

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE MUSKEGON COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

IN THE MATTER OF:

WAALKENS DRAIN

Board of Determination for
Waalkens Drain

January 28, 2020
6:00 P.M.

Laketon Township Hall
2735 Giles Road
North Muskegon, Michigan

Board of Determination:
Mr. David Split (chairman)
Mr. Jeff Marcinkowski (secretary)
Ms. Tracy Korthase
Mr. Val Jensen (alternate)

Engineer:
Ryan McEnhill

Attorney:
Stacy Hissong

Drain Commissioner:
Brenda Moore

RECORDED BY: Michelle M. McKee, CSR 3841
Certified Shorthand Reporter

1 MS. BRENDA MOORE: I'm Brenda Moore. I'm
2 the drain commissioner. And we're here tonight
3 because my office received a petition to do work on
4 the Waalkens Drain. And part of that process, I'll
5 let Stacy explain. Stacy is our attorney. Ryan is
6 the engineer on the project.

7 These fine people are citizens from
8 Muskegon County who don't live in the township who we
9 picked to be objective. And what they do is they
10 make a final decision. They'll hear you tonight.
11 They'll hear the engineer and make the final
12 decision.

13 Do you want to give an overview before I
14 give the oath?

15 MS. STACY HISSONG: Nope. Follow the --

16 MR. BRENDA MOORE: So our Board of
17 Determination members, I have their names up there.
18 Val Jensen is our alternate tonight. He can be
19 involved in the discussion, but he won't vote. It's
20 the drain code that drives this process, which can be
21 odd. Tracy Korthase, am I saying your last name
22 right?

23 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: Close. Korthase.

24 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Korthase. I'm sorry.

25 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: I go by anything.

1 MS. BRENDA MOORE: David Split and Jeff
2 Marcinkowski.

3 Michelle is our court transcriptionist, so
4 if you want the meeting verbatim, we always do that,
5 as well. Jay, he's from Eng, as well. He's another
6 engineer helping out Ryan.

7 And then your township supervisor, who is
8 convalescing, came in, Kim Arter, is here tonight, as
9 well. She's been rebuilt. She came in anyway.

10 So I think I've done all the introductions
11 and we can get down to the business. Shall I give
12 the oath?

13 MS. STACY HISSONG: Yes.

14 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Okay. I'm already
15 losing track of stuff. So I'm going to ask you to
16 raise your right hand, take this oath and then I will
17 ask you to sign this. Sorry, if that's in your eyes.

18 Do you each solemnly swear that you will
19 faithfully perform and discharge the duties imposed
20 upon you as required by law as members of the Board
21 of Determination appointed by the Muskegon County
22 Drain Commissioner to determine the necessity for
23 maintenance and improvement of the Waalkens Drain
24 located in Laketon Township in said county?

25 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: Yes.

1 MR. DAVID SPLIT: I do.

2 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: I do.

3 MR. VAL JENSEN: Yes.

4 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Do you each affirm that
5 you are land owners and residents of Muskegon County
6 but you do not own land or reside in Laketon
7 Township?

8 MR. DAVID SPLIT: I do.

9 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: I do.

10 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: I do.

11 MR. VAL JENSEN: I do.

12 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Okay. We'll start with
13 you, sir, if you wouldn't mind signing it and passing
14 it down for the record.

15 For purposes of this hearing, I don't
16 participate. I'm supposed to just be here and listen
17 or answer questions. And it's going to be run by
18 basically the Board. It's their meeting. But the
19 point people are Stacy and Ryan.

20 MS. STACY HISSONG: All right. The next
21 item on the agenda is the election of a chairperson
22 and secretary. And my experience is the first person
23 to make the motion doesn't have to be the chairperson
24 or secretary.

25 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: I make a motion

1 that David Split serves as chairperson of the Board
2 of Determination.

3 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: I second that.

4 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay.

5 MS. STACY HISSONG: Do you need a vote on
6 that?

7 MR. DAVID SPLIT: All in favor?

8 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: Aye.

9 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: Aye.

10 MR. DAVID SPLIT: All right. I'd like to
11 make a motion that Jeff Marcinkowski serve as
12 secretary of the board.

13 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: I'll second that.

14 MR. DAVID SPLIT: All in favor.

15 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: Aye.

16 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Aye.

17 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: Aye.

18 MS. STACY HISSONG: Mr. Chair, the next
19 item on the agenda is the rules of public comment.

20 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay.

21 MS. STACY HISSONG: Would you like me to
22 go over that?

23 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Yes, please.

24 MS. STACY HISSONG: We are taking a --
25 court reporter is taking notes as to who speaks. So

1 when you're asked to speak during the time for public
2 comment, we ask that you state your name and address
3 before you speak. We'd like you to come up to the
4 platform so that the court reporter can get your name
5 and get your testimony accurately. So it's very
6 important that not more than one person speak at a
7 time, because that makes it more difficult for her to
8 keep track. We also ask that you allow everyone who
9 wishes to speak speak once before you ask to speak
10 again.

11 All right. With that, would you like me
12 to go into the role and function of the Board?

13 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Please.

14 MS. STACY HISSONG: Okay. Can everybody
15 hear me okay?

16 (Whereupon, nodding of heads.)

17 MS. STACY HISSONG: All right. Wonderful.
18 Again, my name is Stacy Hissong. I'm the attorney
19 for the drainage district. And tell you a little bit
20 about a Board of Determination before we get started.
21 How many of you have been to a Board of Determination
22 before?

23 (Whereupon, no response.)

24 MS. STACY HISSONG: You lucky people. All
25 right. Well, I've been to a couple hundred, so I'll

1 tell you a little bit about what happens. So a Board
2 of Determination is where there's been a petition, in
3 this case by property owners, to do maintenance and
4 improvement on a drain -- in this situation, the
5 Waalkens Drain. So a drain established under the
6 drain code, that mean it's under the jurisdiction of
7 the drain commissioner. So a drain can be storm
8 sewer, it can be an open water course, anything like
9 that. In this situation, we have a drain that was
10 established as the Waalkens Drain. When was it
11 established, Ryan?

12 MR. RYAN McENHILL: 1975.

13 MS. STACY HISSONG: 1975, so it's been in
14 existence and under the jurisdiction of the office of
15 the drain commissioner for several decades at this
16 point. I don't like to think of that, because that
17 --

18 MS. BRENDA MOORE: I know.

19 MS. STACY HISSONG: -- makes me feel old.
20 So when there's a drain, then, the drain commissioner
21 is responsible for maintenance and improvement. And
22 regular normal maintenance can be done with the drain
23 commissioner without having a public hearing. But if
24 there's extensive maintenance or improvements that
25 needs to be made on the drain then a petition is

1 required. In this situation, property owners
2 petitioned for the maintenance and improvement of
3 that drain.

4 So before we get into what we're doing
5 today, I'll just tell you a little bit about how a
6 drain works. Once there is a drain established, the
7 drain commissioner has the jurisdiction to perform
8 work on what's established as the drain. If it's not
9 legally established as part of the drain then she
10 doesn't have jurisdiction to work on it.

11 How drains are paid for are completely by
12 special assessment. And so when we're looking at
13 drains, we're looking at what's called the watershed.
14 So a watershed is any area of land. If a drop of
15 water from the sky falls on it and it eventually
16 lands into that drain, directly or indirectly, then
17 that's part of the watershed. And we use that term
18 synonymously with drainage district, so that's the
19 formal term in the drain code for a watershed is a
20 drainage district, and that also serves as the
21 special assessment district. So the watershed, that
22 area of land that contributes water to that drain, is
23 going to be the drainage district and it's also going
24 to be the special assessment district.

25 So when any amount of money at all is

1 spent on a drain, the drainage district pays the cost
2 for that. The drainage district is made up of M-DOT,
3 Michigan Department of Transportation, for benefit to
4 state highways, contribution from the state highways,
5 the county for benefits to county roads, the
6 municipalities involved for the benefit to that
7 municipality for reasons of public health, and the
8 rest of the cost goes to the property owners for the
9 benefit they receive from the contribution. So
10 that's the entities that make up a drainage district.

11 So, when a petition for maintenance and
12 improvement or a project is called upon, the drain
13 code requires that the drain commissioner hold a
14 Board of Determination, so that's what we're here for
15 tonight. And basically, it's to make a decision
16 should there be a project or not. That's what's
17 decided today, so a hearing of necessity. And the
18 board is made up under the drain code by three
19 property owners in Muskegon County who are not -- who
20 are residents and property owners in Muskegon County
21 but not in any of the municipalities involved. So
22 they are appointed by the drain commissioner and then
23 they hear testimony from the engineer as to the
24 condition of the drain, testimony from the property
25 owners as to what they're seeing as to the condition

1 of the drain or drainage issues that they might be
2 experiencing or not experiencing. And then they take
3 that information and make a decision is a project
4 necessary or is it not necessary?

5 If they determine a project is not
6 necessary, that then ends the proceedings. There is
7 no project on that and there can be no petition for a
8 period of one year. If they find it necessary, then
9 we move on to engineering, easement acquisition, if
10 it's necessary, permitting and then we take bids for
11 a project, and we'll get to that in a minute. So
12 that's what happens.

13 So, when it comes to the necessity, they
14 are deciding, yes, something needs to be done or, no,
15 it's not. The Board doesn't decide what should be
16 done. So as an example, the Board votes yes, a
17 project is necessary, but they can't vote, yes, we
18 think this is necessary but only in this 500 feet.
19 So they -- they don't vote what the scope is. The
20 drain commissioner, as the elected official,
21 determines the actual scope of the project.

22 Now --

23 MR. BRENDA MOORE: In conjunction with her
24 civil engineers.

25 MS. STACY HISSONG: Right. And the

1 engineer and the Drain Commissioner are going to be
2 listening to the comments of the property owners to
3 help get an idea of what you're experiencing to
4 decide what the scope of the project should be in the
5 event that the project -- a project is determined
6 necessary. So they don't decide what's going to be
7 done, just whether something should be done.

8 So hand in hand with that, they also don't
9 decide how much the project is. So we don't have --
10 Under the drain code, we don't have any idea yet what
11 the project cost will be, just -- this is just the
12 very beginning of that process, just whether
13 something is done or not. So they can't vote, yes,
14 it's necessary but only \$10,000. Again, the decision
15 as to what the scope is and, therefore, what the cost
16 is lays with the drain commissioner in making those
17 determinations based on what she hears as the needs
18 and what the engineer is saying should be
19 appropriate, affordable but efficient scope of that
20 project.

21 So because we don't know the scope and
22 because we don't know the cost, are we going to be
23 able to tell you how much your assessment is going to
24 be? No. So someone always asks at one of these
25 meetings, they can't help themselves, they're like:

1 I need to know how much it is. And the way the
2 statute is set up, we don't have that information.
3 The statute is set up, before we spend any money on
4 engineering, we really need to know is something
5 necessary or is it not?

6 And I have been at several meetings where,
7 after hearing from the property owners and the
8 engineer, there has been determinations of no
9 necessity. It's just a matter of the testimony from
10 the engineer and the testimony from the property
11 owners to give these board members an idea of whether
12 something should be done or not.

13 So if it's -- Like I said, if it's not
14 necessary, that ends it in terms of that improvement
15 project and no petition, again, can be filed for a
16 year. If it is found necessary, then we move forward
17 with deciding the scope of the project and the next
18 time you would get a mailing under the statute is
19 when we are ready to take bids for that project, and
20 then you'll get a notice that the bids are being
21 taken and then when there would be a day of review at
22 the drain office as to how much those assessments
23 would be at that time, and we'd have an all-day
24 hearing where property owners can come in and review
25 their assessment information at that time.

1 So the next step is to hear from the
2 engineer. But before we do that, does anybody have
3 any questions about the procedure for tonight?

4 (Whereupon, no response.)

5 MS. BRENDA MOORE: I neglected to talk
6 about the appeal process for this and the other.

7 MS. STACY HISSONG: Okay.

8 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Maybe the two -- this
9 one and day of review, if you would.

10 MS. STACY HISSONG: Okay. So if someone
11 is unhappy with the decision made today, for purposes
12 of -- I don't think we're revising the district
13 boundaries today, are we?

14 MS. BRENDA MOORE: No. That's been done.

15 MS. STACY HISSONG: Okay. For the
16 decision as to necessary, you have the right to
17 appeal that to circuit court within 10 days from
18 today. When it comes time for the assessments,
19 there's also an appeal available to that through
20 probate court for the appointment of a board of
21 review and everyone has the right to do that, as
22 well.

23 All right. If there are no questions --
24 Yes, sir. And your name?

25 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: My name is Chris

1 James, 46 Amy Street. If a go is decided tonight,
2 what's the timeframe to where the project would be
3 decided to start moving forward -- months, years?

4 MS. STACY HISSONG: Great question. So
5 the engineers would get started after the appeal
6 period is passed pretty quickly as to obtaining
7 survey information, weather dependent. And then how
8 fast that goes really depends on what the scope of
9 project is. If it is something that requires a
10 permit from the state then that may take a little bit
11 of time. If it's something that may require easement
12 acquisition, that may take a little bit of time.

13 So where I see projects stall is if
14 there's easement acquisition or permits. If there
15 are none of those issues, it could take place, you
16 know, within a year.

17 MS. BRENDA MOORE: We've also had projects
18 take five and six years because we're dealing with
19 Army Corps of Engineers or the state permitting or
20 challenges or that sort of -- That's kind of the
21 other end of the spectrum.

22 MS. STACY HISSONG: Yeah. Depending on
23 the complexity of the project and permits and --
24 Permits and easement acquisition are really the big
25 time suckers involved in those types of things.

1 Great question.

2 Any other questions?

3 (Whereupon, no response.)

4 MS. STACY HISSONG: All right. With that,
5 Mr. Chair, are you ready to hear from the engineer?

6 Yes, sir?

7 MR. LARRIE VARNES: My name is Larrie
8 Varnes. I live at 671 South Bear Lake Road. And I
9 think your little blue line here ends in my pond.

10 MS. STACY HISSONG: Okay.

11 MR. LARRIE VARNES: I don't have any
12 pipes. It goes through this blue line where it
13 starts, through my pond, underneath Bear Lake Road
14 and down into Bear Lake, so I don't have any pipes
15 and I don't want any pipes.

16 MS. STACY HISSONG: So if you are within
17 the watershed, that doesn't mean you're going to have
18 pipes on your property. The drain is delineated on
19 that map, as well. And so Ryan will go through that
20 to explain that a little bit more.

21 So you're going to see a drainage district
22 boundary. That doesn't mean we're running pipes on
23 every property within the -- that's just where the
24 water eventually gets to the drain itself. So Ryan
25 will go through some of that within his presentation.

1 And if he doesn't answer the questions specifically
2 to your property, he would be happy to stay after and
3 go through the specifics of your property with you.
4 I always volunteer the engineers to do stuff like
5 that, never the lawyers.

6 Yes, sir?

7 MR. LARRIE VARNES: I'm still the same
8 person.

9 MS. STACY HISSONG: Yep.

10 MR. LARRIE VARNES: What prompted this?

11 MS. STACY HISSONG: So there was a
12 petition by property owners who were experiencing
13 drainage concerns with their property and they filed
14 the petition.

15 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Actually, we had -- the
16 questions came, we had a day of review for the
17 boundaries. And what we've been doing in our office,
18 because the records aren't the best, is there's a
19 process the drain commissioner can go through is to
20 look at the boundaries of a district again and look
21 at the watershed. And in a lot of cases, some of
22 these districts were done in the 1800's, early
23 1900's. And what they often did is if you owned 40
24 acres, your whole 40 acres might be in a district,
25 even though 10 acres was in the watershed. So we've

1 been systematically going through had trying to
2 update records and make a better map.

3 During that process, when we had a day of
4 review, we had some folks come in the office and say:
5 When are you going to work on it? And we had a
6 conversation, and what they were asking about I
7 couldn't do without a petition, so they requested a
8 petition. And so it kind of started with us trying
9 to clean up the record.

10 MR. LARRIE VARNES: Can I ask a question?
11 Is my pond part of the watershed?

12 MS. BRENDA MOORE: I'm going to let Ryan
13 address that. If he doesn't, we'll get to that.

14 MR. DAVID SPLIT: All right. Thank you,
15 Brenda. Thank you, Stacy. At this time, we're going
16 to have our engineer's presentation. Ryan McEnhill.

17 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Push this back so you
18 can see the screen. Ms. Arter, is there a couple
19 lights we can turn off to -- so they can see a little
20 bit better? You guys might want to move to the side,
21 especially Mr. Split. You're kind of tall.

22 MS. KIM ARTER: You want them all off?

23 MR. RYAN McENHILL: No, no, no.

24 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Just the front bank.

25 MS. STACY HISSONG: The front bank.

1 MS. BRENDA MOORE: We want people to stay
2 awake.

3 MS. STACY HISSONG: No, the opposite.

4 MS. KIM ARTER: Is that all right?

5 MR. RYAN McENHILL: That's good. It's
6 good for me, if it's good for everybody.

7 All right. Well, good evening, everybody.
8 My name is Ryan McEnhill with Eng. I'm a
9 professional engineer in the State of Michigan. We
10 have offices in Lansing and Grand Haven. I'm the
11 manager of our Grand Haven office. And we work with
12 county drain commissioners, water resource
13 commissioners all across the state.

14 So Jacob, if you could -- Stacy went
15 through the overview pretty well. I'll just touch on
16 a couple of things.

17 Someone was asked about the petition.
18 There was seven freeholders of land within this
19 district that petitioned for maintenance and
20 improvement. Only five are required under the drain
21 code. So this meeting is required. I guess the only
22 thing I would add beyond what Stacy said is that I'm
23 going to give a short presentation from an
24 engineering standpoint just to give some background
25 to this Board so that they have as much knowledge as

1 possible to make a decision on necessity, but I think
2 it's also very important for all of you, having land
3 there, lived there for a long period of time, that
4 you share your input, as well, whether that be if you
5 have an issue or I think this Board needs to hear if
6 you don't have an issue. They need to hear all that
7 information so that they can make a proper decision.

8 So some of the work that we performed --
9 And what we try to do at this point is to try to keep
10 costs as low as possible because, obviously, if this
11 Board were to turn down this project, we don't want
12 to have a large amount of money that would have to be
13 assessed back. So at this point from an engineering
14 standpoint, we try to keep our costs to a minimal
15 standpoint.

16 The first thing we do is do historical
17 research of the files at the Muskegon County Drain
18 Commissioner's office. This is actually from a --
19 from a drain world standpoint was established pretty
20 recently in 1975, so there's not any extensive
21 maintenance record past that point, which is not
22 unusual, any record information that we can find.

23 The big thing that we do at this point is
24 actually go out, get our boots on the ground, see
25 what the potential issues are. In this case, we did

1 a minor amount of surveying out there. But we want
2 to try to do that field work to be able to confirm
3 the district boundary that was done just a couple
4 years ago. We want to determine from where these
5 drainage issues that came from the petition, is it --
6 is it possible to serve them? How can we service
7 them? And you'll see on my map here that we have a
8 couple of proposed extensions to be able to service
9 some of those properties in a more efficient manner,
10 and then just provide an independent and unbiased
11 assessment of those conditions here today. And I'm
12 going to do that in just a short Power Point summary
13 that goes through some of the things we found to this
14 point.

15 So the drainage district boundary, Stacy
16 already did a good job kind of summarizing the
17 watershed. Basically, everybody within that purple
18 line drains down into those green or blue lines. The
19 green line represents --

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't see it.

21 MR. RYAN McENHILL: You can't see that
22 very well?

23 MS. BRENDA MOORE: That's why light --
24 Yeah, if the front lights could go off.

25 MS. KIM ARTER: Front lights.

1 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Just for a second,
2 Kim, and then we can turn them back on.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just turn them off.

4 MS. KIM ARTER: Is that better?

5 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yes.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

7 MR. RYAN McENHILL: So the green line --
8 the green line in the middle of the screen very near
9 to the yellow, that is the established Waalkens Drain
10 as it exists today. We are looking at the proposed
11 extension of the drain to the south down to Bear Lake
12 and then to the north up Bear Lake Road to be able to
13 service the subdivision in the Huether and Amy
14 corridor. So that's how the drainage district
15 boundary was established for this.

16 In the case of the lower -- the lower blue
17 line, that's an instance where if we wanted to
18 establish that as a county drain, we would have to
19 obtain easements over it. Let's just say we don't --
20 we don't end up ultimately obtaining those easements.
21 The district boundary would be revised back to what
22 it is currently. So there's a chance that those
23 people in the lower watershed would ultimately not be
24 a part of this drainage district at the end of the
25 project. But as we started this process and started

1 reviewing the condition of the drain, we thought it
2 was worth an opportunity to look at the opportunity
3 to establish that as a county drain. So that's not
4 set in stone, but we wanted to leave that opportunity
5 open. I can talk about that a little more if you
6 have questions on why we did that.

7 So everything in that purple line is a
8 part of this watershed. Ultimately, it encompasses
9 107 acres of area, primarily in Laketon Township.
10 And then the yellow line there is the municipal
11 boundary, which separates Laketon Township from the
12 City of North Muskegon, so there is some city lands
13 in there, as well.

14 So just the existing drainage conditions
15 overview. As mentioned, the petitioners were
16 primarily located in the Huether and Amy corridor
17 over to Buys Road. It's a very flat area. There is
18 -- The blue line that extends from Bear Lake Road to
19 the north up towards Huether is not, I guess, capable
20 of adequately conveying storm water into that system.
21 And up in the subdivision itself, there's actually
22 not any storm water infrastructure at all. It's very
23 flat. There's no enclosed storm sewer drainage
24 ditches, anything of that nature, to be able to get
25 that water into that blue line area.

1 So starting from the downstream end near
2 Bear Lake and moving our way upstream, we're going to
3 go through these photos of the existing conditions.
4 The photo on the left is actually just downstream of
5 Bear Lake Road. This would be between Bear Lake Road
6 and Bear Lake. Very overgrown, obviously hasn't seen
7 maintenance in a very long time, if ever. This was
8 one of the reasons that we thought it was at least
9 worth an opportunity to explore extending the county
10 drain down to Bear Lake because it had been so
11 neglected for so long.

12 The picture on the right is obviously the
13 existing pond that sits there today. We have no
14 intention at this point of doing any work on that
15 pond at all. Obviously, we assume that the property
16 owner sees that as an aesthetic feature. We're
17 certainly not going to do anything major with that.
18 We intend to keep that element of the system.

19 But this is the actual outlet. Down at
20 the bottom of the picture is actually a 24-inch
21 diameter outlet headwall that the existing established
22 Waalkens Drain outlets to. And then there's a
23 12-inch pipe under Bear Lake Road which ultimately
24 crosses the road down to Bear Lake.

25 And then extending -- extending to the

1 north, the system consists of open drain ditches
2 currently under the jurisdiction of the county road
3 commission. It crosses the road with a 12-inch
4 culvert. And ultimately, the system gets runoff from
5 the Huether-Amy neighborhood, which we'll show here
6 on the next photos.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. Could I
8 speak a second?

9 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Can you wait until
10 just after --

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

12 MR. RYAN McENHILL: And then I'll be sure
13 and answer your questions. So once we get -- once we
14 get to the west of Bear Lake Road is kind of when we
15 start to see the issues. Very narrowly defined water
16 course. Clearly probably wasn't designed to be able
17 to take runoff from a developed subdivision. I can
18 see the standing water, not a lot of movement in the
19 water. There is some encumbrances in the way,
20 whether that's fences or just material that's built
21 up over time that makes it extremely difficult for
22 water to get from that subdivision down to Bear Lake
23 Road adequately.

24 So just -- just a summary of those issues.
25 And I know a lot of the complaints came from Huether

1 and Amy all the way up towards Buys Road. I mean, we
2 just considered it just widespread drainage issues
3 within that platted area is kind of what we saw,
4 mainly due to the fact that there's just not adequate
5 storm water infrastructure in that corridor to be
6 able to handle it and convey it to the system along
7 Bear Lake Road.

8 So a lot of these homes have sump pumps.
9 Anytime you have a sump pump -- And I'm going to
10 talk about the soil conditions that are out there.
11 When you start to have a sump pump that doesn't have
12 anywhere to discharge it to, essentially you're just
13 continuing to recirculate that same -- that same
14 water over and over again. So it becomes a nuisance
15 and you're kind of fighting against yourself to get
16 rid of that water.

17 And I just want to touch on this briefly
18 because a lot of times when we look at basement
19 issues, sump pumps, we want to look at soil
20 conditions. It's obviously mostly sand material out
21 there which, as you can see, infiltration rates are
22 off the chart. 60 to 60 inches per hour. But the
23 issue is -- the issue is the depth of the water table
24 is only 6 to 24 inches below the ground.

25 MR. LARRIE VARNES: We can't read that.

1 MR. RYAN McENHILL: That's why I'm
2 speaking it. So depth to the water table is only 6
3 to 24 inches, so homes that have these foundations
4 extending into the ground that have sump pumps, that
5 water eventually gets into the home. And soil
6 conditions where we have continual sump pump
7 circulation, soil conditions play a big factor in
8 that. And you couple that in with the lack of storm
9 water infrastructure, it becomes a very difficult
10 thing to deal with.

11 So just as a final slide, the next steps,
12 I kind of touched on this before, the public
13 testimony. Obviously, it's important for us, and
14 certainly this Board, to hear what you have to say
15 about your drainage issues specifically. If the
16 Board should find it necessary, obviously it
17 certainly helps us from an engineering standpoint to
18 go back and look at your comments and see how we can
19 address those.

20 If the Board finds the project not
21 necessary, the project is essentially over. And as
22 Stacy mentioned, you basically have to wait a year
23 until this could ever be considered again in front of
24 a board of determination. If it is found necessary,
25 we will review the comments that were made here

1 tonight, evaluate the scope of the project with
2 Brenda. We'll sit down. What are some of the
3 alternatives? What's the cost benefit analysis of
4 the solution we're going to do to make sure it makes
5 sense of everybody. A lot of times, what we try to
6 do is have a scope meeting to review an initial
7 design, say: Does this design, is this going to help
8 you? And in a lot of cases, they'll say: Well, you
9 still have this issue over here that is still not
10 being addressed by your designs. That's something
11 you can incorporate. That's why we have that
12 meeting, so that we can make sure that we're
13 addressing all the comments from the property owners
14 that live there.

15 And then the last thing is finalize the
16 design. So easement, there likely would be easement
17 acquisition. It's likely that we would have to get a
18 permit from the state for this project, albeit
19 probably a pretty routine one as compared to some of
20 the ones we deal with. And then we prepare bid plans
21 for construction. We get bidders. And then there's
22 a whole administrative process that happens after
23 that point that's required under the drain code, a
24 lot of it revolving around coming up with a total
25 computation of costs, what an assessment role is

1 going to be and how funds get levied, too. We talked
2 about the entities at large that get assessed and
3 also what your individual assessments may be.

4 So that's a summary of what we saw out
5 there. I will open it up to the Board or give it
6 back to the Board. If they have any specific
7 questions for me, I'm more than happy to answer
8 those.

9 You can turn the lights back on, as well,
10 Kim. Thank you.

11 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Thanks, Ryan.

12 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yep.

13 MS. STACY HISSONG: Did you receive any
14 correspondence?

15 MS. BRENDA MOORE: No.

16 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Well, the next stage is
17 open public comment, but I wonder if I could maybe
18 open up a couple of questions to the Board first for
19 Ryan?

20 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: That would be
21 good. I'll second that, if you're making a motion.
22 I'll --

23 MR. DAVID SPLIT: I'm not sure that's
24 necessary.

25 MS. STACY HISSONG: I don't think anybody

1 needs to make a motion. You can just ask questions.

2 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Well, just to help
3 clarify a couple of things, one thing I didn't
4 understand was the pipestone salt. Is that like fine
5 sand, like hardpan type area?

6 MR. RYAN McENHILL: No. So it's fine
7 sands. If you wanted to -- If there was hardpans
8 out there, which in a lot of cases in Muskegon County
9 we do find hardpans --

10 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay.

11 MR. RYAN McENHILL: -- which cause
12 additional issues. We'd probably have to do
13 geotechnical work to determine if that existed out
14 there.

15 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay.

16 MS. STACY HISSONG: So before -- Can you
17 explain to people who may not know what hardpan is
18 and all that, what the consequence of that discussion
19 was?

20 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yeah. So hardpan is
21 basically a layer that restricts water from -- from
22 infiltrating through it. So you may have five feet
23 of --

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Clay.

25 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Well --

1 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: We all have clay.

2 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Essentially, it acts
3 that way. It acts as almost like a clay layer where
4 groundwater basically stops at that point. And then
5 if you get, you know, a big rainfall, it kind of
6 builds up from there.

7 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay.

8 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yep.

9 MR. DAVID SPLIT: That pretty much
10 explains the high water tables, the 24 to 6 inches.
11 I thought maybe we can just clear up a couple of
12 things before we start the public comment, kind of
13 understand the soil here a little better.

14 Does the Board have any other questions?

15 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: Ryan, how much
16 does the vegetation overgrowth, you know, effect that
17 water flow through there? I mean, water moves, so
18 what's the effect of the vegetation?

19 MR. RYAN McENHILL: So the vegetation
20 overgrowth was primarily at the downstream end,
21 between Bear Lake Road and Bear Lake itself. How we
22 ultimately serviced -- would service the subdivision
23 better, we would probably want to do a full topo
24 survey to see how we can best achieve better grades
25 to be able to drain the areas from the subdivision to

1 get to that pond that's exiting today.

2 There wasn't -- there wasn't areas of
3 heavy overgrowth that we see in a lot of agricultural
4 drains.

5 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: This question is
6 just one that popped into my head. I mean, I don't
7 know how long these conditions have existed in this
8 area. I don't know if there's been petitions in the
9 past. Right? But could this just be conditions
10 generated from the amount of rain that we had in 2019
11 and has not been relieved yet but may eventually be
12 relieved?

13 MR. RYAN McENHILL: So from the
14 information that we got just on our walk and talking
15 with Kim, the township supervisor was -- when this
16 was originally constructed in 1975, it was done
17 because homes on the south side of Pennsylvania had
18 gotten built and basically no longer allowed drainage
19 to cross -- to cross that roadway anymore, so people
20 on the -- on the north side of Pennsylvania were
21 suffering from that.

22 So I don't know -- I don't know if that
23 has any impact or not, but the other thing is that I
24 don't know if Huether and Amy and maybe the folks
25 here can speak to that of when that subdivision was

1 constructed and whether it was constructed -- There
2 certainly wasn't a lot of storm water thought given
3 to when that subdivision was built initially,
4 certainly.

5 MS. STACY HISSONG: I think one of the
6 questions I think he's having is the state's
7 experiencing heavy rain and high water tables. If we
8 don't have that, are we going to still have problems
9 or not? Is that kind of what you were asking?

10 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: Yes.

11 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: Yes, you will.

12 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Honestly, I think
13 that's -- with the folks, yeah, the citizens, they
14 have the long-term history. It's probably a great
15 question that maybe they'd answer for us.

16 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Yes, Brenda?

17 MS. BRENDA MOORE: You also asked if we
18 had any complaints at the drain office from this.
19 Not before the day of review, we didn't receive any
20 official complaints. And as far as I know from the
21 records, since 1975, it's really -- not much has gone
22 on in terms of interaction, maintenance or people
23 wanting it.

24 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay.

25 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: I have a question for

1 Brenda to tie in, then. You said you had seven
2 people sign the petition because at some point before
3 that, somebody came to you and said: Hey we have
4 some issues with water. At what point does it --
5 Maybe for everybody's sake, at what point does it go
6 from, well, this is something we can handle and just
7 take care of to this is outside of just our usual,
8 you know --

9 MS. BRENDA MOORE: That's a good question.
10 As I mentioned, we had a day of review for the
11 boundaries. And we had some dialogue with a couple
12 residents, and I think the supervisor was there, too,
13 and she was just listening, and she can speak for
14 herself. But the people in the Huether area said:
15 When are you going to work on this? Can you help us
16 out? And at the time, it's like, well, the drain
17 stops here. And we can clean out and spend a certain
18 amount in this stretch, but I don't have the
19 authority to bring a branch to you. That would take
20 a petition. And at the hearing, the property owner
21 asked: Could you send us a petition?

22 MS. STACY HISSONG: So there's an area of
23 the watercourse that isn't established as the drain
24 that, because it's not established, she can't touch
25 unless there's a petition to establish it as part of

1 a project.

2 MS. BRENDA MOORE: So the colors here --
3 and you might want to pass this down, but the
4 dialogue that I had, this dark green is the exiting
5 drain. And the people who came in because they were
6 in the district said: We need some help up here.
7 What can you do? Could you see that?

8 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: So the petition is
9 currently just for the Waalkens Drain and nothing on
10 the other colors?

11 MS. BRENDA MOORE: What the petition does
12 now is opens it up for us to analyze whether or not
13 we should add that extra leg.

14 MS. STACY HISSONG: And you can't add that
15 extra leg without a petition. She can't do that as a
16 non-petition maintenance.

17 MS. BRENDA MOORE: And you're welcome to
18 step up here if you want. The colors are kind of
19 close. See the green, the green -- sparkly green --
20 well, Kelly green. That's the existing drain. And
21 when the folks came to our office for the day of
22 review, they were up in here and said: Well, when
23 are you going to work on the drain? We need some
24 help up here. I can't -- I don't have the
25 jurisdiction, because it's not a county drain, to go

1 up here. So it was, well, if you want us to bring
2 something to you, I need a petition to extend the
3 drain because it's here and it ends here.

4 MS. STACY HISSONG: And your name, please
5 --

6 MR. DAVE SILVA: In this drain here --

7 MS. STACY HISSONG: Excuse me. She needs
8 your name.

9 MR. DAVE SILVA: Oh, I'm sorry. Dave
10 Silva. I actually live on the --

11 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Well, if you have a
12 comment, we should probably --

13 MR. DAVE SILVA: Okay.

14 MS. BRENDA MOORE: I'm just trying to
15 explain how this kind of started.

16 MR. DAVE SILVA: Yeah, yeah, yeah. No,
17 no. I see what --

18 MS. BRENDA MOORE: I don't want to cut you
19 off.

20 MR. DAVE SILVA: Okay. No. That's fine.

21 MS. BRENDA MOORE: I want to have everyone
22 hear and just -- just for perspective sake. Did I
23 answer your question?

24 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Yeah. Thanks, Brenda.

25 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Sure.

1 MR. DAVID SPLIT: I think that kind of
2 gives us a little better understanding of some
3 things.

4 All right. At this time, we're going to
5 open up to public comment. And limit your comments
6 to three minutes and state your name and address.

7 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: Okay. Susan Walters,
8 91 South Bear Lake Road.

9 MS. BRENDA MOORE: You should go up there
10 (indicating). Sorry.

11 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: I do have a loud
12 teacher voice.

13 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Teacher in the room.

14 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: 91 South Bear Lake
15 Road.

16 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay.

17 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: The home I live on was
18 shown in about five of those pictures as -- in the
19 edge. I'm right on the big curve. And Huether --

20 MR. DAVE SILVA: Huether, yeah.

21 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: Huether is behind me.
22 Now, my parents bought that house in 1969 when the
23 house was built. Unfortunately, a basement was put
24 in. I bought it from them upon their passing about
25 four years ago.

1 Since my father owned the house in '69,
2 he's fought water forever -- forever, there's always
3 been water. It just didn't arrive in the rains that
4 have come lately.

5 MR. DAVID SPLIT: In the basement area or
6 outside the house?

7 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: No, the basement. The
8 basement. I don't care about outside. It's the
9 basement.

10 So years and years ago, some negotiation
11 went on with the township where a little canal was
12 dredged out beside my house. And it kind of started
13 behind on Huether, but it got filled in by a later
14 owner. So I still have that little -- I call it a
15 little stream beside the house that goes to the bike
16 trail, goes under the bike trail, under Bear Lake
17 Road into Bear Lake. The problem is it's filled in,
18 because it's probably 40 years old. Really, really
19 filled in.

20 I have two sump pumps going all the time
21 just maintaining. That's all it's doing. I get what
22 I'm doing. My problem is, they're going all the time
23 and sometimes one of the rods gets hung up. I could
24 have a fire if I were gone out of town. It worries
25 me.

1 So the other part -- And they drain into
2 that little thing. So the thing is is that when we
3 got the bike trail, they went under with a pipe.
4 Well, it's up here (indicating). Water doesn't go up
5 high. And then there's that nice little ditch that's
6 totally filled in before it goes under Bear Lake
7 Road.

8 MR. DAVE SILVA: I do the return.

9 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: Yes, yes. Water
10 doesn't go that way. So I'm very distraught in,
11 number one, the danger, the expense and I'm fighting
12 it all the time. Now, is it every year? No, but
13 it's in a long series of years. So it's not going to
14 disappear next year. It's going to be worse.

15 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Now, a good question.

16 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: Yes.

17 MR. DAVID SPLIT: When you say that area's
18 filled in, is that just naturally filled in with
19 leaves and overgrowth --

20 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: Yes.

21 MR. DAVID SPLIT: -- or is that physically
22 --

23 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: Yes. And this summer,
24 I had somebody come in and clean out all the
25 vegetation like you saw in the pictures, clean it out

1 so it's a better -- take a tree or two down to help,
2 and it hasn't helped. It looks better.

3 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay.

4 MS. BRENDA MOORE: You have a picture in
5 your Power Point, it's that one (indicating), because
6 you can't see it very well.

7 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: Yeah. It's right
8 there (indicating). Uh-huh.

9 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: On the left?

10 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Both of them.

11 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: Well, that's my
12 neighbor behind me with the boats and tarp --

13 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Look for the blue
14 tarped boat.

15 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: -- and everything.

16 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay. I have a picture
17 in my pile here.

18 MS. BRENDA MOORE: You got it? It's a --
19 Sorry, there's not page numbers on there.

20 MR. DAVE SILVA: Is it my turn?

21 MS. BRENDA MOORE: They have to
22 acknowledge you. They're looking at this right now.

23 MR. DAVE SILVA: Okay.

24 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Sorry.

25 MR. DAVE SILVA: That's okay. It's all

1 right.

2 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Thanks for the comment.
3 Next?

4 MR. DAVE SILVA: Okay. I live at 2303
5 Huether Avenue.

6 MS. STACY HISSONG: And your name one more
7 time?

8 MR. DAVE SILVA: I am --

9 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Your name again, sir?

10 MR. DAVE SILVA: 2303 Huether Avenue.

11 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Your name again?

12 MR. DAVE SILVA: David Silva --

13 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Thank you.

14 MR. DAVE SILVA: -- Junior. I actually am
15 -- Here, I'll show you here. I'm right here
16 (indicating). And the problem that we have is when
17 we get rains and stuff and thaws, I mean, there's no
18 ditches in anywhere in here, so that's one problem.

19 The problem is, too, the water comes right
20 down through here, but then it just sits right here.
21 And like Suzanne said, when it comes down through
22 here, this comes here, then it comes here. And this
23 is all higher than over here, so this just -- the
24 water just sits over here. And we're clay over
25 there, so we don't have nothing -- nothing to drain

1 over there and stuff. And what happens here --

2 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Could you step back?
3 Just -- I'm sorry. I can -- I can see Tracy trying
4 to see what you're saying.

5 MR. DAVE SILVA: Oh, I'm sorry.

6 MR. BRENDA MOORE: There you go.

7 MR. DAVE SILVA: I'm sorry, you guys. And
8 then right over here -- So as it comes, it does a
9 90-degree turn, then it goes under the bike path,
10 then it comes back over here and goes through here.
11 And like Suzanne said, once it hits here, when water
12 comes to a bend, what does it do? It drops sediment.
13 So then it drops all the sediment right into here to
14 where it's much higher than the other.

15 Now, I built my house 13 years ago over
16 there, 12 years ago, and I'm actually a builder and I
17 teach construction trades, so I know a little bit
18 about some of this stuff here. But they -- When you
19 come over here, what they did is they put a -- I
20 thought it was not the smartest thing to do here, but
21 they put a big culvert right there. If they would
22 have just come right off of this main stream and then
23 it would have come through, at least it would have
24 made it across the street. You know, because it
25 seems like it dodges.

1 And I clean out our drains probably four
2 times a year and I clean it all the way from here
3 (indicating), all the way down, all the way through
4 into here. The problem with this drain here is that
5 this drain is overgrown and water doesn't go uphill,
6 because this right here is all lower than right here.
7 And I have unfortunately -- This last year, I got
8 about this much water in my basement. I've got --
9 and when I built this, I went off the historical
10 water table. And I did listen -- I listened to
11 somebody and they said don't put a sump pump in, just
12 go off the historical thing and build up and you'll
13 be fine. Well, another year when I got it was a
14 weird year because we got four inches of water and
15 the ground was frozen. Understandable. I hear you.

16 But back here, I mean, we got ducks and
17 stuff. It looks like a lake back there, just because
18 the water doesn't move back in there and stuff. And
19 I know it's on our property over here, which I do
20 have a bulldozer Skytrak and a 580 that I can use if
21 we needed to dig a ditch through there. That's not a
22 problem. Somehow or other, we need this to keep
23 flowing, because it just comes right to here and it
24 sits right up in there, so it's --

25 MR. DAVID SPLIT: I've got a question for

1 you. You mention a culvert, it doesn't quite make it
2 to that culvert. Does that culvert go under that
3 road there?

4 MR. DAVE SILVA: The culvert comes here
5 (indicating), then you got the bike path right here.
6 See, this shows it draining straight across, which
7 would be great.

8 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay.

9 MR. DAVE SILVA: It doesn't. It goes to
10 here, it goes under the -- underneath -- or
11 underneath the bike path, takes a quick 90-degree
12 right, comes across here, then it comes over to here
13 and then it comes down to here. Okay? And so --
14 And it's just -- And even this culvert here is
15 pretty high.

16 You know, and when I -- I mean, when I go
17 over there and clean out some of this stuff and, I
18 mean, I literally dig out some of this stuff, you can
19 see the water table start to drop. So it wants to
20 go, but it just doesn't have anywhere to go.

21 MR. DAVID SPLIT: What's the purpose of
22 that other culvert? Does that drain this area, this
23 area more?

24 MR. DAVE SILVA: Well, this right here is
25 -- Back in the day, because actually I think --

1 MS. BRENDA MOORE: I visited your place --

2 MR. DAVE SILVA: Yes.

3 MS. BRENDA MOORE: -- but I work -- I was
4 a consultant with the Township. I wasn't your drain
5 commissioner.

6 MR. DAVE SILVA: That's right. Yes, yes.
7 We walked back there and that was grown over to the
8 point where there's -- no water is going to make it
9 through there, you know, and it doesn't -- and it's
10 -- We understand.

11 MR. DAVID SPLIT: It's non-functioning
12 now?

13 MR. DAVE SILVA: Yeah, it's
14 non-functioning whatsoever. I mean, if they could --
15 if they could actually just dig this out down to here
16 (indicating) and actually just have this coming
17 straight across would empty out a lot of water in
18 that whole neighborhood. I mean, I've -- I just put
19 in seven, eight grand worth of fill in there and
20 everything else to try to push the water further. I
21 left an area in the middle because my neighbors -- I
22 love all my neighbors. They're great people. And I
23 do not want to flood them, you know, and stuff, but I
24 have -- And I have recently put a sump pump, too.

25 But in order to get that water away, I

1 mean, I'm going to have to go all the way to
2 Suzanne's all the way -- I mean 200, 300 feet,
3 something like that, which -- which I can, you know.
4 But at the same time, where am I going to put it to,
5 and it's kind of -- When you're in a bowl, you know,
6 it kind of just -- because I mean, I think my well I
7 put in was 300 feet. And when you go past the
8 15-foot mark, 14-foot mark, it's clay for, I don't
9 know, a couple hundred feet. You know, so, I mean,
10 there is absolutely nothing in there.

11 And honestly, I'm really surprised that
12 with our -- with our neighborhood and stuff like
13 that, I mean, we've recently had some new pumps put
14 in and stuff like that, some -- for water and stuff,
15 new wells put in there, and everybody's -- you're
16 going to spend 10 grand. That's what it costs,
17 \$10,000 to get a well in there. But some people only
18 have -- I think -- Chris, I don't know if you --
19 Well, some people don't have their wells very deep,
20 you know, so it kind of worries me a little bit with
21 different things, too, and stuff.

22 And I don't think he drinks his water or
23 anything like that. I think you actually drink -- I
24 wouldn't drink it is what I'm saying. And you're --
25 especially when you're getting overflow and stuff

1 there, and it's a bad situation. It's not ideal.
2 And like you said, it was -- all this was done in the
3 1970's and everything, and I think that's the last
4 time most of the stuff was kind of done, but --

5 MR. DAVID SPLIT: All right. Thanks for
6 explaining that to us, Mr. Silva.

7 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Would you just show me
8 the culvert you're talking about, because you had --
9 I know Ryan saw it, but I need it in my head, too.

10 MR. DAVE SILVA: Okay. So --

11 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Just where you were
12 talking about.

13 MR. DAVE SILVA: So this right here
14 (indicating), I am right here. Susan -- Suzanne is
15 right here. This comes right into here like this and
16 then -- but instead of coming straight across --

17 MS. SUSAN WALTERS: Which it should.

18 MR. DAVE SILVA: -- which it should, it
19 goes -- You see the bike path? It goes through the
20 bike path, then it takes a 90-degree right --

21 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Okay. I know --

22 MR. DAVE SILVA: -- and goes through
23 here --

24 MS. BRENDA MOORE: All right.

25 MR. DAVE SILVA: -- and then comes back

1 over here.

2 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Okay. I know where
3 you're talking now.

4 MR. DAVE SILVA: That really screws up the
5 flow of the water, you know, and so it really just
6 kind of stops everything. Once it hits that 90
7 degree, it just drops it all.

8 MS. BRENDA MOORE: I just wasn't
9 visualizing what you were talking about.

10 MR. DAVE SILVA: Yeah. I mean, so I -- I
11 dig out a lot of water in there and stuff -- or a lot
12 of sediment and stuff and try to make somewhat of a
13 path in there. But I mean, it fills in and fills in
14 again. And my boys hate me because -- because I get
15 them out there to do it every -- every spring and
16 every fall and when we get big water. Like I know if
17 we're going to get five inches -- if it says we're
18 going to get four or five inches of water, rain,
19 you'll see me out there with my kids raking all of
20 the stuff out of the way just to try to -- try to
21 keep the water --

22 MS. STACY HISSONG: Thank you very much.

23 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay. Next?

24 MR. LARRIE VARNES: I'm still Larrie
25 Varnes, by the way. Part of the problem with your

1 blue line here, we've lived in our house with the
2 pond since '87. Okay? When we first moved in,
3 there's a big -- What do you call them? -- drain
4 tile at one end. It's probably a foot and a half,
5 two feet in diameter. The water used to gush out of
6 there. I mean, six feet it would come out. Slowly,
7 slowly, slowly, it -- until today, it's just a
8 trickle.

9 And I'll tell you what the problem is,
10 that pipe is clogged. I see -- When they put the --
11 Excuse me. When they put that pipe in there, they
12 didn't put anything to keep the animals out of it. I
13 seen animals crawl in there, a skunk one day, and
14 it's -- it's just filled.

15 Now, twice I think, to my memory, they
16 brought in some kind of a the water truck. And the
17 pipe runs through backyards on Pennsylvania and
18 there's sewer covers there. And they -- I guess
19 they've tried to rinse it out to no avail. And now
20 we're getting very little water out of that pipe.

21 MR. DAVID SPLIT: So they do have a storm
22 water system in that --

23 MR. LARRIE VARNES: Yeah.

24 MR. DAVID SPLIT: -- subdivision?

25 MR. LARRIE VARNES: Yeah.

1 MR. DAVID SPLIT: And it empties into your
2 pond?

3 MR. LARRIE VARNES: Exactly. And it seems
4 to drain okay underneath Bear Lake Road. And the
5 problem seems to be up north of us. And these folks
6 are suffering from, you know, standing water and
7 stuff like that.

8 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay.

9 MR. LARRIE VARNES: But I'm happy with my
10 pond. We get ducks every spring. And you know, it
11 seems to work out well. We don't get the water in
12 anymore.

13 MR. DAVID SPLIT: They never were able to
14 clear that out with a water truck?

15 MR. LARRIE VARNES: They tried twice and
16 had a bunch of guys hauling hoses with their water
17 trunk and trying to rinse it out and they couldn't.
18 So I don't know if it could be cleared.

19 MS. BRENDA MOORE: I just want to --

20 MR. LARRIE VARNES: Clear it up.

21 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Are you in North
22 Muskegon, sir?

23 MR. LARRIE VARNES: I am.

24 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Okay. I just wanted to
25 make sure.

1 MS. STACY HISSONG: Ryan, do you want to
2 provide some explanation to the Board about the
3 situation?

4 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Well, I guess I'd like
5 him to show me on the map where --

6 MS. BRENDA MOORE: I think it's the
7 upstream pipe that goes under.

8 MR. RYAN McENHILL: That one, okay.

9 MR. LARRIE VARNES: Okay. Okay. Here's
10 my house probably here, around in here (indicating).
11 Okay. I come out here. But mine, it runs -- you can
12 see the backyards on the south side of Pennsylvania.
13 There's sewer covers.

14 MR. RYAN McENHILL: So the pipe that he's
15 referring to, and I'll just show this to the Board,
16 is that he's indicating that --

17 MS. BRENDA MOORE: You got to step back.
18 You're forgetting about Tracy and --

19 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: I got it.

20 MS. BRENDA MOORE: You got it? Okay.

21 MR. RYAN McENHILL: He's indicating that
22 pipe extends this way (indicating).

23 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay.

24 MR. RYAN McENHILL: We went out there and
25 did survey work and confirmed that this is all where

1 it's shown. I guess we -- He says there's covers
2 back here. We didn't get into those. We --

3 MR. LARRIE VARNES: They'd be back here
4 (indicating), running the houses on Pennsylvania.

5 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Are you -- Are you
6 indicating it's an issue?

7 MR. LARRIE VARNES: I think it's clogged.

8 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Okay.

9 MR. LARRIE VARNES: Maybe you can unclog
10 it.

11 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Okay. I guess at this
12 point, the pipes that he's referring to would not be
13 considered legally established county drain at this
14 point. It could be something that we could look into
15 as a potential branch, just like these other blue
16 lines that we're proposing to be --

17 MS. BRENDA MOORE: So it's downstream
18 under the pond.

19 MR. RYAN McENHILL: It's upstream.

20 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Upstream.

21 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yep.

22 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Thanks, Ryan. All
23 right. Thanks for your comment. Any other comments?

24 MR. DAVE SILVA: I'm sorry. I am actually
25 -- When I -- What I forgot to tell you, when I put

1 in -- I have -- Like I said, I put \$7,000 into my
2 house recently. And I am going to sell it this
3 spring and it will sell fast. I know it will. But
4 the main reason why I'm here is because -- I mean,
5 and I did install -- I cut through my concrete and
6 everything else and put a sump pump. And it probably
7 will do the thing, but it's going to be like
8 Suzanne's for -- I hate to say, for whoever buys
9 this, it's probably -- that sump pump is probably
10 going to be running quite a bit. And it's -- I'm
11 going to make sure I spend the money to get a very
12 low efficient one and stuff for them and everything
13 like that. But at the same time, though, I mean we
14 just -- we just need to have a direction for the
15 water somehow, whether it's -- I don't know, whether
16 it's deeper ditches or whatever it is, and stuff like
17 that.

18 And I really do appreciate everybody
19 showing up here and trying to get this matter fixed,
20 which has been for quite a few years, I believe. So
21 yeah, that's all.

22 MR. DAVID SPLIT: All right. Thank you.
23 Gentleman to the side, thank you.

24 MR. BUTCH BURTON: My name is Butch
25 Burton. I live on 29 Coules. And I've been there

1 since '73 and I've been pumping water since '73.

2 The reason Waalkens Drain come in effect,
3 because there used to be a natural drain from behind
4 your houses all the way down to Pennsylvania and
5 cross under the road to the ditch down under. But
6 when they resurfaced Pennsylvania, they tore the
7 drain out, so then that blocked all that water and it
8 went all the way back up through there. So then
9 Waalkens put a petition to put the drain in to get
10 rid of the water, so that's where Waalkens Drain come
11 from, because the county did this.

12 I said I've been pumping for every year,
13 but the last two years it's been worse because of the
14 high water. I think he said the ground is like 15
15 feet down, you hit hardpan.

16 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay.

17 MR. BUTCH BURTON: You hit hardpan with
18 that. But like I said, you get that drain under the
19 road, if that's what it is, plugged, it could take
20 care of it. Because we had it back in '75, it was
21 backed up just like it is now, all the way through
22 their yards, all the way up. It don't help me, but
23 it would help me save money, because I don't want to
24 pay for it.

25 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay. I have a question

1 for you. About what time was that -- How many years
2 ago was that road resurfaced and they put that drain
3 in?

4 MR. BUTCH BURTON: Back probably '74.

5 MR. DAVID SPLIT: '74, so way back.

6 MR. BUTCH BURTON: Yeah. Before that's
7 why they had to put in the Waalkens Drain, because
8 they didn't --

9 MR. DAVID SPLIT: They did that after?

10 MR. BUTCH BURTON: -- put the tile --
11 They took it out and didn't put it back. There's a
12 natural drain, goes down there, and went down Bear
13 Lake Road, down in the ditch down into Bear Lake.

14 MR. DAVID SPLIT: That's when it was
15 established, in '75, you're saying. Okay.

16 MR. DAVE SILVA: So that makes sense,
17 then, if they -- if that was blocked then that would
18 -- then as the water comes down then it -- that makes
19 a little more sense now. Because when we walked out
20 there, it kind of come -- slopes up. So as it
21 brought all of the sediment down, it just deposited
22 it over here, so then the water won't come back up,
23 so that makes a little more sense.

24 Because when you were explaining to me,
25 Brenda, that there was -- once it was a drain -- a

1 ditch going all the way through there --

2 MS. BRENDA MOORE: But remember, when you
3 and I had our conversation, I wasn't drain
4 commissioner.

5 MR. DAVE SILVA: Yes. Yes. No, no, no.
6 I remember. But it was -- But that explains why I'm
7 thinking, well, how could they drain it here? I
8 mean, because it goes -- It's uphill. I mean, it
9 goes from down to up. Water won't run that way. So
10 that does make more sense. If they blocked it off
11 then what happens is all the sediment gets pushed
12 down and then starts settling up here and it just --
13 and we end up with an -- almost a little pond in the
14 back.

15 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Yeah. I understand.
16 Okay.

17 MR. BUTCH BURTON: It used to be natural
18 all way.

19 MR. DAVE SILVA: Really. Okay. Well, I
20 learned something new.

21 MR. DAVID SPLIT: All right. Is there
22 anyone else who would like to speak?

23 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: Yes.

24 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Yes, sir.

25 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: My name is Chris

1 James. I'm at 46 Amy Street, in the same subdivision
2 with you there and I believe this gentleman here
3 (indicating). I've only lived there for four years
4 or so now. But in my four years, it's been terrible
5 every year. Like he said, I had to get a sump pump.
6 It basically runs non-stop when there's any water
7 melting. I saw it run the other day. That's why I
8 needed to check my crawl space and that's got three,
9 four inches of standing water in it currently.

10 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Yeah.

11 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: The road being the
12 way it is -- I did sign the petition. The main
13 reason I signed it was to hopefully get the road
14 redone, which I thought would then bring in some
15 ditches and stuff, because we have a dirt road --
16 mud, I guess you would call it. And all the water
17 with the mud, it's just constant potholes. I mean,
18 looks like somebody took a machine gun to the road
19 and it's just -- And the city trucks come through
20 and attempt to do something with it, flatten out the
21 mud, and it just gets worse and worse.

22 And I've had to put money in my car now
23 and transfer cases, my vehicle -- all the vehicles,
24 and the muffler fell off a car because of it. But
25 related to -- to --

1 Show you this (indicating).

2 (Whereupon, unintelligible conversation.)

3 MS. STACY HISSONG: You got to talk loud
4 enough for the Recorder to hear you, please.

5 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: I'm showing them
6 where I live currently. I live in this penned area
7 right there (indicating), in that subdivision where
8 it's flat, where they're talking about. So this is
9 from last year. I took some pictures and I have some
10 videos that I can show, but this is my crawl space on
11 February 6th when we had some melt.

12 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Is that standing water
13 there?

14 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: That's standing
15 water. Yep. That's all standing water there. And
16 this is, across from me, my neighbor's yard. This is
17 the curve here where I live on. And that's, like,
18 basically a lake in his yard, because it goes
19 (unintelligible).

20 Does this work at all (indicating)?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

22 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: Anyway, so there's
23 a bank here in his yard, and that's basically
24 flooded. This was in March. So March 14th at 8:20
25 in the morning. Then this is a picture of me

1 standing in my driveway looking out of the garage.
2 And this my driveway flooded. This is my side yard
3 next to my neighbor completely flooded down to the
4 road.

5 I have -- I have a video on my phone, if I
6 can show it, an actual stream coming down from three
7 houses down to the right all the way down into my
8 yard, down next to my neighbor's yard, next to --
9 down to Dave. Just looks like a different world.
10 You could sell the house with waterfront property.

11 This is another picture of my crawl space
12 here with the water level up to my duct work, which
13 you can see on this one, it was not. So I don't know
14 how many inches that is. I don't know if it's eight
15 -- eight inches of standing water.

16 And in relation to that, when I'm using my
17 sump pump, I'm pumping it so -- Like I said, I live
18 here and this drainage is down here and all this
19 stuff sits here. So I'm pumping into my backyard as
20 far as I can out to my back fence. And that water
21 goes back to my yard into my crawl space into the
22 pump and never stops.

23 And I'm actually -- I had a crew come out
24 because I needed to get my drain field redone for my
25 septic system because so much groundwater was getting

1 into my lift station now that my pump is constantly
2 running, pumping to my drain field in my backyard,
3 which is, in turn, doing the same exact thing because
4 there's nowhere for the water to disburse.

5 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Is that a seasonal
6 situation, high water?

7 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: Yeah. I mean,
8 summertime, there's not a big issue. I have
9 underground sprinkling. I never have to water my
10 lawn, because --

11 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: That's a plus.

12 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: My neighbors told
13 me when I moved in four years ago, don't use your
14 sprinklers because the grass grows great because the
15 ground is always so saturated.

16 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay.

17 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: And I literally
18 don't. I don't use my sprinklers. So even in the
19 summertime, the grass -- the ground is still very
20 wet. But when we get these snows and melts and big
21 rains or a combination of both or anything, the water
22 has nowhere to go.

23 This is my backyard (indicating). I was
24 on my deck. I think the lady that was speaking
25 earlier lives back behind this fence here. My

1 neighbor Dave lives this way over here. But that's
2 standing water back there. Another crawl space
3 picture. This is now, in May, flooded. A couple
4 inches there. I've had to get two different water
5 pumps because the water got so high down there. It's
6 on cinder block on top of a piece of wood, and that's
7 getting damaged from water rising so far into my
8 house.

9 This is just a recent picture of my road.
10 The printer was bad quality, but you can see all the
11 standing water. Just that's not even bad because the
12 snow hasn't really melted yet.

13 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: Thank you for the
14 pictures.

15 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: Am I able to show
16 them the video?

17 MS. STACY HISSONG: Certainly. Can we
18 keep your -- Can we keep --

19 MS. BRENDA MOORE: That's up to them.

20 MS. STACY HISSONG: -- your pictures? And
21 then that's up to them --

22 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: Yes.

23 MS. STACY HISSONG: -- if they'd like to
24 see it.

25 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: Can I shows you

1 guys a quick video?

2 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Yeah. I think everybody
3 would like to see that. Sure.

4 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: Just to get some
5 amusement. There are ducks in one of them.

6 MR. DAVE SILVA: I was just going to say,
7 did you get the ducks?

8 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: There are ducks in
9 one of them. So this one is a quick one, just the
10 water level -- Well, there's a picture of the
11 (Unintelligible).

12 So this is the water level, how much water
13 is going into my --

14 (Whereupon, video played.)

15 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: That's just
16 groundwater pulling into my lift station from the
17 septic system, just constant. So that basically
18 means that pump is never not running. It's always
19 pumping into my drain field, which circles back into
20 the pump and never stops.

21 Now, this video here is from my -- a view
22 of my neighbor's side of the house all the way to the
23 front of my house.

24 (Whereupon, video played.)

25 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Looks like a fairly

1 recent video?

2 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: Yes. This is also
3 from last year. Last year was the worst I ever seen
4 in only four years. Then there is water flow there
5 going down the road. I have a little river coming --

6 So, I mean, just from that, you should be
7 able to see that there's literally nowhere for the
8 water to go in our neighborhood. Maybe my house is
9 the lowest spot in the entire subdivision where I get
10 all of it, but it's a -- It's pretty bad.

11 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Yeah. Thanks for
12 sharing that with us.

13 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Sir, for our record,
14 would you -- could you send me that video --

15 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: Yes.

16 MS. BRENDA MOORE: -- please?

17 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: I'll do so.

18 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Thank you.

19 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay. Any other
20 comments? Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. KAREL BAILEY: I have a question.
22 Karel Bailey, 661 South Bear Lake Road. I'm actually
23 south at the tail end of the current Waalkens Drain.

24 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay.

25 MS. KAREL BAILEY: And if you were to

1 continue north into the Laketon Township and build
2 the new drainage, would you be doing anything to the
3 existing drain at this time, opening up what might be
4 plugged to flow through the pond over into Bear Lake?

5 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Would you like me to--

6 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Yeah. We don't quite
7 have the scope on that. But Ryan and Brenda could
8 address that question.

9 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Well, I look at the
10 whole system. You can't just piecemeal things, so we
11 generally look at the whole system.

12 MS. KAREL BAILEY: So your answer to my
13 question is they would clean out the exiting drain?

14 MS. BRENDA MOORE: We would look at what's
15 there. And if we need to clean it, yes.

16 MS. STACY HISSONG: Where there's
17 jurisdiction. Yeah, where there's jurisdiction.

18 MS. KAREL BAILEY: Okay. All right.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Yes, ma'am.

21 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Any other comments?

22 MS. KAREN LeCLAIR: I'm not as eloquent as
23 they are. My name is Karen LeClair. I live at 2359
24 Huether. We've had -- We've had the water in our
25 basement, as well, and our pumps go pretty much

1 non-stop, even now. Our neighbor, who is on Buys --
2 He's at the end of Huether, but he's probably got a
3 Buys address. He had a completely the underside of
4 his house to the point where his furnace was arcing,
5 so they had to shut all that stuff down last year.

6 But he didn't even -- He got home from --
7 He goes down south in the winter. And he got home,
8 and he couldn't even -- they couldn't even use their
9 heater. They had to go stay at their son's house.
10 So he's probably the one that did the petition,
11 because he brought it to my house. So it's pretty
12 bad. It's pretty bad.

13 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Thank you. Any more
14 public comments?

15 (Whereupon, no response.)

16 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay. This time, we'll
17 probably close the public comment period here.

18 We have on the agenda, any correspondence
19 or letters --

20 MS. BRENDA MOORE: No, sir.

21 MR. DAVID SPLIT: -- to read?

22 MS. BRENDA MOORE: No. We had a list of
23 letters come back, there was maybe a half a dozen,
24 seven, that came back --

25 MS. STACY HISSONG: Envelopes?

1 MS. BRENDA MOORE: -- to us. Yeah.

2 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay. Well, at this
3 point, we'll have a public comment closure. The next
4 step is a decision by the Board of Determination. Do
5 we have any questions on the Board for the engineer
6 or the Drain Commissioner?

7 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: I just need just a
8 little bit of clarification again. We're talking
9 about -- It's called Waalkens Drain. Right?

10 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Yes, sir.

11 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: And the existing
12 portion was created back in 1975?

13 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Yes, sir.

14 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: Okay. And the
15 petition came into your office generated by, you
16 know, constituents out in the Laketon Township here.
17 The petition is not just for the existing portion of
18 the drain, it's for possible continuation or adds to
19 it?

20 MS. BRENDA MOORE: Correct. We have
21 fairly generic petition language. It says deep and
22 wide and extend, et cetera. It's those things
23 outside the scope of the regular maintenance, so it's
24 that generic wording that does mention extend, add
25 branches.

1 Does that answer your question?

2 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: Uh-huh.

3 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Ryan, you mentioned also
4 that this watershed drainage district possibly would
5 be expanded or will be expanded --

6 MR. RYAN McENHILL: So --

7 MR. DAVID SPLIT: -- depending on the
8 decision here?

9 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Well, so what would
10 happen is the downstream portion, we extended -- we
11 extended it all the way down to Bear Lake. And
12 currently, the Waalkens Drain ends essentially at
13 that pond --

14 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Yes.

15 MR. RYAN McENHILL: -- at Pennsylvania.
16 So we would look to acquire easement for those folks
17 between Pennsylvania and Bear Lake. If we were to
18 acquire all those easements, they would now be
19 included in the drainage district boundary as you see
20 it on that map. Should we not be able to obtain
21 easements for whatever reason, the drainage district
22 boundary would essentially stay the same as it was on
23 these maps that were distributed out front and it
24 would be reduced again.

25 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Thank you.

1 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yep. We don't -- we
2 don't do that proceeding until -- It's called a 197.
3 We do that at the same time as the day of review of
4 apportionments. So the district boundary would be
5 finalized along with the assessment would be reviewed
6 at that time.

7 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay. What about the
8 individuals that live in that proposed area where
9 they need the easements? Do they have an opportunity
10 for public comment?

11 MS. BRENDA MOORE: They were noticed.

12 MR. DAVID SPLIT: They were noticed?

13 MR. RYAN McENHILL: And that's kind of why
14 we did that. We wanted to make sure that everybody
15 was noticed ahead of time and knew about this
16 project. Yep.

17 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Seems like we have a lot
18 of hardships here and not a lot of comments that are
19 negative or opposed to this.

20 MR. LARRIE VARNES: Can you explain
21 easement?

22 MS. STACY HISSONG: All right. Mr. Chair?

23 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Sure.

24 MS. STACY HISSONG: So an easement is
25 basically, if you own property and the drainage

1 district wants the right to perform maintenance and
2 improvement along where they're going to establish it
3 as a drain then we have to acquire those rights from
4 the property owner. So an easement would be placed
5 on the property in the register of deeds and it says
6 you still own the property, but within let's say a
7 50-foot area on your property where the drain is in
8 the center of that 50 feet, then we have the right to
9 come in with equipment and perform maintenance when
10 it's needed from time to time.

11 MR. LARRIE VARNES: Even though the drain
12 is not on your property?

13 MS. STACY HISSONG: Well, we would only
14 obtain an easement where the drain would be on your
15 property or where we would need to -- or where it
16 would be necessary for us to do work. So not all
17 properties within a drainage district do we need
18 easements, only where the drain is going to be
19 located.

20 MS. BRENDA MOORE: It's almost like an
21 electric utility line, the right to go through the
22 property and it's --

23 MR. LARRIE VARNES: I understand.

24 MS. BRENDA MOORE: -- yea wide.

25 MR. LARRIE VARNES: I don't have any pipes

1 on my property.

2 MS. STACY HISSONG: So it doesn't have to
3 be pipe. It could be the open water course.
4 Whatever we established as part of the drain, then
5 we're required to obtain easement before we can do
6 any work.

7 MR. LARRIE VARNES: So you're going to
8 seize my pond, is that the idea?

9 MS. BRENDA MOORE: No, that's not the
10 intent.

11 MS. STACY HISSONG: No. Would the pond be
12 potentially part of the drainage system?

13 MR. RYAN McENHILL: So right now, the --
14 right now, the point of beginning is -- is that
15 outlet pipe to the pond. So I guess we would have to
16 get some easement across the pond to be able to
17 extend it all the way down to Bear Lake.

18 MR. LARRIE VARNES: So you're going to put
19 a pipe?

20 MR. RYAN McENHILL: No. We would leave it
21 in its natural form, unless there was some reason
22 that it wasn't adequate for some reason that we
23 needed to do work.

24 MR. LARRIE VARNES: It flows well.

25 MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yeah.

1 MR. LARRIE VARNES: It's just not getting
2 any water from up above.

3 MR. DAVE SILVA: Or like a ditch, if you
4 wanted to dig a ditch somewhere?

5 MS. STACY HISSONG: Then if it's not in
6 the road right of way, then we have to obtain an
7 easement before we can -- we can perform work.

8 MR. DAVE SILVA: So yeah, if you wanted to
9 dig a ditch all the way down the back of my yard and
10 right down to the thing, you got my permission. I
11 would gladly give it to you.

12 MS. BRENDA MOORE: May I just offer some
13 clarification?

14 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Yes.

15 MS. BRENDA MOORE: For what we're looking
16 at, most county drains are just open ditches. And
17 the idea of the easement, like you're being kind and
18 keeping things open, but when you grant the easement
19 of however the width that grants us access and it
20 grants us the ability to work, so if next owners
21 decide they need to fill their backyard --

22 MR. DAVE SILVA: They can't.

23 MS. BRENDA MOORE: -- we have the right to
24 go in that whole spot and say we need to maintain, we
25 need to keep it open on behalf of the drainage

1 district. One property owner can't hurt another
2 because we have the legal ability with the grant of
3 an easement. Does that make sense?

4 MR. LARRIE VARNES: So you're not going to
5 disturb my ducks?

6 MS. BRENDA MOORE: I love ducks.

7 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Tracy, any more
8 questions from you?

9 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: Nope, no questions.

10 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: No more questions.

11 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay. I believe at this
12 time, we'll make our decision as to necessity of this
13 drain. Anyone like to make a motion?

14 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: I'll make a motion.
15 I'll start it off. Get the correct --

16 MS. BRENDA MOORE: There are two, if it
17 helps you -- I'm sorry.

18 MR. DAVID SPLIT: No.

19 MS. BRENDA MOORE: There's a yea and a nay
20 there.

21 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: She's got it.

22 MS. BRENDA MOORE: You got it?

23 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: Yeah, I think so.
24 Forgive me if I grabbed the wrong one first here.
25 Yeah. I, Tracy Korthase, make a motion that the

1 maintenance and improvement of the Waalkens Drain is
2 necessary, conducive to public health, convenience or
3 welfare.

4 MR. DAVID SPLIT: I would second that.
5 All in favor?

6 MR. JEFF MARCINKOWSKI: Aye.

7 MS. TRACY KORTHASE: Aye.

8 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Aye.

9 MS. STACY HISSONG: All right. At this
10 time, that concludes the motion, so a project has
11 been found necessary. The next steps are to -- for
12 the drain -- if there's no appeals, for the Drain
13 Commissioner and the engineer to work on putting
14 together the project scope.

15 Again, how quickly can we do it? Not by
16 this spring, but we're going to move as quickly as we
17 can to obtain easements and get the permits. If you
18 have any questions, the Drain Commissioner has her
19 card here. If you think that we're going to need
20 easements from you, we have your contact information.
21 We'll be contacting you as soon as we can to start
22 that easement process because, like I said, that's
23 the stuff that takes time while they're doing the
24 design of the project.

25 So if you have any specific questions, you

1 can see the engineer and the Drain Commissioner
2 afterwards. Otherwise, we'll let these three
3 wonderful people adjourn the meeting so they can go
4 home.

5 MR. DAVID SPLIT: One more question.

6 MS. STACY HISSONG: Yes.

7 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Previous board of
8 determination meetings, we also had a vote for a
9 village --

10 MS. STACY HISSONG: Yep.

11 MR. DAVID SPLIT: -- or the city
12 municipalities.

13 MS. STACY HISSONG: You are correct. The
14 law changed in December of 2018 to where the board of
15 determination doesn't make that decision anymore, the
16 drain commissioner makes that determination.

17 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Okay.

18 MS. BRENDA MOORE: You are a sharp board
19 member.

20 MR. DAVID SPLIT: Got that handled.

21 MS. STACY HISSONG: Yes, sir.

22 MS. BRENDA MOORE: I'm just coming up to
23 make sure we have that. Sign that (indicating).

24 MS. STACY HISSONG: Are you adjourning the
25 meeting now?

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