

*OTTAWA COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER*



Annual Report

**January 1, 2014
Thru
December 31, 2014**

The activities and programs of this department are brought to you by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners:
Joe Baumann, Chair, Greg DeJong, Vice-Chair, Don Disselkoen, Stu Visser, Allen Dannenberg, Mike Haverdink,
Dennis VanDam, James Holtvluwer, Philip Kuyers, Roger Bergman and Matthew Fenske

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OTTAWA COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Joe Bush, Water Resources Commissioner
Linda Brown, Chief Deputy
Chris Machiela, Drain Inspector
Jon Braxmaier, Soil Erosion Control Agent
Angela Walachovic, Soil Erosion Control Inspector
Dennis Cole, Civil Engineer
Teresa Overly, Drain Clerk
Jen Vandenberg, Secretary

**DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITY NARRATIVE
OTTAWA COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**

The following are responsibilities mandated by Statute:

The Water Resources Commissioner and his staff are responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance of approximately 872 storm water management systems ("County Drains") in Ottawa County. These systems are designed to provide storm water management, drainage, flood prevention and stream protection for urban and agricultural lands. Construction and maintenance of these County Drains can be accomplished through petition by property owners, resolution or petition by public entities and general maintenance by the Water Resources Commissioner under Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended. Typical duties include inspection, enforcement, response and analysis of citizen complaints on drainage problems and the administration of construction and maintenance of drains.

The Water Resources Commissioner is responsible for review and approval of storm water management systems in platted developments under the Michigan Land Division Public Act 591 of 1996 and for private development in response to local government ordinance requirements. The Water Resources Commissioner has the authority to ensure that county drains and natural water courses, both inside and outside of a plat, be improved or protected to the standards and specifications of the storm water management policy that has been established by the Water Resources Commissioner.

The Water Resources Commissioner is responsible for compiling all accounting records of financial activities for county drains and for preparation and distribution of special assessment rolls for reimbursement from property owners or public corporations benefited by construction and maintenance of drains. A full financial statement of each drainage district is available in the Office of the Water Resources Commissioner as required by Michigan Drain Code, Act No. 40 of the Public Acts of 1956, as amended.

The Water Resources Commissioner is responsible for maintaining safe operation of Water Control Structures, Lake Levels and Emergency Action Plans, should failure occur.

In addition, the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners has designated the office of the Water Resources Commissioner responsible for the following:

The Water Resources Commissioner is designated by County Ordinance No. 02-1, as the officer responsible for implementation and enforcement and to establish the system of fees, penalties and civil infraction penalties for violation of the ordinance as authorized by Part 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, of the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act, No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended and the Federal Clean Water Act, including Watershed Management with regard to wetlands, streams and creeks.

The Water Resources Commissioner is responsible for coordinating all requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act, Phase II Stormwater Permit, as they pertain to Ottawa County Drains and County owned facilities. These requirements include; a Public Education Plan, a Public Participation Plan, an Illicit Discharge and Elimination Plan, a Construction Site Runoff Control Plan, a Post Construction Storm Water Management Plan and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative.

DRAIN CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Every year, numerous County Drains require maintenance and improvements in order to provide positive drainage. In addition, petitions are received requesting improvements to existing County Drains as well as establishment of new County Drains. 2014 was a busy year for both drain petitioned projects and drain maintenance which resulted in expenditures totaling **\$2,493,697.65**.

Note: A list of all drain orders issued in 2014 (#3668 thru #4455) is kept on file in the Office of the Water Resources Commissioner as required by Michigan Drain Code, Act No. 40 of the Public Acts of 1956, as amended

Projects that were approved in 2014 consisted of the following:

Assessment Type	Number of Drains	Total Cost
Maintenance	82	486,698.22
Petition – New Drain (Orphan drainage system petitioned by municipality to establish and place under jurisdiction of Water Resources Commissioner)	6	32,450.00
Petition – New Drain (Park West)	1	4,386,000.00
Petition – Maintenance/Improvement	3	900,000.00
Installment (past projects being assessed over a period of years)	13	270,669.49
Total Cost of Drain Construction/Maintenance		6,075,817.71
Prepayments (Projects where municipalities or property owners chose to pay costs up front. These projects were not placed on the official assessment roll.)	5	111,511.90
Grand Total	110	6,187,329.61

Costs associated with drain construction and maintenance are paid for by levy of special assessment to individual drainage districts. Drainage districts consist of municipalities, the County, Road Commission, Michigan Dept. of Transportation and property owners. There were 105 assessments levied to drainage districts throughout the County in 2014 totaling **\$922,046.10**.

Note: The Individual Drains included on the 2014 Assessment Roll are kept on file in the Office of the Water Resources Commissioner as required by Michigan Drain Code, Act No. 40 of the Public Acts of 1956, as amended

There are several mechanisms available to pay for projects until assessment revenue is collected. Drainage districts can borrow money to cover project costs. Some projects require that the assessment be levied in installments to make the cost more affordable to the property owners. The terms of the borrowing are typically between 1 and 10 years but can be as long as 20 years.

Drain Code requires that the County appropriate a Revolving Fund for the purpose of paying preliminary and maintenance costs until such time that assessment revenue is collected. The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners has appropriated \$175,000 to the Drain Revolving Fund for this purpose.

Statute also allows for creation of a Revolving Maintenance Fund. This fund is generated from interest earnings of individual drainage district accounts that have a balance of less than \$1,000. Over the years, the fund has grown to \$55,320. This fund can only be used to pay for drain maintenance and is reimbursed in the same manner as the Drain Revolving Fund.

The total outstanding debt at 12/31/14 is as follows:

Debt Type	Total Debt
Drain Notes	\$1,962,400
Bonds (Munn & Nunica Drains)	\$ 446,133
Revolving Fund	\$ 174,992
Revolving Maintenance Fund	\$ 55,226
Grand Total	\$2,638,751

In addition to drain assessment revenue, two projects were approved for funding thru the Stormwater, Asset Management & Wastewater (SAW) Grant Program. A total grant in the amount of 2 million was awarded by the State for two of our projects; the Park West Drain Construction Project (\$1,739,000) and the Sand Creek Drain Restoration Project (\$261,000).

The SAW Program also has a loan component. The Water Resources Commissioner was successful in obtaining approval for up to 2.5 million for the Park West Drain Project. The interest rate for the loan is guaranteed at 2.5%. The loan program is unique because it allows for grant funds and assessment prepayment funds to be utilized prior to drawing on the loan. Because of this, the first draw on the loan will not occur until summer of 2015.

Drain funds are invested thru the Ottawa County Treasurer and had interest earnings as follows:

Fund Type	Interest Earnings
Drain Funds	\$16,383
Revolving Maintenance Fund	\$ 77
Debt Service Funds	\$ 949
Lake Boards	\$ 931
Grand Total	\$18,340

At times, State and federal funding is also available. In April, 2013 a severe storm event caused significant damage to a number of established County Drains. Funding was received from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in 2013, with additional funding approved by FEMA in the amount of **\$18,416** in 2014. Further funding was approved for 2015.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

The Michigan Land Division Act (Public Act 591 of 1996) requires that the Water Resources Commissioner be responsible for reviewing the drainage or storm water management system of all platted developments. The Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner has adopted and published a set of Standards and Specifications for this purpose. In 2014, a collaborative effort was initiated between this office, the Allegan & Muskegon County Drain Commissioner's Offices and the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) to update the current standards. The cost of this initiative is being paid for by a SAW Grant that was awarded to the MACC. The new standards will be published in 2015.

Primary drainage systems within platted lands are required to be established as County Drains under the jurisdiction of the Water Resources Commissioner.

The Mobile Home Commission Act (Public Act 419 of 1976) requires that the storm water management system in a Mobile Home Park comply with the standards and specifications established by the Water Resources Commissioner.

The Condominium Act (Public Act 59 of 1978, as amended) requires that the Water Resources Commissioner be notified of the intent to establish a condominium project. Approval by the Water Resources Commissioner is not required. However, municipalities in Ottawa County require review and approval by this office.

These standards and specifications are also applied to other miscellaneous developments when required by the local unit of government.

There were 69 developments reviewed by the Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner's Office in 2014. Fees associated with these reviews totaled **\$91,898**. The location and type of development is reflected in the tables below.

TOWNSHIP/CITY	PERMITS
Allendale	8
Georgetown	17
Grand Haven	4
Grand Haven City	1
Holland	17
Hudsonville	1
Jamestown	6
Park	2
Port Sheldon	1
Spring Lake	4
Wright	1
Zeeland	3
Zeeland City	4
TOTAL	69

DEVELOPMENT TYPE	PERMITS
Apartment	4
Church	2
Commercial	20
Condominium	4
Industrial	11
Misc.	2
Parcel Split	1
PUD	3
School	4
Site Condo	6
Subdivision	12
TOTAL	69

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT, PART 91 OF 451,
NATURAL RESOURCES AND E.P.A., 1994

A state statute was created in 1972 to provide protection of our natural watercourses from sedimentation during earth changing activities. Sediment from soil erosion is the number one pollutant by volume in surface waters. It disrupts aquatic life, destroys spawning habitat, disrupts navigation channels, causes flooding and clogs storm sewers and drainage ditches, which increases the cost of drain maintenance.

Any earth changing activity within 500' of a watercourse or disturbing over an acre of ground requires a permit.

Between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014 there were 546 permits issued by Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner's Office staff acting as the County Enforcing Agent for this State Statute. This is the largest number of permits issued since this office became responsible for administration of the program. These permits were issued according to the Ottawa County Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control Ordinance. This ordinance was revised and approved by the Board of Commissioners on November 8, 2005 (No. 05-1). 2014 permit fees totaled **\$83,844**.

Permits were issued for the development type and in the jurisdiction shown below.

TOWNSHIP/CITY	PERMITS
Allendale	42
Blendon	19
Chester	2
Coopersville	1
Crockery	18
Ferrysburg	6
Georgetown	149
Grand Haven	41
Holland	87
Hudsonville	1
Jamestown	26
Olive	3
Park	42
Polkton	8
Port Sheldon	17
Robinson	13
Spring Lake	38
Tallmadge	15
Wright	3
Zeeland	15
TOTAL	546

DEVELOPMENT TYPE	PERMITS
Apartment	8
Church	3
Commercial	38
Condominiums	14
Cut/Fill	12
Duplex	31
Industrial	5
Misc.	9
Park	4
Pond	7
Private Drive	6
Residential/Minor	33
Sand Mining	3
School	4
Single Family Home	331
Sidewalk	6
Subdivision	19
Utility	12
Wetland	1
TOTAL	546

CERTIFICATE

I do Hereby Certify that the preceding is a true report of the amount of revenue and expenditures collected and issued by the Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner's Office, also the Assessments on drains this year, and that the Financial Statement is true and correct.

Joe Bush

Joe Bush
Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner

Dated this 31st Day of March, 2014.

This annual report for the period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 is submitted in compliance with Act 365 of the Public Acts of 1925 and Act 331 of the Public Acts of 1927.