



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DR. TIM BORING  
DIRECTOR

## Notice of Drainage Board Meeting For Determination of Necessity

### WILLIAMS INTERCOUNTY DRAIN (Kent and Montcalm Counties)

**DATE:** April 30, 2024  
**TIME:** 2:00 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 hear all interested persons, receive evidence and determine whether the maintenance and improvement, as set forth in the petition dated October 2, 2023, is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience, or welfare pursuant to Chapter 8 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended.

Proceedings conducted at this public meeting will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. 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  
616-632-7910

**Todd Sattler**  
Montcalm County Drain Commissioner  
211 W. Main St.  
Stanton, Michigan  
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.

Anyone aggrieved by the decision of the Intercounty Drain Drainage Board may seek judicial review pursuant to MCL 280.122a.

Dated: April 5, 2024

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

## **History and procedure**

The Kent County Drain Commissioner received a petition from six freeholders on October 2, 2023 requesting the Williams Drain to address drainage issues on Sand Lake. The petition also requested expansion of the drainage district into Montcalm County.

The Drainage Board met on January 10, 2024 and determined that the petition was sufficient and the requested improvement was practical, and further, that the expansion of the drainage district into Montcalm County was just and equitable. The Drainage Board retained Land & Resource Engineering to provide preliminary engineering alternatives and cost estimates.

Today's meeting is to make a public presentation of the preliminary engineering study and engineer's recommendations and cost estimates and to receive additional public testimony. The Board will decide based on the engineering study and testimony received from the petitioners, landowners, and local officials, both at this hearing and earlier in the process, whether or not it is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience, or welfare to proceed with some level of construction project to provide the relief requested.

The decisions today will be made by a majority vote of this Board. The Chairperson does not vote except in the event of a tie (abstentions are not allowed)

Again, it should be made clear that the Board will be deciding if there should be a project to address the relief requested in the petition and whether the project is necessary for the good of the public health, convenience, or welfare. The Board is NOT deciding on the scope of that project.

If the Board makes the determination that there is no need for any level of project, and there is no appeal, the petition process comes to an end and the costs of the procedure to date will be apportioned among the drainage district counties. These costs will be apportioned according to the benefits that would have accrued to the counties if the project had been completed.

If this Board finds a project Necessary at the end of today's proceedings and there is no appeal within the designated 10 days, this Board in conjunction with the recommendations of the engineer and testimony received from the hearing process, will decide on scope and breadth of the project to be constructed.

You have the right to appeal the decision of the Board whether the Board decides yes or no. Your appeal is to the Circuit Court of the county in which you reside, within 10 days of today's hearing. The scope or design of the project is not subject to appeal.

AGENDA

**Meeting to Determine Necessity of Petition  
for Proposed Maintenance and Improvements**

**WILLIAMS INTERCOUNTY DRAIN**  
(Kent and Montcalm Counties)

**88 Eighth St.  
Sand Lake, Michigan  
2:00 p.m., April 30, 2024**

1. Call to order
2. Introduction of Drainage Board Members and engineer  
Brady Harrington, Chairperson, Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Ken Yonker, Kent County Drain Commissioner  
Todd Sattler, Montcalm County Drain Commissioner  
Dan Fredricks, Land & Resource Engineering
3. Motion to elect Secretary
4. Approval of the agenda and meeting minutes
5. Reading of petition, explanation of procedures and voting rules - Chair
6. Presentation of preliminary engineering – Engineer
7. Public comment and questions (**please complete a speaker card**)
  - Please state name and relation to drain
  - Limit comments to 5 minutes until everyone has their first opportunity to speak
  - Be specific/describe problems or desired changes
8. Board member comments
9. Motion regarding necessity of the drain for the good of the public health, convenience, or welfare
10. Motion determining which cities, villages, and townships, if any, should receive an at large assessment for benefit to public health.
11. Motion to retain financial consultant(s) and authorize interim borrowing
12. Closing comments and administrative procedures
13. Adjourn