



Intercounty Drain Program

PROGRAM MANAGER: Michael R. Gregg | 517-331-3661 | GreggM@Michigan.gov

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 to administer 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 play 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.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Significant progress made on the file and map scanning project with the State Archivist and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) contract with Spicer Group.
- The \$11.1 million Little Tobacco River (Clare and Isabella) project was completed. It replaced nine bridges and 2.83 miles of channel.
- The \$5.4 million Waldo Drain (Bay and Midland) project was completed. It reconstructed 20.5 miles of drain.
- The \$45 million, six-year reconstruction of the Milk River Retention Treatment Basin pumping station (Macomb & Wayne) was completed. The system collects, pumps and treats over 1.5 billion gallons of stormwater and sanitary annually from 30,000 residents and highly urbanized properties.
- The Misteguay Creek (Genesee, Saginaw, and Shiawassee) \$8.4 million project was completed. The dikes/dam protect over 15,000 acres of prime farmland in Saginaw county out of the 115,000-acre watershed. It covers 10 townships and dikes/dam stretches 22 miles.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Miles of new or improved drains	118	104	118	128	112	127
Miles of drains maintained	241	213	229	222	197	225
Acres affected	857,000	825,000	958,000	1.1M*	981,000	1.25M*
Public meetings chaired	439	525	504	460	359	393
Project costs (millions)	\$94	\$96	\$139	\$179	\$172	\$183
Counties served	41	38	37	46	42	44

*M is for millions.

2023 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Maintain a high level of engagement to coordinate and provide leadership to county drain/water resource and public works commissioners to maintain and improve the existing 1,000 intercounty drains and the creation of new infrastructure systems for the protection of health and property and to promote economic development.
- Complete the initial manual review and coordinate the digitizing by the State Archivist of the more than 4,000 paper files and maps stored at the Record Center and in Constitution Hall.
- Continue to provide oversight and direction to contractor Spicer Group to develop a spatial database and GIS system for all intercounty drains/districts with an expected completion in late 2023.
- Continue to participate as a member of the Board of Directors and committees of the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners and attend their educational conferences and meetings.
- Continue the development of project databases to be able to report program metrics more accurately.
- Recognize the 100th year of the Intercounty Drain Program.



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.