

RE: Local Road Committee Meeting - Tuesday, March 16th at 10:00 AM

Inbox

**Joe Nedow** <[bcrcclerk@benzieroad.net](mailto:bcrcclerk@benzieroad.net)>

1:47 PM (15 minutes ago)

to supervisor, supervisor, supervisor, supervisor, me, clerk.clt, brucewalton41bw, gilmoretownship, carl, Gary, Clerk, clerk, clerk, clerk, supervisor, clerk, clerk, colfaxbenziesupervisor, colfaxbenzieclerk, weldon clerk, hites49616, paulsolem670, Mark, plattetownship, Sherry, Jim, alpopp1970, Richard, Matt, super

**Please feel free to share this email with your board members.**

**From:** [brcmanager@benzieroad.net](mailto:brcmanager@benzieroad.net) <[brcmanager@benzieroad.net](mailto:brcmanager@benzieroad.net)>

**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 1:25 PM

**To:** Joe Nedow <[bcrcclerk@benzieroad.net](mailto:bcrcclerk@benzieroad.net)>

**Subject:**

As many of you know, the exceptionally dry weather in Benzie County these past few years had reduced the effectiveness of our brining efforts. It would be reasonable to assume that the problem is either heavy rains are washing the brine out of the roads, or a higher than normal amount of Sodium Chloride in the brine which doesn't provide the dust control as effectively as other Chlorides.

Brine is essential to attract moisture and keep the fine particles in the gravel surface where they bind the larger particles together, without it, the fine particles become airborne as dust and blow away leaving the remaining gravel without the correct binder and susceptible to developing chatter bumps and potholes. Not to mention the negative effects of the dust itself.

Therefore the Benzie County Road Commission has recently worked with a different brine supplier to conduct a test of heavier weight 38% Calcium Chloride brine (the brine we used this year was 26% ) on three roads that did not receive a second brine application this year. This brine is a manufactured product and contains 38% Calcium Chloride and very little if any other Potassium, Magnesium or Sodium Chlorides.

On Saturday Sept 11, The contractor applied the more concentrated brine to :

- Fewins Road**, between Reynolds Road and Lake Ann Road (the unpaved portions).
- Bellows Lake Road**, between CR 610 and Nofsger Road
- Nofsger Road**, between Lake Ann Road and Bellows Lake Road

This brine is more expensive per gallon than the brine we have used in the past, however we think there may be some ways to reduce the cost per mile, such as lowering the application rate and reducing the width treated from 24' to 20' or 22'. Also the more concentrated brine will likely only be applied once per year. With these changes, the cost of more concentrated brine may be competitive with the less concentrated product.

So if you are traveling Benzie County, please take a trip down one or all of the treated roads and see what you think. We will be monitoring them over the rest of the summer and fall and see how this new product performs and will update you on what we find out.

Matt Skeels, Manager Benzie County Road Commission

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