

Shared Service effort aids in recovery

Special to The Odessa File

WATKINS GLEN, June 30, 2017 -- Monday, June 5 brought an isolated, intense storm to the Village of Watkins Glen. With this storm came several inches of rain in less than an hour, causing significant flooding to several local businesses. The storm left behind damage to already stressed, local infrastructure.

The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was able to organize a shared services effort between many of the local highway departments to aid in the recovery process from this event.



The first step in the process was to excavate a waterway that runs down Fairgrounds Lane in the Village of Watkins Glen. The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District was able to utilize the Town of Hector's excavator, and one of SWCD's operators, Jim Barrett. The County Highway Department and the Town of Dix provided several trucks to haul the deposited sediment away. The Village of Watkins Glen Highway Department provided traffic control. Over 30 truckloads of sediment were hauled away.

The second step was to clean a box culvert that runs underneath Fairgrounds Lane itself. This significant culvert was almost completely full of sediment. The SWCD provided its excavator and operators, the County Highway Department provided a truck, the Village of Watkins Glen provided traffic control and labor, and the Town of Montour Highway Department provided its fire truck and labor.

This second step was labor intensive, in very poor conditions. It was an arduous but necessary process. This task was completed by Carl Silliman from the Town of Montour Highway Department and Scott Taylor from the Village of Watkins Glen Highway Department.



"Both Carl and Scott," the SWCD said, "went way above and beyond to make this a successful project.

They were in the box culvert the entire day in standing water, crawling the 40-plus feet back and forth to flush the culvert out. This process took nearly 21,000 gallons of water. Carl and Scott never complained or stopped working the entire day. Their diligence and perseverance in these horrible conditions helped mitigate a substantial flooding issue for our local businesses and residents."

The third step in the process will follow soon when the New York State DOT cleans out the culvert under New York State Route 14, just north of Fairgrounds Lane. Later this summer, the SWCD will assist with stream stabilization efforts on the west side of NYS 14.

"By all of the above organizations working together toward a common goal," said SWCD, "impacts from these severe storm events are mitigated in the most cost efficient way possible."

Photos in text: Clearing the box culvert under Fairgrounds Lane. *(Photos provided)*