banfield Roads which were installed in 1978 when the two roads were built. This is 100% federally funded at an estimated cost of about \$125,000 and should be bid in late spring.

Jones-Stuckey LTD of Akron is presently designing new abutments and beams for the replacement of the bridge on County Highway 4 (Sand Hill) over McMahon Creek near Neffs. This \$540,000 project, which is 74% funded by the Ohio Public Works Commission, will be bid in July.

We are preparing plans in house for a \$300,000 project for the placement of new guardrail in the Maynard, Crescent and Barton area. This project

is 100% federally funded and will be bid this fall.

We are also preparing bid documents for the painting of a new centerline on several of our highways. This \$130,000 is being funded by the county commissioners and should be enough to stripe about 90 miles of roadways, which is less than 50% of our paved roads. This project should be bid in April.

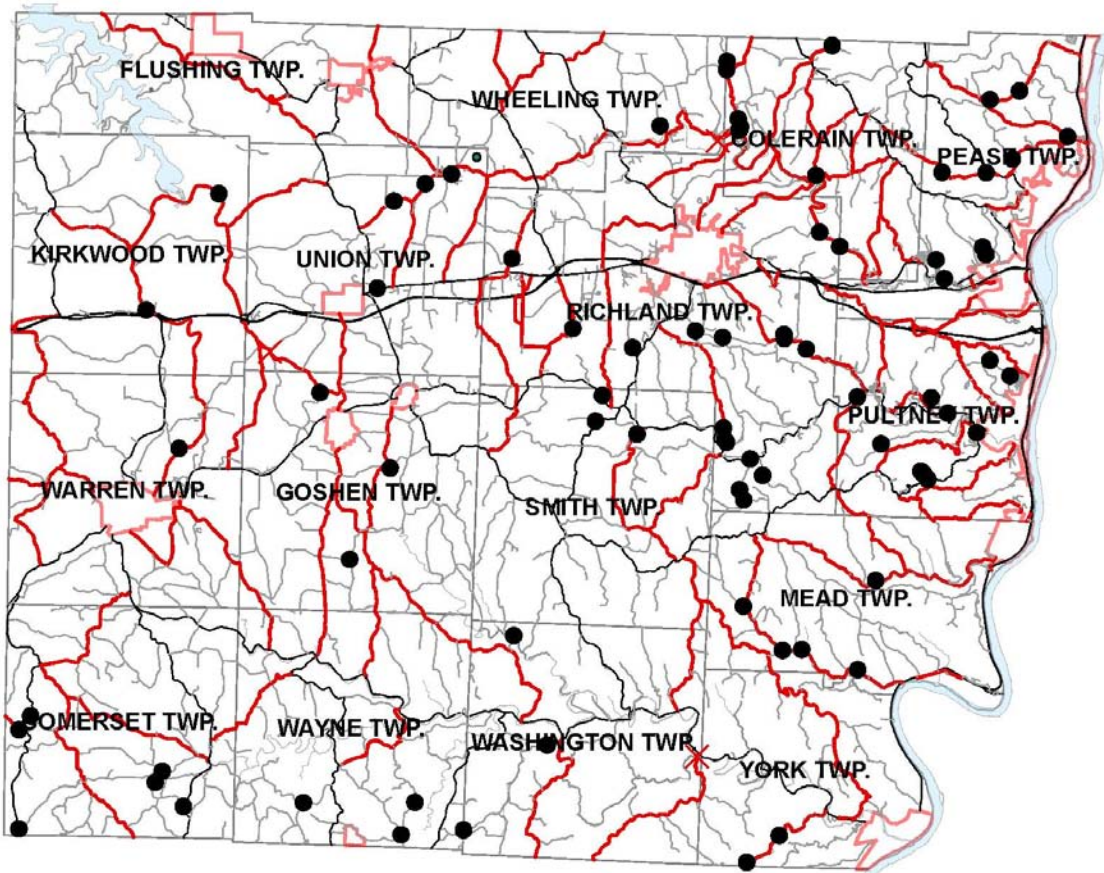
Poggemeyer Design Group of Bowling Green is also preparing plans for the construction of a large new bridge on County Highway 10, Barton-Blaine Highway. This \$1,000,000+ bridge is scheduled to be bid sometime in 2014.

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Fred's Desk continued from page 1

Our annual bridge inspection has just been completed for 2013, and we still have 80 of our 279 bridges posted for weight reductions (see graphic below), with 35 of them posted under 16 tons. These bridges cannot carry emergency vehicles, school busses, fuel trucks and some delivery trucks. This presents a hardship for many of our residents. In addition to the above listed bridges, our bridge crew will replace about 10 - 12 other bridges before December.

It looks like it's going to be another busy construction season. Let's hope winter soon leaves us so we can get started.



April 18th, 2013
Annual Meeting with Township Officials

April 19th, 2013
Annual Employee Safety Training

James Williams Recipient of PLSO Presidential Merit Award

On February 14, 2013, Mr. James L. Williams was presented the Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio Presidential Merit Award by outgoing President Dana Parsell at the PLSO Annual Conference in Sharonville, Ohio. Following the evening PLSO Social and Benefit Auction, President Parsell commented on Mr. Williams' dedication to the surveying profession from earlier days of them working together for A.J. Myers to recent times of collecting historical information on the early development of Ohio's survey systems. The award is presented by the outgoing President, and is signed by the three PLSO Presidents – President Dana Parsell, President-Elect George Hofmann, and Immediate Past President Don Pickenpaugh.

Mr. Williams is well-known throughout Ohio for his presentations on the Ohio Original Land Subdivisions for CEAO, PLSO and others. Anyone who has attended his lectures knows both his passion and knowledge are unmatched for this subject.

Mr. Williams has authored a new book entitled *Blazes, Posts & Stones: A History of Ohio's Original Land Subdivisions* and plans to hold a special event in Marietta, Ohio April 5 and 6 to showcase and release this historic publication. On April 5 there will be an all-day presentation and overview on Ohio's land surveying history at the Lafayette Hotel in downtown Marietta. Saturday, April 6 will feature the official premier of the new book in the historic Rufus Putnam Land Office on the grounds of the Campus Martius Museum at 9:30 am, and a public lecture at 10 am.

Belmont County is part of the Seven Ranges, the first rectangular survey system in the Northwest Territory, and as such it will be an honor to be able to witness this historic event! Registration information is on the home page at www.plso.com. Congratulations to Mr. Williams in recognition of his countless hours of research and work in putting together this important labor of love!

Pictured from left to right are Bradley J. Kramer, 2007 PLSO President; James L. Williams, PLSO Presidential Merit Award Recipient; Don Pickenpaugh, 2011 PLSO President - Photo by Melinda Gilpin, Executive Director, PLSO.

See page 5 for a registration form for the April 5th and 6th event.



Bridge Replacement Projects

As mentioned on page 1, these bridges are in the planning stages of being replaced.



BEL-UNI-814-0021



BEL-0040B-0074



BEL-0004-0651



BEL-0010-2022

World's Biggest Snow Plow

The Hancock International Airport in Syracuse, New York claim that they have the biggest snow plow in the world. The airport uses a 32-foot wide plow attached to a payloader at Hancock Airport. The 48-inch tall piece of steel can clear 8,500 cubic yards of snow in an hour. Syracuse is the nation's snowiest metropolitan region, averaging 114.6 inches every winter.

