



## 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 (MDARD) 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.

### 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Staff conducted more than 300 virtual drainage board meetings, which serviced more than 150 intercounty drains.
- Substantial work was completed to rebuild eight miles of dikes and a dam on the Misteguay Creek. Completion is set for June of 2022.
- Work started on seven miles of the North Interceptor East Arm in the City of Detroit that serves as the outlet for the Oakland-Macomb Interceptor. This system transports raw sewage from 23 communities in southeast Michigan. Construction is expected to be completed in 2024.
- The \$44 million Milk River Retention Treatment Basin is expected to be completed in June of 2022 including the rehabilitation of seven 1,750 hp stormwater pumps to prevent basement and road flooding in parts of southeast Michigan.
- The new program secretary was successfully onboarded and trained.
- Substantial completion was reached on the Waldo Intercounty Drain (Bay & Midland Co's.). It incorporated more than eight miles of a two-stage channel, the longest single application of this technique in the state to date. This allows multiple benefits including flood storage, improved water quality, and reduced maintenance. The \$5.4 million dollar project also replaced 123 crossings.

## MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Miles of new or improved drains	120	118	104	118	128	112
Miles of drains maintained	233	241	213	229	222	197
Acres affected	876,000	857,000	825,000	958,000	1.1M	981,000
Public meetings chaired	345	439	525	504	460	359
Project costs	\$102M	\$94M	\$96M	\$139M	\$179 M	\$172M
Counties served	36	41	38	37	46	42

## 2022 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Continue the development of a project database to conduct and report program output metrics more efficiently.
- Continue working with the State Archivist for digitizing of active current files and more than 4,000 historic files stored at the Record Center, and thousands of pages of district maps and construction plans.
- All files are manually reviewed, and tens of thousands of non-essential/duplicate documents removed to reduce the files being scanned.
- The files/maps are divided into 50 batches for scanning purposes, and more than half of the files/maps have been scanned with the goal of completing by early 2023.
- A separate scanning contract was initiated with Graphic Sciences Incorporated to accelerate the digitizing of large format plans and maps.
- Continue to provide oversight and input to Spicer Group who is under contract to develop a spatial database and Geographic Information System of all intercounty drains/districts. The current completion date is 2024.
- 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.