

Rock Shortage Causing Richardson Co Headache

(KLZA)-- The recent heavy rains are causing problems for the nearly 685 miles of gravel roads in Richardson County.

On Tuesday, the Board of Commissioners and Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert talked about the frustrations they are facing in keeping up with the demand for rock. Commission Chairman David Sickel says all three Commissioners and Huppert have received calls about the poor conditions of gravel roads in the county.

With the Martin Marietta rock quarry near DuBois, Nebraska suffering breakdowns the supply of rock is limited. Richardson County is hauling road rock from the Norris Quarry near Maitland, Missouri, but that adds distance and time for the truck drivers delivering rock. In addition, the amount of rock that can be hauled in Missouri is limited to 80,000 pounds. County trucks have 96,000 pound capacity so they cannot haul full loads out of Missouri. .

Huppert says the quarry at Weeping Water will not sell any more rock, as they try to keep their regular customers supplied.

Huppert says Brown County, Kansas, along with Johnson, Nemaha and Pawnee Counties in Nebraska are also having trouble getting rock.

Sickel said they want the public to understand the issues the County is facing. Huppert said he knows conditions are bad but for now, he advises people to slow down. He says as the weather dries up and the rock supply is replenished, the county will catch up as soon as they can.

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