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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Road & Bridge uses new amphibious excavator to clear underbrush, clean ditches in western Flagler

January 19, 2023 – The Road & Bridge Department has been using its new amphibious excavator to clear the underbrush and clean ditches in areas of western Flagler County that in the past have been inaccessible.

“We began work earlier this month to clear out some overgrowth in drainage canals that we were unable to access before now. We plan to focus our efforts to the outfall ditches in Daytona North and other areas that have drainage easements in place,” said Road & Bridge Manager Ryan Prevatt. “We expect that this equipment will greatly improve drainage here and in other areas of unincorporated Flagler County.”

Residents are advised that the amphibious excavator is loud and may produce flying debris. Those observing the operations are asked to stay at least 500 feet away from the equipment for safety reasons.

“We understand that this is an impressive piece of equipment and people are naturally curious about it, but we want everyone to be safe,” Prevatt said. “We always consider safety first.”

The work started around Walnut and Evergreen avenues, and crews followed the easements.

“This is the first time we are really putting the machine to work, after spending time on the required training for staff with it and setting it up for our needs,” Prevatt said. “We are very happy to start using it to help us get our work done.”

The amphibious excavator was purchased in 2022 for \$217,527. Road & Bridge over the coming year will develop a schedule based on priority mapping.

“We have to figure out how long it takes to accomplish a certain amount of work,” Prevatt said. “We’ll also have to determine if the work (after being completed by the amphibious excavator) will need to be done annually, twice a year, once every three years, etc.”

Andy Dance
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Leann Pennington
District 4

Donald O’Brien, Jr.
District 5

County Administrator Heidi Petito commended Road & Bridge for its proactive efforts.

“We have a very dedicated team in Road & Bridge, Ryan Prevatt is chief among them,” Petito said. “Embracing change, utilizing the latest technology and equipment has helped them to streamline our processes and build on those efficiencies.”

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