



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DR. TIM BORING
DIRECTOR

Notice of Drainage Board Meeting For Determination of Practicability

WILLIAMS INTERCOUNTY DRAIN (Kent and Montcalm Counties)

DATE: January 10, 2024
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Nelson Township Library
88 Eighth St., Sand Lake, Michigan

The Williams Intercounty Drain Drainage Board will meet at the above date, time and location to consider the petition, dated October 2, 2023, for maintenance and improvement of an intercounty drain, located in Nelson Township in Kent County, pursuant to Chapter 8 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended, to determine the sufficiency of signatures on said petition, to go over the route of the intercounty drain, and to further determine whether the maintenance and improvement of the intercounty drain, and the addition of lands in Montcalm County is practicable.

Proceedings conducted at this public meeting will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Public comment will be received at the meeting from anyone owning lands liable to an assessment, or whose lands will be crossed by the drain, or any municipality affected. Written comments may be submitted prior to the meeting, or additional information may be obtained from the following offices:

Ken Yonker
Kent County Drain Commissioner
775 Ball Ave. NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
616-632-7910

Todd Sattler
Montcalm County Drain Commissioner
211 W. Main St.
Stanton, Michigan 48888
989-831-7322

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Drain Commissioner of their County at the number listed above or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Dated: December 12, 2023

Brady Harrington, Deputy
For Dr. Tim Boring, Director
Michigan Department of Agriculture
and Rural Development

Explanation of Drain Code Procedure

Meeting to Determine Practicability for Intercounty Drains

This meeting is convened in response to a petition from six freeholders, which was received by the Kent County Drain Commissioner. This petition requests the maintenance and improvement the Williams Intercounty Drain, located in Kent County, and the addition of Montcalm County to the drainage district, under the provisions of Section 135 of Act. No. 40 of the Public Acts of 1956, as amended.

The petition is an assertion of drainage issues and a request for the drainage board to consider relief to those drainage issues out. Under the Drain Code the intercounty drainage board is required to hold this public meeting to determine that the petition is sufficient to grant them jurisdiction to proceed, to receive testimony from persons and affected local units of government with regards to drainage issues, and to determine if it is practical to proceed to the next step of retaining an engineer or surveyor to design one or more solutions for the drainage issues.

The decision to determine practicability is the judgment of the drainage board by a majority vote of its members. Practicability can be generally described as the determination of whether the petition is properly worded to grant the Drainage Board authority to respond to the problems brought forth in the petition and public testimony, and that the desired improvements are possible to complete. **One of the two following decisions will be made by the drainage board at this meeting:**

If determined practicable: The drainage board must employ a professional engineer or surveyor to survey the drain and develop one or more plans, with cost estimates, to accomplish the improvements requested. Following the engineer's report, a second public meeting will be convened to determine the necessity of a project. Proposed solutions and project costs are presented at that meeting. Testimony is received on the necessity of a project. A decision will be made, again by majority vote of the drainage board members, to proceed to construct the project or end it. The necessity decision may be appealed to the circuit court of the county you reside in within 10 days of that meeting. There is no appeal of the decision on practicability.

If determined NOT practicable: The procedure terminates, no appeals by statute are permitted. A new petition may be resubmitted.

Cost Information: There is no cost information available at this meeting. If determined practicable, overall project cost estimates will be presented at a future meeting to determine necessity, for which you will receive notice. If a decision is made at that meeting to proceed with a project, individual costs via special assessments will be made at an additional future meeting, called the day of review of apportionments, which will be held by your drain commissioner, for which you will also receive notice. At that time, construction bids will have been received and the actual cost of the construction is known, as well as costs for engineering, legal counsel, land acquisition and financing. The special assessments determined by the commissioner at the day of review may be appealed to probate court for establishment of a board of review. In addition to private landowners, public corporations (townships, cities, and villages) are assessed for benefits to public health, the counties are assessed at-large for benefits to county roads and the Michigan Department of Transportation for benefits to any state trunkline highways.