

Our Mission

To be the leading consultant solving the engineering or land surveying problems unique to rural-urban communities and their enterprise—government, business, and agribusiness. And in the process, to build trust and lasting relationships with the people among whom we work and live. ◀

PROJECTS

Variety of drainage projects underway

IN ADDITION to the Iowa Plan projects, KPL is working on a variety of projects for other drainage districts. Don Etlar and Kent Rode are working with **Drainage District 5 in Wright County** on the closure of a drainage well. Says Don, “the first public hearing was on March 15. This project involves a 7.9 acre farm wetland that was acquired about a year ago. The original landowner (of the 7.9 acres) got mitigation credits from the Iowa Farm Bureau for this project and purchased an equivalent 3.6 acres of wetland from the mitigation bank. At the time, that was sufficient to meet NRCS requirements.

“But in February, the NRCS informed the landowner that the 3.6 acres wasn’t enough to replace the functional value and needs to add an additional 4.3 acres of hydric
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Heavy winter doesn’t stop construction on Iowa Plan

Contractor takes advantage of snow

THE UNUSUALLY HEAVY SNOW of this past winter kept work stopped at a lot of construction sites in Iowa. Not so for the open ditch construction on Drainage District 65, Pocahontas County, the first pilot plan to be funded as part of the Iowa Plan.

Instead of letting the weather slow progress, Reding’s Gravel and Excavating of Algona took advantage of the heavy snow cover and started work in the last week of January. The snow cover kept the ground warm and made for little frost. So each day the crew would clear the snow from the ditch area where they expected to work on that particular day and proceeded with the digging. The entire open ditch portion of the

project was completed in one month.

Then Reding’s cleared snow from two of the eight miles of new tile drains so that the ground could freeze hard enough to support the passage of pipe delivery trucks. So there is enough tile in place to get through the sloppy early spring weather without having to haul in pipe. Installation of tile began in early March.

The Iowa Plan, of which the Drainage District 65 work is part, is designed to alleviate hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico resulting from agricultural runoff. In fact, the Iowa Plan has been heralded as one of the most practical solutions to these problems. Says Don Etlar, project manager, “On March 9, the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Group, an organization of 31 states which drain into the Mississippi Basin, released its report from the September Meeting where the three projects most worthy of financial support were designated. Two of the three solutions were developed in Iowa: the Iowa Plan, named the number one plan for providing real and practical solutions, and the Iowa CREP Plan.”

Funding for the Iowa Plan pilot in Drainage District 65, Pocahontas County, has come from the federal stimulus package and through IDALS from the I-JOBS Bond Fund appropriations for water quality projects. “Four other potential projects offered funding from IDALS through I-JOBS are in Pocahontas, Palo Alto, and Clay counties. Along with representa-
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The contractor Redings Gravel and Excavating of Algona defies an ugly winter and works on Drainage District 65, Pocahontas County,

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vegetated soil for easement of the acre for acre mitigation. The changed requirement was the result of NRCS legal counsel's reinterpretation of the 1990 Farm Bill. The NRCS doesn't care if the acreage is wetland ground or not; and it appears that the County Conservation Board will make the acreage available at a reasonable price. The hearing was continued until the district resolves the additional acreage issue."

Two other drainage well closures are also under study: **Drainage District 23 in Wright County and Drainage District 178 in Pocahontas County.** Both of these closures will be affected by the new NRCS position on well closures and wetlands.

"A third **Drainage District closure in Sherman Township in Kossuth County** fortunately has no farmed wetlands. The public hearing for approval of that project will be held April 1."

"A reconsideration of a 1999 study done by KPL is also underway for **Drainage District 15 in Hancock County.** A large egg farm is under construction in the district and the owner has committed \$200,000 for drainage improvement as well as assessment. Another landowner committed \$100,000 out of their regular assessment for improvements. This project will be considered at public hearing this summer with the potential for construction in the fall."

The Algona office is also doing a preliminary design for a storm sewer around a new school under construction in **Pocahontas.** "It is being pursued as a drainage district project—the **whole town being drained by a drainage district.**" Nick Roethler is beginning final design of two **CREP projects in Buena Vista County.** There is also the potential for two more CREP projects, one in **Emmet County and one in Dickinson County.** The current time line calls for the project to be constructed this year.

Ivan Droessler reports on drainage district construction the Storm Lake

office is managing for 2010. "In **Drainage District 122, Calhoun County** an open ditch clean out of 2.5 miles should be completed prior to planting season this spring; but no work was able to be completed last fall, so additional crop damages will be an issue there.

"The open ditch clean out of **New Farmers Lateral Number 3, Monona County** is 80% complete with the remaining excavation of soil and pipe installation to be done this spring."

Bids for **Drainage District 73 Sac County,** open ditch clean out were received on March 16. Construction is scheduled for completion by September 15. Final plans and specs for two miles of open ditch clean out for **Pratt Drainage District, Monona County** are to be filed on March 30 and bids let in April. Work is to be complete by September. Final plans and specs for approximately one mile of open ditch clean out of **McCandless Drainage District Lateral #8, Monona County** are to be completed by early April with the bid letting to be held in May. Completion is scheduled for the fall of 2010.

KPL has been appointed as **Drainage Engineer for Drainage District 25, Buena Vista County** with the Storm Lake City Council as trustees for the district. A grass waterway relief ditch has been proposed to improve drainage by supplementing the existing tile system. An investigation with landowners in the district will be completed for a preliminary hearing scheduled for June.

KPL submitted a qualifications statement for **Drainage District 22, Dickinson County** for an outlet ditch storm sewer detention basin system for the city of Spirit Lake, and was selected for final interviews. These are to be held March 23.

Curt Wiseman, Algona office, says that a report for **water system improvements for Livermore** includes recommendations for a water plant and a new well and distribution system. Applications for funding grants and loans are being completed now. Specs and plans for



Drainage District 65, Pocahontas County

a wastewater system are also being completed now, with bidding expected in about two months.

"We are doing a similar project for **Swea City,**" says Curt, "which will also go to bid about the same time."

A new well for **Woodland Hills a subdivision of Algona,** was bid last month. Construction will begin as soon as the weather allows.

In **Rockwell, construction on the aquatic center** continued through the winter with work on the bath house, two water slides, and construction of the concrete shell. Still remaining are the installation of mechanical pumps for the water slides, painting, and filters and piping for treatment.

"We've been hired by **Leland for a sanitary sewer collection improvement** project. They have received a CDBG grant for that project and we'll be moving right into design. We've also been hired by Laurens—we are preparing that contract now—for wastewater lift station improvements. The current one can't handle peak flows and has been causing a lot of backup."

Neal Kuehl reports that the study for **Buena Vista County done last year involving sewerage of South Shore and Lake Creek** has resulted in the formation of two sewer

districts. The Southwest Shoreline Sewer District will cover Belair west to Casino Beach. The Lake Creek Country Club will form a separate district.

Says Neal, "The Southwest Shoreline group is moving more rapidly with the engineering contract signed last week. The preliminary design includes a collection system, a treatment system, and collection alternatives: the first choice is to use low pressure grinder pumps and a STEP system (septic tank effluent pumping). The second or other choices for treatment would be a controlled discharge lagoon and recirculating media filter, and pumping to the City of Storm Lake. We hope to get the project started before the end of the year. Lake Creek is moving more slowly. They will most likely pump to Alta."

Both the **Early water tower project** and **Odebolt lagoon project** received CDBGs and will be proceeding with construction of these projects this year. Work is underway on a **final design for Kingsley and a preliminary design for Sloan for wastewater treatment facilities.** "Both will involve some form of aerated lagoon. Both will be funded by CDBGs.

In **Lohrville, the existing collection system is being cleaned and televised with the goal of finding and correcting infiltration.** The

situation is so bad, the city may have to replace the entire collection system. Albert City and Alta are in the final phases of design and will be bid in May. **Albert City** is replacing controls and renovating its **water plant**. The **Alta project** involves a new activated sludge wastewater treatment plant.

In **Laurens** work is being completed on the final phases of the **water plant renovation** which includes

filtering, reverse osmosis, installation of new equipment, replacement of all the electrical and mechanical components of the building. "We are also waiting on an authorization to proceed with the renovation or replacement of the plant roof, and the calking of the building—this project just keeps getting larger," says Neal. "We are also waiting on some controls and a few pieces of equipment to finish up."

John Devitt had two **lagoon projects** go to bid this winter with construction to begin when the snow leaves. **Sioux Rapids** will be upgrading its existing lagoon system. The **Newell** project involves a controlled discharge lagoon system.

Bob Payer reports that project plans and bids are done and into IDOT for the June bid letting for **Storm Lake's Lake Avenue HMA overlay project**. This involves milling and resurfacing

of Lake Avenue north to Railroad Street. It is expected to be finished in August or September of 2010. **Storm Lake's Vestal Street project** continues with statement of terms, and development of plans. Construction is planned for 2011.

Design of the **Ocheyedan River Bridge for Clay County** is anticipated to resume in the next thirty days. A public hearing is scheduled **Continued, PROJECTS, page 4 ...**

News about KPLers

Nick Roethler receives PE

NICK ROETHLER of the Algona office has received word that he passed his professional engineering exam and has received the designation: Professional Engineer. Currently, Nick is registered in Iowa. The designation also allows him to use the initials "PE" behind his name.

But that's not the only news Nick has! On December 20, 2009 at 2:15 am, **Elsion James Roethler** was born. He weighed 7 pounds and 8 ounces and was a bit over 19 inches long. But, as you can see from the picture, he is growing happily!

Ivan and Mary Droessler have announced the engagement of son, **Jacob**, to **Heather Johnson** with the wedding set for September 4, 2010, in Waseca, Minnesota. Jacob is working for Hammerlin Construction in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, as a construction manager.

Lucas Droessler has been selected to serve on the Iowa State University Fraternity Council. The council oversees the entire university fraternal system. Lucas, a member of Pi Kappa Phi, will be in charge of recruitment and associated campus wide activities to stimulate interest in the ISU Greek System.



Madeline Etler

Madeline Etler, age one and a half and on her way to being a third generation ISU-er, won the Lovable Legacies photo contest sponsored by the Iowa State University Alumni Association. **Don Etler** is Madeline's very proud granddad. The picture shows why.

Taylor Grafft, Tom's son, and a freshman in high school went on a week long performance tour taken by the Storm Lake Music Department in Florida. The March tour included a performance at Disney as well as other stops. Taylor is a bass in the school's choir.

Company service

Special recognition to the following KPLers who observe their employment service dates this quarter: **Gary Atherton** who joined KPL on January 29, 1983

(27 years of service); **Jeffrey Krueger** who joined KPL on January 4, 1993 (17 years of service); **Tom Edgerton** who joined KPL on January 6, 1997 (13 years of service); **Diane Edwards** who joined KPL on January 23, 1997 (13 years of service); **Clarence Krepps** who joined KPL on January 4, 1999 (11 years of service); **Tom Grafft** who joined KPL on January 2, 2002 (8 years of service); **Nick Roethler** who joined KPL on January 1, 2005 (5 years of service); **Jon Hanson** who joined KPL on January 2, 2008 (2 years of service); **Tim Brown** who joined KPL on January 19, 2009 (1 year of service); **Greg Villegas** who joined KPL on February 14, 2005 (5 years of service); **Brian Blomme** who joined KPL on February 28, 2005 (5 years of service); and **La Donna Brummer** who joined KPL on March 19, 2001 (9 years of service).

Happy birthday

To **Kathy McGuire** whose birthday is April 9; to **Jon Rosengren** whose birthday is April 11.

To **Jon Myers** whose birthday is May 9; to **Connie Krough** whose birthday is May 13; to **Jon Hanson** whose birthday is May 15.

To **Jared Karschnik** whose birthday is June 3; to **Nick Frederiksen** whose birthday is June 15; to **Tim Brown** whose birthday is June 21; and to **John Devitt** whose birthday is June 29. ◀◀



Elsion James Roethler

Kuehl and Payer, Ltd.

1725 N. Lake Avenue, PO Box 458
Storm Lake, IA 50588-0458

1609 US Highway 18 East, PO Box 715
Algona, IA 50511-0715

423 West Main Street
Sac City, IA 50583

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PROJECTS, continued ...

for April 11 on the environmental assessment. FHWA approval of the assessment has been on hold, but with FHWA approval design of the three span bridge will resume.

Construction of the Wahpeton bridge is scheduled to begin as soon as weather permits.

Bob is also working with a Storm Lake property owner on the **development of a 150 unit mobile home park**. This will involve a staged development with 50 units to start.

Project concept and plans for the **IDOT funded Holstein trail** are done. Surveying will begin when the snow leaves. A July bid letting is expected.

Scott Shevel says that KPL is quoting on several **IDOT staking** for overlays—one in Cherokee County and one in Clay County. "There is also highway 20 work coming up and we are working on Bob's mobile home development project. Kent Rode, Algona office, reports that **Algona** is working on obtaining rights-of-way for the **traffic signals** at US Highway 169 and MacGregor Street. "As soon as these are obtained, bids can be let."

Work on the **drainage improvement project for Wesley** will begin with a topographical survey that is on hold until the snow leaves. **Construction of the South Park shelter house in Algona** is expected to start construction this spring. I & F Group of Mankato is doing the shelter house design for this project.

Tom Grafft reports that KPL is in the process of collecting **baseline samples for Buena Vista County and Cherokee counties pursuant to the IDNR's changed protocol**. This will involve five sets of samples. In April, **normal spring sampling of the Sac County, Cherokee County and Buena Vista County landfills** will begin.

"We are working on a **theoretical release analysis** to meet a new 2007 requirement for landfills, once this is approved and the hydro monitoring system plan is approved,

monitoring wells can be installed. Also the financial assurance plans that would meet the costs of closing and monitoring and maintaining closures for 30 years thereafter are due on April 1. We handle these for the three landfills."

Three projects for Hawkeye Pride are in progress. The request for a construction permit for the **industrial lagoon** has been submitted and construction is planned for this spring. Plans, specs, and related reports for a **domestic lagoon** have also been submitted for a construction permit. And we are also working on a **public water system**, drinking water for the facility that includes two public wells and a small treatment plant with construction planned for this summer.

And in the area of management and local government services, Clarence Krepps is in the midst of a **search for a Public Works Director for Algona**.

If you have question about these or similar projects, talk to any of the persons mentioned. «

SNOW, continued ...

tives from IDALS, we have held informational meetings with landowners in each of these districts to explain the projects and resulting benefits. Landowners in each of the project districts are considering whether to pursue funding for the work."

Reding's Gravel & Excavating has been serving Algona and the surrounding area since 1948 as a general excavating and underground utility contractor. The business added farm drainage work to its service offerings in the mid-1990s. «

Welcome Aboard



To CONNIE KROUGH who joined the Algona office administrative staff in January. Connie is originally from Emmetsburg and has lived in Kentucky and in Denver, Colorado, where she worked for an engineering firm for seven years.

"I've spent most of my career working for engineering firms or in the oil and gas business which also includes a lot of engineering. I like working for engineering groups. So this feels like home."

Connie who lives in Emmetsburg with her pet cat "Patches" enjoys hiking, bike riding, walking, "and reading and learning". Say "hello" to her the next time you are in the Algona office. «