

BRANCH COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

COUNTY #4 DRAIN

NOTICE OF MEETING OF RECONVENED BOARD OF DETERMINATION

DATE: Thursday, January 25, 2018

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Girard Township Hall
1009 Marshall Road
Coldwater, MI 49036

QUESTIONS: (517) 279-4310

A Reconvened Board of Determination will meet at the above date, time and location to hear all interested persons, receive evidence and determine whether the maintenance and improvement of the County #4 Drain, as set forth in the petition, dated July 10, 2017, is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare and whether said maintenance and improvement is necessary for the protection of the public health in the following municipality: Girard Township, pursuant to Chapter 8 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended.

A presentation will be made to the Reconvened Board of Determination providing information about the Drainage District, and describes the roles, responsibilities and decisions made by a Reconvened Board of Determination. The presentation is to provide background for landowners and municipalities in the Drainage District and to facilitate the dissemination of information and the receipt of testimony of landowners in the Drainage District. The Reconvened Board of Determination will make a decision at the end of the meeting.

Proceedings conducted at this public hearing will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and you are further notified that information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Branch County Drain Commissioner's Office located at 31 Division Street, Coldwater, Michigan 49036. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Drain Commissioner at the number noted above (voice) 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. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the Branch County Drain Commissioner's office.

Anyone aggrieved by the decisions of the Reconvened Board of Determination may seek judicial review pursuant to MCL 280.72(3) and MCL 280.72a.

Michael Hard
Branch County Drain Commissioner

FAQs

Michael Hard
Branch County
Drain Commissioner



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about a Drainage Board Meeting to Add or Remove a County from a Drainage District

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 does it mean to add or remove a county from a Drainage District?

The Michigan Legislature passed a law in 2017 to allow lands to be added or removed from a drainage district that would result in the addition or removal of an entire county to or from a Drainage District.

This means that it has been determined that lands from a county that is not currently included in the Drainage District contribute water to the Drain or lands in a county that is currently included in the Drainage District does not contribute water to the Drain.

The purpose of the Drainage Board Meeting to Add or Remove a County from a Drainage District is to add or remove a county from the Drainage District to ensure the Drainage District boundaries accurately reflect the current watershed of the drain.

What happens after a county is added or removed?

After the Drainage Board meeting is held and a decision has been made to add or remove a county from the Drainage District, each Drain Commissioner must then hold a Day of Review of

Drainage District Boundaries in their respective counties where the specific revisions to the Drainage District boundaries in each county can be reviewed with Drain Office staff. You will receive a separate notice for the Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries. A map depicting the proposed boundary revisions will be sent along with the notice.

Why did I receive a notice?

Notices went out to all property owners within the current or proposed revised Drainage District. All property owners that may be subject to an assessment were sent a copy of the notice.

Do I have to attend the Drainage Board Meeting?

You are not required to attend the Drainage Board Meeting, however, it is your right to do so. All property owners and municipalities in the current or proposed revised Drainage District can appear for or against the addition or removal.

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 of Apportionments. You will receive a separate notice for the Day of Review of Apportionments at a later date.

How can I get more information?

Visit Branch County's website at www.countyofbranch.com or call (517) 279-4310.

Michael Hard

Branch County Drain Commissioner

Courthouse | 31 Division Street | Coldwater, MI 49036 | (517) 279-4310 | www.countyofbranch.com