

# Drain Commissioner

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## Mission

*The mission of the Kent County Drain Commissioner's office is to improve and maintain storm water drainage for the public health, safety, convenience, and welfare of the citizens of Kent County and also to be an effective and efficient steward of our natural and fiscal resources.*

## Overview

The County Drain Commissioner is elected to a four-year term to perform a number of duties assigned by State law. The office of the Drain Commissioner is responsible for the administration of the State Drain Code as it applies to the receipt of petitions for the establishment, improvement or maintenance of over 558 miles of County Drains and 357 storm water detention ponds in Kent County. Under the Subdivision Control Act, this office reviews storm water plans for all plats developed within the County and maintains records on over 1,800 developments. Other duties include the administration of 19 court established lake levels under the Lake Level Act, participation in the NPDES Phase II program, participation on lake improvement boards, maintenance of the GIS system as it pertains to County Drains and the resolution of citizen complaints and requests for service.

This department and its staff of five responds to requests from municipalities, citizens and property owners for assistance in addressing flooding and surface water drainage.

2014: 99 requests, 49 maintenance projects

2015: 80 requests, 35 maintenance projects

2016: 149 requests, 48 maintenance projects

2017: 163 requests, 35 projects to date

## Significant Accomplishments

- This office received and responded to 149 requests for service to the County Drains in 2016 and 163 requests for service so far in 2017, 138 of which have been completed.
- Wind damages caused by trees falling into County Drains were repaired throughout the County, particularly in Wyoming, Byron Center and Sparta, which generated enough work that five contractors have been kept busy through 2017. In total, drains totaling 16 miles were cleared due to storms.
- Provided leadership and assistance for the remediation of the damage to the Little Thornapple Inter-County Drain, working closely with Barry and Ionia Counties.
- Worked with the IT GIS team to place requests for service on a real time electronic system to process service requests (using iPads and Surface tablets), which significantly increased efficiency. Phase one of the technology project began in July 2017.
- Purchased a John Deere Gator so drain inspections through fields and wetlands are now done thoroughly and efficiently, eliminating the need to rent ORVs for the inspections.
- To create a more diverse pool of contractors, the County Drain Commissioner met with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. This resulted in the hiring of a Hispanic landscaping company which has successfully completed several projects on County Drains.

## Strategic Goals

- Administer the Drain Code (act 40, PA of 1956) as it pertains to the establishment and maintenance of drains in Kent County (Efficient Use of Resources).
- Administer the Subdivision Control Act (act 288, PA of 1967) as it applies to stormwater management (Safe Community).
- Administer the Lake Level Act (Part 307, Act 451, PA of 1994) as it pertains to the establishment and maintenance of lake levels in Kent County (Efficient Use of Resources).

**DEPARTMENT: DRAIN COMMISSIONER**

**Department Mission Statement:**

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**Goals**

- Administer the Drain Code (act 40, PA of 1956) as it pertains to the establishment and maintenance of drains in Kent County.
- Administer the Subdivision Control Act (act 288, PA of 1967) as it applies to stormwater management.
- Administer the Lake Level Act (Part 307, Act 451, PA of 1994) as it pertains to the establishment and maintenance of lake levels in Kent County.

**Objectives**

- Respond to at least 90% of drain and lake level complaints or requests for assistance within 2 days of receipt.
- Respond to 100% of drain permit requests within 2 days of receipt.
- Resolve 90% of complaints under the drain commissioner's jurisdiction within 90 days of receipt.
- Meet soil erosion control requirements on 100% of drain commissioner projects.
- Subdivision Control Act: Review 100% of site plans within 30 days of receipt.
- Lake Level Act: Inspect 100% of lake level dams when required.
- Participate on 100% of Inter-County Drain Boards when conducted.

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outcomes</b>				
% of response to complaints/requests within 2 days.	85.00%	90.00%/ 60.00%	90.00%/ 66.00%	90.00%
% of drain permit request processed within 2 days.	100.00%	90.00%/ 100.00%	100.00%/ 100.00%	100.00%
% complaints/requests resolved within 90 days	82.00%	90.00%/ 94.00%	90.00%/ 97.00%	90.00%
% of drain commissioner projects meeting soil erosion control requirements.	100.00%	100.00%/ 100.00%	100.00%/ 100.00%	100.00%
Subdivision Control Act: % site plans reviewed within 30 days of receipt	100.00%	100.00%/ 100.00%	100.00%/ 100.00%	100.00%

Lake Level Act: % lake level dams inspected	100.00%	100.00%/100.00%	100.00%/100.00%	100.00%
% Inter-county drain board participation	100.00%	100.00%/100.00%	100.00%/100.00%	100.00%

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Efficiencies</b>				
Average # of drainage problems addressed per technical employee.	25	40/20	40/37	40

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outputs</b>				
# drainage problems resolved	99	120/79	120/144	120
# of drains & lake levels assessed	39	25/41	25/46	30
# drain permit applications reviewed	32	35/40	30/27	30
# of major drain and lake level projects	4	3/3	3/3	3
Subdivision Control Act # site plans reviewed	20	12/33	12/32	12
Lake Level Act # lake levels monitored	17	17/17	17/17	17
# inter-county drain board participation	12	6/12	6/15	6