

***OTTAWA COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER
Joe Bush***

Annual Report

**October 1, 2016
Thru
September 30, 2017**



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OFFICE STAFF

Linda Brown, Chief Deputy
Chris Machiela, Drain Inspector
Dennis Cole, Civil Engineer
Jen Vandenberg, Senior Secretary
Jon Braxmaier, Soil Erosion Agent
Angela Walachovic, Soil Erosion Inspector
Karen Billings, Water Resources Clerk

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITY NARRATIVE

The Water Resources Commissioner and his staff are responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance of approximately **906** County Drains. These systems are designed to provide storm water management, drainage, flood prevention and stream protection for urban and agricultural lands. A County Drain may be an open ditch, natural watercourse or underground pipe. The Water Resources Commissioner is also responsible for maintaining safe operation of water control structures that include 6 dams, 7 lake level control structures, 4 drain control structures, 3 pumping stations and 295 Detention/Retention Ponds.

Construction and maintenance of these systems can be accomplished through petition by property owners or public entities and general maintenance by the Water Resources Commissioner under Michigan Drain Code, Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended. Typical duties include inspection, enforcement, response and analysis of citizen complaints of drainage problems and the administration of construction and maintenance activities. 529 complaints were responded to in FY2017.

Additional responsibilities include compiling all accounting records of financial activities for the individual drains and for preparation and distribution of special assessment rolls for reimbursement of costs associated with individual projects. A full financial statement of each drainage district is available in the Office of the Water Resources Commissioner as required by Drain Code.

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. In 2017 drain expenditures totaled **\$2,336,566.93**. A list of all drain orders issued in FY2017 (#5953 thru #6883) is kept on file in the Office of the Water Resources Commissioner as required by Drain Code.

Projects that were approved and assessed in 2017 consisted of the following:

Assessment Type	Number of Drains	Total Cost
Maintenance	105	517,749
Petition – New Drain (Orphan drainage system petitioned by municipality to establish and place under jurisdiction of Water Resources Commissioner)	4	54,176
Installment - Past projects being assessed over a period of years	15	487,209
Lake Levels – Control Structure Maintenance/Inspections	2	14,700
Petition – Drain Maintenance/Improvements	5	103,918
Total 2017 Assessment Levy	131	\$1,177,752
Petition (Hiawatha Drain was financed over 20 years – Amount of first installment is included in the 2017 levy)	1	\$1,034,000
Prepayments (Projects where municipalities or property owners chose to pay costs up front. These projects were not placed on the official assessment roll.	3	\$194,959
Grand Total	135	\$2,406,711

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, CSX Railroad and property owners. The Individual Drain Assessment Rolls included on the 2017 Assessment Levy are kept on file in the Office of the Water Resources Commissioner as required by Drain Code.

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 \$55,677. 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 9/30/17 is as follows:

Debt Type	Total Debt
Drain Notes	\$2,284,609
Bonds (Munn, Nunica & Park West Drains)	\$1,918,833
Revolving Fund	\$ 163,912
Revolving Maintenance Fund	\$ 53,597
Grand Total	\$4,420,951

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

Fund Type	Interest Earnings
Drain Funds	\$ 4,911
Revolving Maintenance Fund	\$ 102
Debt Service Funds	\$ 1,692
Lake Boards	\$ 1,905
Grand Total	\$ 8,610

At times, State and federal funding is also available. In FY2017, funding was received from the State of Michigan for a SAW Grant in the amount of \$75,064 to draft a Stormwater Management Plan for the Maplewood Intercounty Drain.

The Water Resources Commissioner's Office also received a grant from the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) thru the Wetland Mitigation Banking Fund. This project involves collaboration with the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners and the Michigan Municipal Wetland Alliance to construct several wetland sites. Wetland credits created would then be available to Drain Commissioners, Municipalities and farmers for purchase at a reduced rate. Funds were received in FY2017 for this project in the amount of \$61,457.

In FY2017 we were awarded a 319 grant from the MDEQ in the amount of \$600,000 for the Upper Sand Creek Restoration Drain Project. This project will be undertaken in 2018 and 2019 and will include bank stabilization, grade control structures, two-stage ditching, vegetative buffers and wetland restoration/enhancement.

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM MS4 PHASE II STORMWATER PROGRAM

The Water Resources Commissioner is responsible for coordinating all requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act, Phase II Stormwater Permit Program, as they pertain to Ottawa County Drains and Ottawa 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.

Staff has been working on identifying all catch basins, detention ponds and outfalls under jurisdiction of the Water Resources Commissioner over the last several years and ensuring they are accurately reflected in the County GIS. This information is a requirement of our Phase II Stormwater Permit and is necessary to fulfill inspection requirements of the new permit expected to be issued in 2019 or 2020.

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.

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 117 new developments reviewed and approved by the Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner's Office in FY2017. The location and type of development are reflected in the tables below.

TOWNSHIP/CITY	PERMITS
Allendale	13
Blendon	5
Coopersville	1
Crockery	3
Georgetown	25
Grand Haven	6
Holland	27
Holland City	1
Hudsonville	1
Jamestown	8
Olive	4
Park	5
Port Sheldon	1
Robinson	1
Spring Lake	2
Tallmadge	4
Zeeland	9
Zeeland City	1
TOTAL	117

DEVELOPMENT TYPE	PERMITS
Apartment	5
Church	7
Commercial	40
Commercial Park	1
Condominium	4
Industrial	20
Misc.	2
Private Drive	4
PUD	5
School	3
Site Condo	10
Subdivision	14
Utility	2
TOTAL	117

**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 the waters of the State and adjacent properties from sedimentation during earth changing activities. Sediment from soil erosion is the greatest pollutant by volume impacting our lakes, streams and wetlands. Erosion and sedimentation result in: loss of fertile topsoil, filling of lakes, streams and County Drains, increased flooding and damage to plant and animal life. Construction is one of the major causes of erosion in Michigan. Without proper planning and management, tons of sediment per acre per year can be generated on some construction sites.

The Water Resources Commissioner is designated by County Ordinance No. 16-01, as the County Enforcing Agent who is responsible for implementation and enforcement including establishing a system of fees, penalties and civil infraction penalties for violation of the ordinance.

A permit is required for any earth change that disturbs one or more acres, or is within 500 feet of the water's edge of any lake, stream or waters of the state. Exempted activities include plowing and tilling for crop production and some logging and mining activities.

Due to the rapid development in Ottawa County, it is important to protect the county's valuable water resources. By preventing erosion and sediment in runoff from construction sites, sedimentation of storm drains, wetlands and streams is controlled.

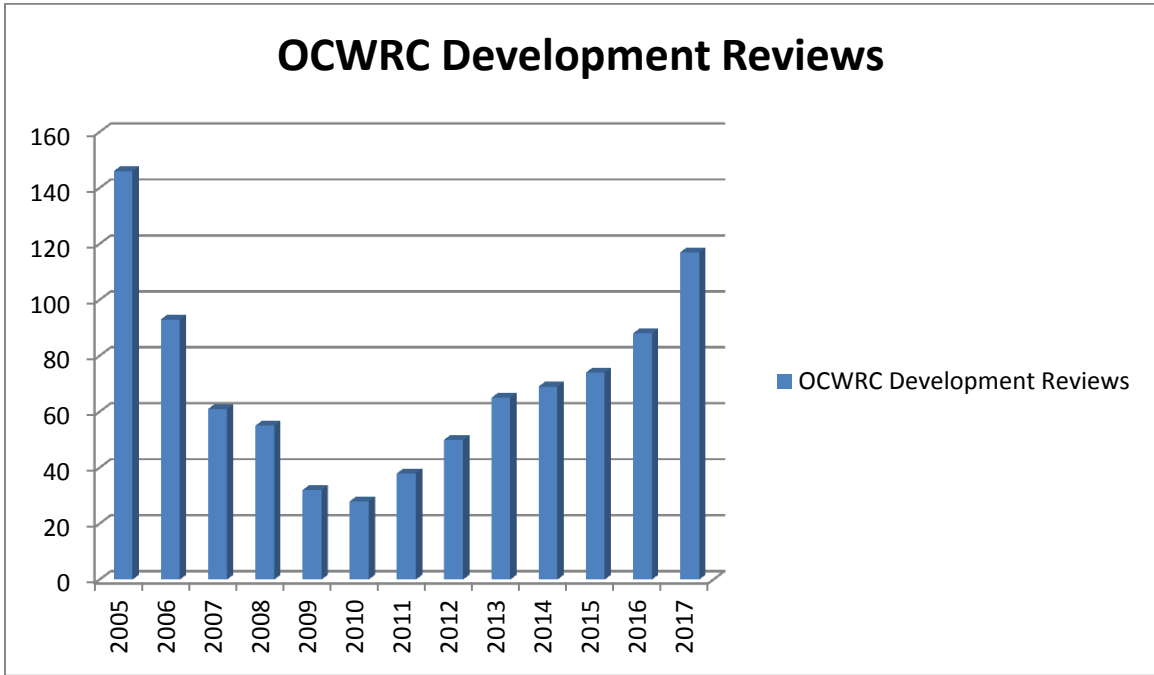
Between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017 there were 782 permits issued by Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner's Office staff.

Permit fee revenue totaled \$147,680. Permits were issued for the development type and in the jurisdiction shown below.

TOWNSHIP/CITY	PERMITS
Allendale	118
Blendon	56
Chester	2
Coopersville	4
Crockery	26
Ferrysburg	7
Georgetown	115
Grand Haven	63
Holland	118
Hudsonville	0
Jamestown	38
Olive	16
Park	72
Polkton	9
Port Sheldon	25
Robinson	9
Spring Lake	49
Tallmadge	15
Wright	4
Zeeland	36
TOTAL	782

DEVELOPMENT TYPE	PERMITS
Apartment	7
Church	11
Commercial	75
Condominiums	7
Cut/Fill	16
Duplex	26
Industrial	2
Mobile Home Park	1
Misc.	22
Park	2
Pond	5
Private Drive	3
Residential/Minor	77
Sand Mining	1
School	6
Single Family Home	468
Sidewalk	8
Subdivision	27
Utility	18
Wetland	0
TOTAL	782

The following chart represents the number of new developments granted approval by the Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner's Office and is a good reflection of the economic growth occurring in Ottawa County.



CERTIFICATE

This annual report for the period of October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017 is submitted in compliance with Act 365 of the Public Acts of 1925 and Act 331 of the Public Acts of 1927.

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 1st Day of May, 2018.



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