



## Intercounty Drain Program

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There are more than 1,000 intercounty drainage systems in Michigan with an estimated combined length of more than 6,000 miles, serving approximately six million acres. Each of these drainage systems is governed by a drainage board that administers the proceedings to establish, improve, and maintain storm drains and sanitary sewers serving two or more counties under the Michigan Drain Code. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development serves as chair for each of these boards.

### IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

County and intercounty drains are the prerequisite infrastructure for Michigan's economic development. They have played a key role in the development of agriculture, roads and highways, residential, and commercial properties by removing excess soil moisture, reducing flood impacts, and improving public health. Michigan has more than 35,000 miles of legally established "public" drains serving more than 17 million acres of agricultural and urban lands and roadways.

### 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Staff successfully transitioned to remote office locations. They conducted more than 270 virtual drainage board meetings servicing more than 150 intercounty drains for reconstruction, maintenance, and administrative procedures.
- Started a two-year construction project to rebuild the eight miles of dikes and a dam on the Misteguay Creek at a cost of \$8.4 million that was initiated by petition in 2010.
- Sold \$84 million in bonds to finance the rehabilitation of the Northeast Sanitary Pump Station that serves the Oakland-Macomb Interceptor. This Station transports raw sewage from 23 communities with a population of over 830,000 in southeast Michigan. Construction is expected to be completed in 2023.
- Reached substantial completion on a \$44 million reconstruction of the Milk River Retention Treatment Basin. Completion is expected fall 2021.

## MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Miles of new or improved drains	122	120	118	104	118	128
Miles of drains maintained	131	233	241	213	229	222
Acres affected	785,000	876,000	857,000	825,000	958,000	1.1M
Public meetings chaired	288	345	439	525	504	460
Project costs	\$92M	\$102M	\$94M	\$96M	\$139M	179 M
Counties served	33	36	41	38	37	46

## 2021 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Continue the development of a project database to conduct and report program output metrics more efficiently and to implement Lean Process Improvement outcomes.
- Continue progress on the Memorandum of Understanding with State Archivist for the cleaning and digitizing of more than 5,000 current and historic files, and thousands of pages of district maps and construction plans.
- Continue to provide oversight and input to Spicer Group on the development of a spatial database and Geographic Information System of all intercounty drains/districts.
- Monitor impacts of historic Great Lakes and inland water levels and provide timely response to protect infrastructure and property flooding in impacted drainage districts.



### KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- County drain, water resource, and public works commissioners
- Agricultural, residential, commercial property owners
- Cities, villages, and townships
- County road commissions
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

### LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- The Drain Code of 1956, Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended, MCL 280.1 et seq.