

## Ravalli County Commissioners Office

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**From:** Chris H <hockman\_cw@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2014 1:14 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
**Subject:** Reauthorize Magnesium Chloride (surface stabilization) program expenditures for 2014

Dear Commissioners,

How can we afford not to have a Magnesium Chloride gravel roadway surface stabilization program in Ravalli County? Here's some of why I ask.

From the American Society of Civil Engineers published in the Journal of Transportation Engineering, Volume 123, Issue 5, "The cost savings of retaining aggregate on the treated test sections more than offset the costs of the dust suppressants, resulting in an estimated cost savings of 28–42% over the untreated control test section." This was in Larimer County, Colorado.

Read the abstract here: <http://ascelibrary.org/doi/abs/10.1061/%28ASCE%290733-947X%281997%29123%3A5%28393%29> .

If you have a subscription to the Journal of Transportation Engineering, you can read the entire article here: <http://ascelibrary.org/doi/pdf/10.1061/%28ASCE%290733-947X%281997%29123%3A5%28393%29> .

If you don't have a subscription, read this instead:

[http://www.meetingsnorthwest.com/Event%20Archive/dustconf/Proceedings/Sanders\\_paper.pdf](http://www.meetingsnorthwest.com/Event%20Archive/dustconf/Proceedings/Sanders_paper.pdf)

Assuming the cost of aggregate, the cost of aggregate transportation, the cost of grading, the cost of dust suppressants (MgCl), and all the other costs associated with maintaining a county gravel road to standard have risen proportionately, that 28-42% cost savings of treated over untreated should still be valid today. If it is now cheaper to apply lost aggregate and grade multiple times a year to remove potholes and washboards, please advise.

Given the above, the decision this year to not have a MgCl dust abatement program (either fully tax funded or augmented through private citizen material purchases) in Ravalli County should serve to increase the cost of maintaining the county's gravel roads to standard. The Board effectively chose to accept further degraded gravel road conditions while spending the same amount of money in the end. Please reply if you disagree.

Otherwise, please reconsider and approve the necessary expenditures for the gravel surface stabilization program involving MgCl for the calendar year 2014 in order to reduce county road maintenance costs as well as to minimize persistent potholes and washboards in our gravel roads.

Sincerely,  
Chris Hockman  
Hamilton

post script

Yes, I understand the special need to replace aggregate that was lost with the runoff this year. Regardless of this, applying MgCl should reduce the annual maintenance cost of county gravel roads this year and in future years. If you believe otherwise, please make the supporting figures available to the public. If the metrics showing average maintenance costs per unit of gravel roads in Ravalli County are known, please also make those figures available to the public.