

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Missaukee County Road Commission Manager Receives Statewide Recognition

LAKE CITY, MI—Missaukee County Road Commission Manager Kelly Bekken has been selected to receive the Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council's (TAMC) 2012 Individual Asset Management Award. Bekken was nominated for the award by the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG).

"Kelly is a seasoned professional who has implemented outstanding asset management principles in a very rural county with limited resources," said Michael Woods, NWMCOG regional planner. "He has advocated for transportation asset management on both the statewide and community level."

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) uses asset management to identify and evaluate road conditions so resources can be used where they are most needed to maintain roads and the transportation system in general. The TAMC was established to expand the practice of asset management statewide to make investing in Michigan's roads and bridges more productive.

Bekken has helped move asset management forward in Michigan by participating in Local Transportation Assistance Program maintenance strategy webinars; attending regional and statewide County Road Association of Michigan and annual Asset Management conferences; and teaming with neighboring counties each year to provide an open forum for local officials to voice their concerns and raise questions about the condition of area roads.

NWMCOG Regional Planning and Community Development staff provide regional support for the asset management program which includes: administrative support, liaison activities between the

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counties and MDOT, training, scheduling of inventory times, data collection, and equipment handling. The most recent Asset Management Report for northwest lower Michigan is available at: nwm.org/asset-management .

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Tom White at tomwhite@nwm.com.mi.us and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5044. Check our online Media Room at: <http://nwm.org/media.asp>

The Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, founded in 1973, facilitates and manages services and programs for 10 counties in the region. These programs include Regional Planning and Community Development, Northwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, Northwest Michigan Works, Workforce Development Board, Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center Region 2, Hospitality Skills Alliance, the Procurement Technical Assistance Center program, KAL-TEC, Healthcare Skills Alliance of Northwest Michigan, and the Regional Repository for US Census data.

Some services of NWMCOG are in direct support of the counties, some are independent services provided to the public and businesses at large. NWMCOG is able to leverage several collaborative partnerships to extend limited resources and provide economies of scale for projects that operate on a regional basis. NWMCOG's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.