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# Sumner gets road grant

By Mark Scarborough  
Reporter Staff

Throughout the summer of 2010 and continuing through 2011, the Jefferson County town of Sumner will be receiving nearly a half million dollars worth of grant money from the state of Wisconsin to restore and reconstruct roads damaged in the 2008 flooding of Lake Koshkonong and Rock River, town officials noted in early January.

The grant money – successfully applied for by December 2009 from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, via the department's community development building grant and emergency assistance programs – started to become available to the town in June 2010, according to Town Chairman John Dohner and Town Clerk Barb McGann.

Although the town had previously received roughly \$48,600 to repair flood-damaged roads through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, not all Sumner road damage could be repaired via FEMA funding, Dohner said.

Flooding in 2008 caused the loss of roughly \$5 million in overall property valuation for the town, with 17 dwellings condemned because 51 percent of the value of the structures had been lost to the flooding, according to Glendan Rewoldt, deputy town clerk.

The town operates on a small budget for road repairs and road construction, Dohner said. So, when town officials learned of the Department of Commerce grant, they hurriedly applied, even though there was just a 36-hour window to do so, the chairman added.

Town officials benefited from help from Jefferson County officials, especially from representatives from the offices of Jefferson County Clerk and Jefferson County Emergency Management. Sumner also benefited from assistance from General Engineering, Portage, the town's engineering firm.

Also beneficial was a preliminary assessment of damaged Sumner roadways already existing in the town files.

The grant awarded to the town from the Department of Commerce totaled \$495,000, which represented a huge addition to the normal, annual town road budget of \$53,000. "This was a big help for us," Dohner said. "A huge savings."

Additional repair and reconstruction is eventually anticipated on Blackhawk Island, Danielson, High Ridge, North Shore, Klement, Lamp,



Roadwork reconstruction at the Jefferson County town of Sumner's Willow, North Shore and Lamp roadways was done with money from a state grant last fall. Roads damaged due the 2008 flooding of Rock River and Lake Koshkonong will continue to be repaired with grant money this year, town officials told the Edgerton Reporter in early January.

and Willow roads. Flood damage included washed-away shoulders of roadways and cracking of asphalt, as well as areas of roadways where drain pipes have been exposed and culverts have collapsed.

A five-year plan for road maintenance on Sumner's 25 miles of roads has also been created, Dohner said.

Some \$88,000 of work was already done during the 2010 construction season at the intersection of North Shore, Willow and Lamp roads, Dohner said.

Spring 2011 is expected to begin with the bidding of additional work for the High Ridge and North Shore areas.

Additionally, on Blackhawk Island Road, stone is expected to be placed at the edge of Rock River to help prevent erosion. This project will require participation and approval of the state Department of Natural Resources, however.

Grant monies must be expended before Dec. 31, 2011. Winning the grant will help keep the town tax levy low, McGann said. This is especially true due to the severe winters of the last few years, which had diminished available funds for road maintenance and repair, the clerk added.

The grant has also required the creation of a citizens action committee, with individuals from each area of the town serving in an advisory capacity to "express concerns and ideas to engineers and to prioritize what needs to be done," McGann said.

The six members of the committee were appointed in 2009, shortly after the grant was applied for. Committee members are Randy Levake, chairperson, and Maggie Chapman, Tim Keller, Jack Sanders, Quentin Carpenter, and Chuck Slayton.



McGANN



DOHNER



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