

# FAQs

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about the Notice of Letting, Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries and Day of Review of Apportionments

### ***Why did I receive this notice?***

A landowner petition was filed for maintenance and improvement of the Black Creek Consolidated Drain to alleviate flooding issues. After a 3-member Board of Determination determined maintenance and improvement was necessary on December 7, 2016, the Drain Commissioner worked with consultants to develop a project.

All property owners in the Black Creek Consolidated Drain Drainage District subject to an assessment for the work performed were sent a copy of the notice.

### ***What is a Drainage District?***

A drainage district is the land area that benefits from the drain. The drainage district makes up the watershed that contributes water to the drain. Each property and municipality within the drainage district pays for maintenance and improvement of the drain.

### ***What is a Letting?***

A drain contract letting is the receiving of bids from contractors to perform certain work on a Drain. Once a bid is selected, the project can begin.

### ***What is a Day of Review of Apportionments?***

A Day of Review of Apportionments provides an opportunity for property owners to review the percent of benefit of the drain assigned to their property. The apportionments of benefit are based on acreage, land use, and other factors. The apportionments determine the assessment amount for each property for costs of construction or maintenance.

### ***What is a Day of Review of District Boundaries?***

The Michigan Legislature passed a law in 2013 to allow revisions to the historical drainage district

boundaries when recommended by a licensed engineer.

Property owners can review changes with the Drain Office staff during the Day of Review. The proposed boundary revisions can be found on the map accompanied with the Notice and on the Muskegon County Drain Commissioner's website at <https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/492/Drain-Commissioner>

### ***Why are the apportionments being revised?***

Parcel apportionments are being revised to more accurately reflect the percentage of benefit that each property receives from the drain. If a parcel is on the outer boundary of a drainage district, it is possible that only a portion of the parcel will be assessed.

### ***When do I receive my drain assessment?***

Drain assessments are included on your Winter Tax bill, and are only levied when costs are incurred for the drain. Assessment amounts vary from year to year.

### ***What is my assessment amount?***

Estimated assessment amounts are available at the Day of Review. If you are unable to attend, you may call the number listed on the notice with you have any questions.

### ***Do I have to attend the Letting or Day of Review?***

You are not required to attend the Letting or Day of Review.

### ***How can I get more information?***

Visit the County's website at <https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/492/Drain-Commissioner> or call (231) 683-1772.

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### **Why is the Day of Review also being held electronically?**

The Day of Review is being offered electronically to limit public assemblies and help prohibit the spread of COVID-19.

### **What is Zoom?**

Zoom is a video conferencing service that allows for virtual meetings, either by video, audio-only, or both. Zoom meetings can be accessed through the Zoom app, an internet browser, or by telephone.

### **How do I download the Zoom app on my device?**

You will be prompted to download the app when you enter the meeting link from your notice into a web browser on your computer or device. You can also download the app as follows:

- **Computer.** The computer/laptop app is available for download at [zoom.us/download](https://zoom.us/download). Select the download for "Zoom Client for Meetings."
- **Smartphone, tablet, and other app-based devices.** Search for "Zoom" in the app store for your device or go to [zoom.us/download](https://zoom.us/download) and select the appropriate link under "Zoom Mobile Apps."

### **How do I access the Day of Review on Zoom?**

- **By App.** Enter the meeting link from your Notice into a web browser. Permission will be requested to open the app on your device. Alternatively, you can open the app, select "Join," enter the Meeting ID from your Notice, and press the "Join" button.
- **By Web Browser on Computer/Laptop.** Go to [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join), enter the Meeting ID, and select "Join." For further information about accessing from a web browser, please visit <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362593-Launching-Zoom-from-a-web-browser>.
- **By Telephone.** Dial the number provided on your Notice. If requested, enter the Meeting ID from your Notice.

### **How do I participate during the Day of Review?**

Once you have entered the Zoom meeting, you will be automatically placed on "mute." The Drain Commissioner and meeting host will give further information about how to participate and when public comment is permitted. You are requested to remain "muted" until called on for comment.

### **How do I indicate I want to comment?**

You can indicate that you would like to comment or ask a question by virtually "raising your hand," at which point a hand icon will appear next to your name for the meeting host to see. To "raise your hand":

- **Computer.** Select the icon labeled "Participants" at the bottom of your screen. This will pull up a participant list on the right side of your screen. At the bottom of the participant list, select the "Raise Hand" button. Once called on to speak, select the "Unmute" button on your screen.
- **Smartphone, tablet, and other app-based devices.** Select the "Raise Hand" button at the bottom of your screen. If "Raise Hand" is not present, select the "More" button to reveal more controls. Once called on to speak, select the "Audio" or "Unmute" button on your screen.
- **Telephone.** Dial \*9 to "Raise Hand." Once called on to speak, dial \*6 to unmute your line.

### **What if I have difficulty accessing the Day of Review electronically?**

Please call the Drain Commissioner's Office at (231) 683-1772. Every effort will be made to help ensure your participation.

### **Can I submit questions or comments prior to the Day of Review electronically?**

Questions and comments prior to the meeting can be submitted by calling (231) 683-1772.