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## **COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY REPORT**

February 3, 2006

### PRELIMINARY DAMAGEMENT ASSESSMENT TEAM MEETS WITH ROAD DEPARTMENT

Due to Winter storms starting December 22, 2005, Governor Kulongoski declared a state disaster in various counties including Tillamook. On notice of this declaration, the County Road Department started an evaluation of storm response and damage costs to County roads. The initial estimate shows that County roads sustained approximately \$318,000 in costs for storm response and expected repairs.

On January 31 Road Dept staff met with a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) team consisting of representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) where the initial assessment of County roads was presented for review. PDA teams are meeting with various public institutions throughout the state. They are trying to determine if the state collectively can qualify for federal relief funding through FEMA. During the day, Road Department staff escorted the PDA team to various road damage sites including the Bilyeu Avenue sinkhole in Netarts and numerous road embankment and shoulder failures primarily in the central part of the County. The County hopes that repairs to the Bay Ocean Dike Road will qualify for funding relief.

FEMA deals with response and repair to roads that are not part of the Federal Aid System road network (i.e. lower traffic volume roads). At the same time the initial assessment report was provided to FEMA and OEM, a similar report was provided to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in an effort to qualify for Emergency Relief funds for roads in the Federal Aid System network. The County expects to meet with a FHWA PDA team in the near future to review related costs.

If the State qualifies for federal funding relief, Tillamook County can expect up to 90% reimbursement for storm response and damage costs incurred during the storm period. If the County ultimately does not qualify for federal funding relief, road repairs will still need to be made. Unfortunately, lack of federal funding qualification will take away from an already limited County Road Department budget.

## CAN YOU HELP US?

The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) has asked us to complete an extensive needs survey for the five-year period from 2007 to 2011 to use in legislative efforts to obtain adequate funding for county roads. AOC will be working with the 2007 Oregon State Legislature to obtain additional state funding and with Congress to secure reauthorization of PL 106-393. We need your help in obtaining information about long standing and current County road needs and drainage issues.

As a consequence of this winter's storms and Governor Kulongoski's declaration of a state disaster, which includes Tillamook County (see article above), we have a unique opportunity to submit a **complete** list of our needs and what the consequences of inadequate funding has done to our county roads. We don't have a complete list of all of the problems that exist in the County. The County or may not have recognized a problem that you know exists on a road or stream or drainage system near you.

Here's how you can help. Send us, the County Commissioners, a letter describing the problem. It's very important that you include the name of the county road, location of the drainage problem or road repairs/maintenance needed and a drawing/diagram or better yet, photographs of the area of concern. Our address is: County Commissioners, 201 Laurel Avenue, Tillamook, OR 97141.

**(above is only a portion of the issued news report from the Commissioner's Office)**