

FAQs

Elmeka N. Steele, Esq.
Wayne County Drain Commissioner



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS Board of Determination

Why did I receive a notice?

A landowner petition was filed with the Wayne County Drain Commissioner requesting maintenance and improvement be performed on a county drain. All property owners with lands in the drainage district were sent a copy of the notice.

What is a Drainage District?

A drainage district is the land area that contributes water to a drain. Each property and municipality within the drainage district pays for maintenance and improvement of the drain.

What happens after a petition is received?

When a valid petition is filed with the Drain Commissioner, the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended, requires a board of determination be held to determine if a project is necessary.

What happens at the Board of Determination?

A three (3) member panel of disinterested property owners will receive evidence and hear testimony of interested persons. An engineer will also present an inspection report on the condition of the drain. The panel will determine whether a project is necessary.

Does the Board of Determination decide the project scope of work or costs?

No, the board of determination does not decide the scope of the project, the cost of the project, or assessment amounts.

What happens after the Board of Determination?

If a project is not found necessary, the process will end and no project will occur. If a project is found necessary, then the Drain Commissioner will work with engineers and other consultants to determine the scope of the project. Once a project scope is determined, the Drain Commissioner will hold a public meeting to review apportionments. Notices for the public hearing on assessments will be mailed to all property owners and municipalities in the drainage district.

Do I have to attend the Board of Determination?

No, you are not required to attend the meeting. Notice of any future informational meetings, including the meeting to review apportionments after a project scope is determined, will be mailed at a later time.

Can the decision of the Board of Determination be appealed?

Yes. If a person feels aggrieved by the board's determination of necessity, he/she may institute an action in circuit court within 10 days after the determination by the Board. MCL 280.72a

How can I get more information?

Call (313) 536-0355 or visit the Wayne County Drain Commissioner's website at: <https://www.waynecountymi.gov/Government/Departments/Environmental-Services/Facilities-Management/County-Drains>.

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