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STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OTTAWA

IN RE: ALICE AVENUE DRAIN
BOARD OF DETERMINATION

Proceedings commenced at 6:00 p.m., on Monday, May 20,
2019, at the Howard Miller Library & Community Center, 14
South Church, Zeeland, Michigan, held before Marjorie A.
Covey, CSR-2616, Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary
Public.

APPEARANCES:

- Mr. Joe Bush, Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner
- Mr. Chad Meints, Chief Deputy to Water Resources Comm.
- Ms. Sara Hirts, Administrative Assistant

- Mr. Ken Souter, Board Chairperson
- Mr. Rich VanderKlok, Board Secretary
- Mr. Larry Bruursema, Board Member

- Mr. Scott Nienhuis, City of Zeeland

- Mr. Kyle Visker, P.E., Engineer,
Land & Resources Engineering

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Zeeland, Michigan

May 20, 2019 - 6:00 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS

WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: Well good evening, everyone. I'm Joe Bush, the Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner, also known as the Drain Commissioner. My name is up there if you want to write it down.

I changed the name back in 2012 when I got elected from drain commissioner to water resources only because drain commissioner really doesn't state what we do as an elected official.

So I'm one of the countywide elected, and I'm excited that you guys are here tonight to talk about the Alice Street Board of Determination, as part one of the things that I do, which is in Michigan Statute or Drain Code.

And this is how legally we have to start the process if we have an orphan drain. And I'll get more into detail of that.

Again, we're here tonight to explain that the -- we have an issue that came up in the city of Zeeland about water, right? It seems to be everybody's problem nowadays. Either you got too much or you don't have enough.

This particular issue was on Alice Street, obviously, and it has been a problem for quite some time.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Forty years.

1 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: What's that?

2 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Forty years at least.

3 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Because it was a swamp.

4 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: Because it was a
5 swamp.

6 So in the city of Zeeland they have a lot of drains
7 in the city that are owned -- they're not really owned, I
8 should take that back. They're not owned, but maintained by
9 the city somewhat, usually in the road right-of-way.

10 Anything outside the road right-of-way on private
11 property, they're not really maintained by the city. They
12 don't really technically have the ability to do it, whether
13 it's an easement, whether it's a way to fund it. They just
14 take care of the street drains. The backyard issues usually
15 become my problem.

16 That's when through a petition, they did that back
17 in early March, the city of Zeeland through multiple meetings
18 over the years said, Joe, we got a problem on Alice Street.
19 How do we fix it?

20 I said, well, you can petition me. The people can
21 petition or the city. The city said, you know what, this has
22 been a problem for quite sometime, we're going to petition
23 you at our board meeting and they want to put it in my
24 control.

25 When I say control, it's just the legal process to

1 establish a county drain. There is not many of them in the
2 city of Zeeland. But this one is in the process of maybe
3 becoming a county drain.

4 The reason we're here tonight is for public
5 testimony, people who have questions or concerns. There is a
6 lot of people here that we don't even know -- there could be
7 more problems than we know about, that's why we have a public
8 hearing.

9 Everything is court recorded word for word. In
10 about four to six weeks they will be on my website,
11 MIOttawa.org. You can always find the minutes from Margie
12 who is our court reporter tonight. And everything again is
13 word for word.

14 So when you do speak at public comment time, give
15 your name, address, and go ahead and talk about the
16 situation. We don't know what we don't know. We only know
17 what we know.

18 So I did hire an engineering firm to go out and
19 look at the boundaries. Everybody lives in a watershed,
20 somebody's water runs somewhere, everywhere, whether it's
21 north, south, east, west. So there is a boundary that I've
22 got my engineering firm, Land & Resource out of Grand Rapids.
23 And this is kind of what they do across the state is
24 delineate and fix water problems for water resource
25 commissioners or drain commissioners.

1 So again we have an engineer involved, but we
2 didn't go into detail, we didn't spend a lot of money yet,
3 because this three-panel board behind me is appointed by me
4 to make a determination. That's why it's called a Board of
5 Determination, whether there is a project or not, that means
6 the necessity to be a county drain or not.

7 This three-panel board has not been out there, they
8 have no judgement, they haven't seen the issues. They're
9 here to hear what your issues are, what the engineer has
10 found out there, and maybe a little background from me just
11 talking to you guys.

12 But this three panel, these three men have no
13 property in that drain district, they have no affiliation
14 with this area. So they're from the outside looking in.
15 They're here to hear your testimony.

16 And don't be afraid -- be sure to go up and tell us
17 so we can know the issues.

18 Some people have said, what does it cost? We don't
19 have a project yet. Because what happens when we get to this
20 part is there is more comments that are brought up to us that
21 we didn't know, so we can't put the carriage before the
22 horse. So we don't get too far ahead of ourselves.

23 This board could say, Joe, we don't see a
24 necessity. I don't have a large cost in the engineer. I
25 don't want to do that because that's not very wise.

1 I want to make sure this three-panel board
2 understands that there is a necessity from the public
3 testimony and the engineer as to what he found out there.

4 So I don't have a say in it, it's not up to me.
5 Even though I'm your elected official, this is why we do the
6 public hearing.

7 These three particular individuals I usually
8 appoint because they are either serving or have served on a
9 township, or some kind of a board that has dealt with this
10 situation before, and they understand Drain Code pretty well,
11 and they understand drainage. Those are the two most
12 important things.

13 And they understand that water flows downhill, it
14 could be someone's problem. That's important.

15 So I appoint the three people that I -- that go to
16 a lot of these. These three individuals have been to quite a
17 few Board of Determinations, and it's just not always easy.
18 Some of them have been turned down.

19 But again that's up to these three gentlemen.

20 Once I give them the oath, and then we'll --
21 they'll run the meeting. And then I'm always available for
22 questions through -- it becomes their meeting. They'll run
23 it, you'll give public testimony to these three individuals
24 and I'll be on the side in case you have any questions.

25 A few introductions. I'll go from right to left.

1 Or actually probably the most experienced individual is in
2 the middle, Ken Souter has been at the Road Commission nearly
3 40 years. He's retired now but was an engineer. So he
4 understands the Drain Code pretty well and development and
5 water and all the issues that I'm sure we'll talk about
6 tonight. Ken is probably our most experienced board member
7 tonight.

8 And then, I don't know, I think Larry would be our
9 second one. He's from Georgetown Township, served in many
10 capacities from the Road Commission board to the township
11 board and Georgetown. So he understands again the drainage
12 and Drain Code.

13 And then another Georgetown member is our
14 Georgetown clerk, and he's been -- this is probably your
15 fifth or sixth?

16 BOARD MEMBER RICH VANDERKLOK: About six I'd say.

17 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: Sixth board that
18 he's been on. He's been awesome and he understands drainage.
19 His township also has problems with drainage. So he gets it
20 because I go to his township and talk about the same thing
21 I'm talking about right now.

22 And then we have Margie. Margie is our court
23 reporter. She's been to quite a few of these, and she loves
24 doing them.

25 And then we have our engineer, he's been with LRE

1 for quite a few years. And he does a lot of these for
2 multiple counties.

3 And then we have Chad, Chad is my new chief deputy,
4 he's been there for over three months now.

5 And then we have Sara, Sara is my new secretary,
6 just getting started. This is her first one so she'll get to
7 learn a little bit about one piece of my job that's very
8 critical.

9 This is important for all of you guys and it's
10 important for me to help move this forward and see where we
11 go.

12 Again I appreciate your time tonight. Usually I
13 hold these in the morning too, but I picked tonight because
14 they have a meeting over there if there is any issues, we can
15 always walk over and talk to the city council. It's just
16 steps away and we'll go from there.

17 I don't think I'm missing anybody for
18 introductions.

19 I'll go ahead and give these three gentlemen the
20 oath and they'll go ahead and run the meeting from there on
21 out.

22 Gentlemen, please rise.

23 Do each of you solemnly swear to faithfully perform
24 and discharge the duties imposed upon you as members of the
25 Board of Determination appointed by the Water Resources

1 Commissioner of Ottawa County to determine the necessity of
2 drainage improvements in a certain drain to be known and
3 designated as Alice Avenue Drain in the city of Zeeland, in
4 said county as required by law, gentlemen?

5 BOARD MEMBER KEN SOUTER: I do.

6 BOARD MEMBER RICK VANDERKLOK: I do.

7 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: I do.

8 BOARD MEMBER RICH VANDERKLOK: I'll make a motion
9 for Ken Souter to be the chair.

10 BOARD MEMBER KEN SOUTER: Do we have a second?

11 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: Support.

12 BOARD MEMBER KEN SOUTER: Made and supported that I
13 be the chairperson for this board.

14 All in favor, say aye.

15 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: Aye.

16 BOARD MEMBER KEN SOUTER: Aye.

17 BOARD MEMBER RICH VANDERKLOK: Aye.

18 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: We need a motion for
19 secretary.

20 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: I'll make a motion
21 that we have Rich VanderKlok as the secretary.

22 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: I'll second that.

23 Moved and seconded.

24 All in favor, say aye.

25 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: Aye.

1 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Aye.

2 BOARD MEMBER RICH VANDERKLOK: Aye.

3 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay. And lastly,
4 I'd prefer a motion that we try to limit the public comments
5 from each person to about three minutes.

6 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: I'll make that
7 motion.

8 BOARD SECRETARY RICH VANDERKLOK: I'll support.

9 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Moved and supported.
10 All in favor, say aye.

11 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: Aye.

12 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Aye.

13 BOARD SECRETARY RICH VANDERKLOK: Aye.

14 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay. First off
15 we'd like to turn this over to the engineer and you explain
16 what you've seen out there since we don't know anything about
17 this. Tell us what you've seen and then we need the public
18 to tell us what they know is happening.

19 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: My name is Kyle Visker. And
20 I'm from Land & Resource Engineering. As Joe said our
21 company was hired by Joe to do this preliminary evaluation of
22 the drain, layout the drain district, and present to the
23 board what we found from our inspection.

24 So my presentation is going to be pretty brief, but
25 here is what I'm going to go over.

1 Why we're here, Joe explained some of it but it's
2 always good to hear things twice in my opinion. So then I'll
3 talk about the drainage district, go over the proposed or
4 potential route and course of the drain, and then go through
5 the drainage issues, and finally what happens next.

6 So why we're here, we're here, as Joe explained,
7 because the city of Zeeland had some complaints from property
8 owners and identified an issue north of Alice Avenue. So
9 what they did was they applied -- or they sent an application
10 to the Water Resources Commissioner to lay out a drainage
11 district which is -- which is a watershed, or an area where
12 the -- a boundary of where all the water flows to one spot.

13 And they did that under Chapter Three of the Drain
14 Code which is Public Act 40 of 1956. They also, which --
15 they also sent a petition, the city of Zeeland to Joe, to the
16 Water Resources Commissioner to establish and construct the
17 Alice Avenue Drain.

18 These are just two procedures that happen when
19 there isn't currently a county drain there. So you have to
20 go through these two steps, the county went through them at
21 the same time.

22 After they receive this petition, he's required to
23 convene this board, the three-member board and have this
24 public meeting. And the board members will determine, based
25 on your testimony, and our inspection, if a project is

1 necessary based on three factors; the public health,
2 convenience or welfare.

3 So the drainage district, as I said before, there
4 is a map here. The dashed black line on the outside is the
5 outer limits of the drainage district as we delineated it.

6 Inside of there the water drains either to a storm
7 sewer in the street, sometimes to people's backyards. But it
8 all eventually makes its way to the north. If you can see,
9 there is a dashed blue line, and it outlets to a natural
10 channel which technically at this point is unnamed. There is
11 not a name for it. But then eventually it makes its way to
12 the west, which would be downstream to the Black Creek of
13 Zeeland, is where it goes.

14 But that's not in the district that we delineated.
15 The district ends at the unnamed watercourse.

16 So within that drainage district it's about 29
17 acres. And there is about 3,100 feet of drain. The drain
18 includes the open channel section, which is the part that's
19 the blue dashed line north of Alice Avenue. That's the
20 existing open channel part.

21 And then it includes all the storm sewer in Alice
22 Avenue, like Huizenga Avenue, there is 103rd Street, and then
23 there is storm sewer that goes between the streets between
24 the houses as well. That totals about 2,500 feet of storm
25 sewer.

1 And then there is a potential for another 275 feet
2 of storm sewer that would extend -- you can see it's on the
3 left, your left side of the map. It says a proposed branch,
4 and it has another dashed blue line to service a low area
5 that's experienced flooding in some backyards.

6 Which brings me to the drainage issues that we saw
7 when we did our investigation, this being one of the biggest
8 issues is that at 592 Alice Avenue, which is the Quillan
9 property. A lot of the backyards between Huizenga and Alice
10 Avenue drain to this area, and there is no place for the
11 water to go, so the water gets trapped. And what happens is
12 if they don't -- the property owners ends up pumping it to
13 Alice Avenue.

14 If they don't pump it, then they experience their
15 yard flooding, obviously, but they've also experienced
16 basement flooding.

17 These are two pictures of the open channel that's
18 north of Alice Avenue. It -- you can't tell from the picture
19 that there is sediment within the channel, but you can see
20 from the pictures that there is woody debris, is what we call
21 it, log jams, debris falling in the channel that obstructs
22 the flow and adds to the flooding.

23 Some other things that we noticed, we popped a
24 couple of manhole covers and this is in, I think this one is
25 in Alice Avenue. Normally when you look down these there

1 isn't -- it isn't full of water. Usually you see some pipes
2 and when it rains, then it fills up and goes down the pipes.

3 So this just shows that that downstream part that's
4 full of debris and sediment is causing a backup into this
5 system, into the streets.

6 So we did do a little bit of survey to determine
7 elevations, one of the critical things being the backyards,
8 whether or not you could potentially give relief to that
9 area.

10 So the picture up on the right is the plan view and
11 the blue line is the open channel, the downstream part. And
12 the yellow line would be a potential route or storm sewer to
13 service that low area.

14 And what we found out was that, yes, the elevations
15 work out so that you could potentially make an extension to
16 the backyards to relieve -- to take that water and send it to
17 Alice Avenue.

18 We also found out that there is a lot of sediment.
19 If you look at the bottom picture, that's a profile view of
20 the survey. There is a lot of lines there so it may be a
21 little difficult, but the gray area, the gray areas that are
22 kind of shaded by the blue line, that indicates what we call
23 sediment. So that means that that section of the drain is
24 full of sediment where it could -- it could have positive
25 grade, but it currently doesn't. So water goes there and

1 just kind of sits and that adds to backing it up, stacking it
2 up upstream.

3 So that just shows that there is potential for
4 improvement in those two areas of concern.

5 That pretty much brings me to what happens next
6 which is the Board will, when they're ready, open the floor
7 to public testimony where you guys can express your concerns.

8 And then after that, they'll close the public
9 comment, and the Board can decide two things; whether or not
10 they feel this petition is necessary or not. If they decide
11 it's not necessary, no other work happens. And then you
12 can't have a petition for the same project for a period of 12
13 months.

14 If they find that the petition is necessary, based
15 on those three factors, the public health, welfare or
16 convenience, then the drain commissioner proceeds with a
17 project.

18 Every project is different, every drain project is
19 different, but by the Drain Code, he has to follow certain
20 tasks, which include completing the survey and engineering
21 design, obtaining the necessary easements. Then they have to
22 apply for permits, and then bid the project to get a total
23 project cost.

24 And then they hold a day of review which lets
25 people know within the drainage district and municipalities

1 what their apportionment will be for the project. And then
2 finally they would have to construct the project.

3 And with that, I will turn it over to the board.
4 And if you have any questions for me directly, I can answer
5 those now.

6 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: I noticed on the
7 little drawing that we have and the drawing you had up at the
8 top that there is quite a bit of enclosed storm system within
9 this subdivision when it was first developed.

10 Did you note any areas in the street, I take it it
11 runs down the middle of the street, any areas that could be a
12 potential problem with the existing storm system?

13 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: Say that again.

14 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay. You have an
15 existing storm system in the street, all tile. A lot of
16 times you'll, on an older system like this, you'll see where
17 the joints have failed, you'll see where there is holes that
18 develop in the street, this type of thing that would note
19 that there is problems not only maybe with the outlet, but
20 with the existing storm system.

21 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: We didn't note any of those
22 areas. I mean that's a good point. You can usually see from
23 the surface that there is problems underneath, but, no. We
24 didn't -- we didn't note any of those.

25 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: So you're assuming

1 that the existing system as it stands is in decent repair?
2 Basically the outlets are what's causing the problems?

3 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: An outlet is definitely
4 what's causing the problems. There could be areas.

5 But when we did our survey and our inspection we
6 also have -- it's completely underwater. So --

7 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: It's quite difficult
8 to see that.

9 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: It is difficult.

10 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: You can see a
11 surface indentation usually if you have a problem with it.

12 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: Yeah, but Alice Avenue is
13 not in that great of shape to begin with. So I don't want to
14 make that conclusion right away that, oh, yeah, it's
15 definitely a storm sewer --

16 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Right.

17 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: -- you can see a crack in
18 the road. But I think that's something -- going forward,
19 it's definitely something we would look at.

20 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: But you're saying
21 that the main thing that you found right now was the outlets
22 from the system are inadequate, and that there is no way that
23 the water in the backyards can get out of there?

24 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: Yes, that's correct.

25 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay. Do you have

1 any questions?

2 BOARD SECRETARY RICH VANDERKLOK: Not at the
3 moment.

4 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Larry?

5 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: I'm looking at this
6 as one area where this water has to be taken care of in the
7 diagram you showed on the screen. It's really nothing to do
8 with construction at this time. Because if that happens
9 there will be another Board of Determination whether the
10 project will be completed.

11 But this one here I'm looking at it, these people
12 that live in this district and they have to take care of, or
13 get rid of the water that does come upon them.

14 Am I right? This district you set out is just for
15 that district to take care of their water?

16 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: Yes.

17 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: Right?

18 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: Yes.

19 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: Whether the mains
20 are deteriorating or whatever, any washouts, that will be
21 taken care of at another date?

22 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: No. No.

23 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: If they petition for
24 improvements.

25 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: No. This is the

1 petition for that.

2 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: Yeah.

3 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: We aren't on a
4 project, we're on a district.

5 BOARD SECRETARY RICH VANDERKLOK: I was going to
6 say that would be part of what we determine, if we
7 determine --

8 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: We are determining
9 for construction also. That's part of the petition.

10 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: Excuse me. Can I
11 refer to Joe?

12 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: Yeah, that is
13 correct.

14 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: That is correct,
15 this is part of construction?

16 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: Yes.

17 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: Okay, I take that
18 back. I thought it was an orphan drain and we were going to
19 establish a district, it would be a drain district and
20 everybody participates if there is a problem.

21 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: No, going back to the second
22 slide. So they established the district already, under
23 Chapter Three, and then this is Chapter Four, which is the
24 construction of it.

25 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: I stand corrected.

1 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay. I take it we
2 don't have anybody from the city to comment?

3 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: No.

4 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay. But the city
5 did do the petitioning?

6 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: Absolutely.

7 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay.

8 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: So it's clear,
9 I've been to the city, two different meetings and explained
10 to them the process.

11 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Then I would like to
12 open the part of the meeting that -- the public portion of
13 it.

14 And what we'd like to have is anybody that wants to
15 let us know what's going on in this drain, please come to the
16 mic, state your name and your address, where you live, and
17 tell us if you got a problem, if you don't have a problem,
18 and what you -- what you feel the problem is.

19 And I'd kind of like to start and just go row to
20 row. And if you got a comment, please come to the mic and
21 state what your problem is and where you live, and we'll go
22 from there.

23 And I guess I'll start on the far side there, the
24 gentleman in the dark shirt. We're going to pick on you
25 first.

1 If you want to come up to the mic and give your
2 name and address, so we know where you are.

3 MR. CHAD COLE: My name is Chad Cole and I live at
4 549 Huizenga.

5 The back section of our yard, probably about 25
6 feet to the border is usually standing water. It's
7 completely unusable. I have to mow it with a push mower that
8 I then have to clean out afterwards.

9 I've tried to let it go sometimes if it's just too
10 wet for me to be back there, but then that seems to draw in
11 field mice and I don't care to have them on the back portion
12 of my property.

13 So that would be pretty much my main concerns.

14 And then there seems to be a slight drain that goes
15 between my property and our neighbors, which at this point of
16 the year is also pretty wet going up that drain.

17 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: So you live on the,
18 what would be the north side of Huizenga?

19 MR. CHAD COLE: Yes.

20 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: So the backyard
21 you're talking about would be the backyard of the people on
22 Alice Street?

23 MR. CHAD COLE: Yes.

24 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay. Thank you.
25 Next gentleman there? You're good?

1 Next?

2 MR. SCOT NIENHUIS: I'm Scott Nienhuis and I'm here
3 to represent the city.

4 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay.

5 MR. SCOTT NIENHUIS: So I really -- we investigated
6 this issue probably four times. There is no real good way of
7 taking care of -- I'm just going to refer to Mr. Quinlin, or
8 Quillan, I'm not sure how he pronounces his name. But there
9 is no really good way to get rid of that water on his
10 property.

11 The elevations are such where we couldn't really
12 run it to the city storm sewer. We would have probably had
13 to have a lift pump to get it there.

14 So that's the only comments I really have right
15 now.

16 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay. Very good,
17 thank you.

18 Next?

19 MR. BARRY CHIDESTER: This is not so much a
20 comment --

21 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Could you state
22 your name, please, just for the record? We need to know
23 who's talking.

24 MR. BARRY CHIDESTER: I'm Barry Chidester, I live
25 at 536 Alice, which is kind of adjacent to the gentleman that

1 has the water problem in the backyard. I have the standing
2 water issues also.

3 Do they have any timetables for road reconstruction
4 on Alice Street? Years back I did see proposed times when
5 they were going to redo streets and stuff and Alice actually
6 was on that. I don't know.

7 MR. SCOTT NIENHUIS: It's in the five-year plan.

8 MR. BARRY CHIDESTER: It's in the five-year plan?

9 MR. SCOTT NIENHUIS: Yes.

10 MR. BARRY CHIDESTER: That may be something to keep
11 in mind. I don't know if people want to wait five years, but
12 if something could be incorporated at that time.

13 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay. Very good,
14 sir.

15 The next guy back?

16 MR. JOEL VANDEN HEUVEL: Well, based on his
17 comment, I will make a comment.

18 Joel VandenHeuvel, 519 Huizenga.

19 I was going to ask the same question that he
20 brought up, but if that's okay to comment on that.

21 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Yep.

22 MR. JOEL VANDEN HEUVEL: But if there is going to
23 be -- if Alice is going to be redone for -- as a street
24 project, I'd really like to see this incorporated with that
25 instead of a separate project, if that is possible, if that's

1 in the five-year plan. That's my comment.

2 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay.

3 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: And we don't have any water
4 problems.

5 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: You don't have any
6 water problems?

7 MR. JOEL VANDEN HEUVEL: Same, yeah. At 519 we're
8 on the east edge on the north side of Huizenga and we don't
9 have any problems.

10 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay.

11 MR. DAVID SHARDA: My name is Dave Sharda. I live
12 at 593 Alice. And here is a question I have for the engineer
13 to start, is it avenue or street?

14 On my corner I have street, down the road it's
15 avenue. Huizenga is -- I just came down that way, Huizenga
16 is all street, and it's avenue on the paperwork. So which is
17 it?

18 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It's avenue at 101st.

19 MR. DAVID SHARDA: They're all avenues?

20 (People talking over each other.)

21 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: I believe it's Alice Avenue,
22 and if I said street, I apologize.

23 MR. DAVID SHARDA: I guess another thing I wanted
24 to know then is why is this county instead of city of
25 Zeeland?

1 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: This is -- the city
2 of Zeeland is petitioning the county drain commissioner to
3 make this a county drain so it's under someone's
4 jurisdiction. Right now it's -- it's in the street, and it's
5 outside, and there is no one that has jurisdiction of this
6 particular drain.

7 So if somebody has a problem with this drain, they
8 go to the city. And the city says, well, we can maybe fix
9 something in the street, but we don't have any rights to fix
10 things out where this open drain is.

11 And what they're trying to do with this is actually
12 bring this whole area within a drainage district so if you,
13 you, or you have a problem, you know you can go to Joe, and
14 say, Joe, we've got a problem with this drain. Joe has the
15 way to fix it.

16 But there is private property stuff here that they
17 got to deal with. There is easements that they've got to
18 deal with. And if it all gets under a drainage district,
19 then if somebody has a problem within that drainage district,
20 there is one person to go to, and that would be Joe then from
21 that point on.

22 And that's why the city is trying to get this
23 within a drainage district.

24 Right now it is not and there is nobody really --
25 it's out there in gray land. It's, who fixes it? If

1 something goes wrong, who fixes it? And basically that's
2 what they're trying to do with it.

3 MR. DAVID SHARDA: Now I live at 593 Alice so I'm
4 on the corner of 104th and Alice. Is the new drain system
5 going to benefit me at all, like when the water comes up in
6 my backyard?

7 Fortunately I don't have any problem in the
8 basement ever, but it does come up. And so did all those on
9 the north side of Alice.

10 So what's that -- what would the new drain system
11 do to any of that? Anything?

12 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: Do you want me to respond?

13 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: I'd like to have you
14 respond to that.

15 But if you can from now on direct it to us because
16 we're got to make the decision.

17 MR. DAVID SHARDA: Okay.

18 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: So basically your
19 question is you live on the corner of Alice and 104th, right?

20 MR. DAVID SHARDA: Yes.

21 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: And to me what I'm
22 looking at here is the drainage district doesn't go all the
23 way to 104th, does it?

24 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: No. But it does include
25 part of his front yard.

1 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: It does include --
2 part of your front yard must go into the street, and that
3 portion of it would drain into this drain.

4 If you could comment further on it? You got
5 anything else to say?

6 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: Yeah. I mean just to
7 reiterate again. So the benefit for you, for this drain,
8 would be that the water from the front of your property that
9 goes to the street would have an outlet.

10 But, yes, you also have the unnamed watercourse
11 behind you, which it eventually makes its way there.

12 But this district does not include the back part of
13 your property.

14 MR. DAVID SHARDA: Okay. Thank you.

15 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay, let's start
16 here in the front row, young lady? You're all set?

17 Sir? Would you like to comment?

18 MR. BRANDON KOENIGSKNECHT: Sure. My name is
19 Brandon Koenigsknecht, I live at 548 Alice.

20 Chad is my neighbor behind me. Talking about his
21 backyard, I can confirm that my backyard is ankle deep water
22 no matter what the season is like.

23 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: All year long?

24 MR. BRANDON KOENIGSKNECHT: Pretty much all year
25 long.

1 When -- I have multiple storm drains that go along
2 the property line. When one of them clogs by a tree I've
3 got, which is pretty much two, three times a season, I have a
4 small lake in my backyard, like to the point where if I open
5 it up, there is a whirlpool effect.

6 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay.

7 MR. BRANDON KOENIGSKNECHT: So I'm usually under
8 ankle deep water all the time. It's hard to mow. My
9 neighbors can attest a third of my backyard just doesn't get
10 mowed because I can't get a mower through it.

11 And then even then, you know, most of my drains are
12 still uphill from where the water is. And I know the last
13 two years I come home and someone has dug another drain on my
14 property somewhere, somehow, for some reason, I've got a new
15 drain on the back corner of our property that connects to
16 something.

17 I don't know what any of this is. There is
18 apparently a network of drains underneath my property. I
19 don't do anything. So this is what I've been told from my
20 neighbors that have been around longer than I have. We moved
21 in three years. And it's a mess and I've been told that over
22 the course of the last 50 or so years that there has been
23 many attempts to do this and none of them have been
24 successful.

25 So I'm hoping that transferring from the city to

1 the county does something for us because I would really love
2 to have my little girls not be covered in mud every time they
3 go outside.

4 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay.

5 The gentleman in the blue?

6 MR. STEVE QUILLAN: Perfect.

7 My name is Steve Quillan. And it is Quillan, not
8 Quillam. I live at 592 Alice.

9 The area in question was brought up by me multiple
10 times because you guys have knee deep water -- ankle deep
11 water. I have knee deep water every single spring, every
12 single fall, every single -- all year long basically.

13 I spend -- I've spent probably \$2,000 over the 14
14 years that we've lived there trying to alleviate this water
15 problem, whether it be on pumps -- most of the time on pumps
16 because what happens is every spring, or every fall I get all
17 the water, and then I have to pump it out.

18 Well if I have any midwinter thaws or anything like
19 that, that water is still there, and it freezes. Well when
20 it freezes, it freezes the pump. The pumps gets caught,
21 whatever, so the pump dies.

22 So every spring I have to spend 150 bucks to 200
23 bucks on a new pump. And this can't just be a normal pump,
24 it has to be a trash pump because trash pumps will allow for
25 small weeds and debris and stuff like that to go through this

1 area.

2 I've been -- I've lived here since 2005. I've had
3 multiple, multiple water issues in my basement. So much so
4 to the point where I had -- at one point in time, I had 16
5 inches of water in my basement in 2007 when we had a huge,
6 huge storm that passed through, and the water just didn't
7 have anywhere to go.

8 What it did is it came up through my -- came into
9 the storm drains and the storm drains were overflowed and
10 they were compromised. And then that led to it coming up
11 through a floor drain in my basement and gave me 16 inches of
12 water in my basement.

13 So that's that story.

14 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Could you point on
15 the map about where you live?

16 MR. STEVE QUILLAN: I live right here (indicating).

17 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay. Right where
18 they're talking about bringing the other drain in?

19 MR. STEVE QUILLAN: And the picture that you guys
20 saw does not do justice what the backyard of my house looks
21 like. There was one year where I went to a local rental
22 company and rented a gas powered trash pump, and I filled it
23 up with gas twice.

24 The thing pumps out 12,000 gallons an hour. I
25 pumped it for 12 hours straight. That was one time.

1 If you go in my backyard right now, I have a pump
2 running 24/7, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day to try and
3 alleviate this water problem.

4 It is not my water. That's the thing. It comes
5 from everyone else around me. Some of it is my water, but
6 since my backyard and my neighbor's backyard happen to be the
7 two low spots in the area, I get everyone's runoff that's
8 higher than me.

9 So it's just really challenging, financially
10 strapping. I can't -- it's over half of my backyard most of
11 the time.

12 I have three, at least three times a week I have to
13 go out in the backyard with my muck boots, which come up to
14 my knees, and I have to go in there. And sometimes if it's
15 really bad it will actually -- I can't even get out far
16 enough because it will overflow and it will go into my boots.

17 I have to clean out the pump because an actual
18 trash pump, if I really were to go and actually get a trash
19 pump, I'd be spending a thousand dollars. And I'm just not
20 willing to spend a thousand dollars on a nice trash pump
21 that's going to pump that stuff out on a consistent basis
22 where I don't have to worry about it anymore.

23 But it got to the point after 14 years of living
24 there I just finally decided, you know, this is not my water.
25 It's never been my water, it doesn't come from my house

1 solely, it comes from everyone else around me, whether it be
2 roofs, yards or whatever. And legally, we are all
3 responsible for taking care of our own water.

4 So based on that, I just finally decided it was
5 enough. I had tried multiple times with the city, and I've
6 had no progress with that. I'm appreciative now that we're
7 getting to the point where everyone understands what's going
8 on.

9 I've talked to Joe a couple times. I appreciate
10 the fact that Joe is taking a look at this. And that's all
11 I've ever wanted from the get-go is to look at it.

12 I appreciate that some of the other people have had
13 water problems as well.

14 Right now, as it stands, the water that goes to my
15 backyard is definitely -- I get three inches of water in my
16 crawl space every time it rains hard because it has nowhere
17 to go. So I have a pump that goes from my crawl space to my
18 sump pump so that it can go somewhere.

19 I have water -- constantly having water seeping in
20 my small cracks in my foundation, which just shouldn't be
21 happening.

22 So I appreciate the fact that we're discussing the
23 possibility of this drain because it's definitely needed.
24 And it's not just me, it's my neighbor to the west of me. He
25 just moved in within the last year and -- I'm grateful for

1 the person who lived there before. He helped me out with
2 pumps too because it was partially his problem as well.

3 But, yeah, basically I have half of my yard full of
4 water until about mid July when it really gets high and dry
5 around here. Then it goes away for about two months. And
6 then when the fall comes, it comes right back and I'm dealing
7 with it again over and over and over.

8 So again, I've been dealing with this for 14 years
9 and I think it's about time something gets taken care of.

10 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Thank you.

11 MR. STEVE QUILLAN: Thank you.

12 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Alaska?

13 MR. RALPH BYMA: Ralph Byma, 580 Alice, I live next
14 to Steve.

15 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay.

16 MR. RALPH BYMA: And one of the problems is the
17 water level there is so high that it's right below my
18 basement. We have a sump pump well in there and we're
19 constantly pumping water out of there. We get water in our
20 basement all the time.

21 Every time it rains, the water has nowhere to go
22 because of the way the drainage is. And the mosquitoes, if
23 he's got water in his backyard, you know what the mosquitos
24 are like.

25 And we'd like to see something get done about this

1 because I've lived there for 43 years and we have had water
2 ever since they filled up the -- there used to be a pond on
3 the corner of Alice and 104th, and they filled that up and
4 built a house there. So the water used to have someplace
5 where it evaporated from and it doesn't happen anymore.

6 So that's all I've got.

7 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Thank you.

8 MS. CAROLYN FUNCKES: I'm Carolyn Funckes, I live
9 at 581 Alice Avenue. I'm right kind of kitty-cornered from
10 Steve.

11 We're on the whatever you call it, the Noordeloos
12 Creek, to some it's a drainage district. It's had several
13 names. But our property goes right into that, on the creek.

14 There is a huge problem. I'm not discounting that
15 at all. They need help.

16 But I would urge this committee to look at the
17 bigger picture. Because we live on the creek, and every time
18 the snow melts, it rains, we have a storm, our whole backyard
19 is flooded too. And so to drain all of this into this creek
20 without doing something else, you're going to create problems
21 for the people that live along the creek.

22 So we need to consider the bigger picture like the
23 people north, the farmers. I know farmers drain into this
24 creek. I know a lot of places way north of town drain into
25 the creek. I know the farmers because I've had to shovel the

1 manure out of our backyard, and there is a lot of garbage and
2 trees.

3 They used to come back and clean that out. Now
4 they clean out the north side. They'll cut the trees and
5 clean it all out so it's available for them to get to, but
6 nothing is ever done on the other side.

7 Those trees are dead. They're breaking off. They
8 fall into the creek. We've got one just behind our
9 neighbor's house to the east. There is a branch that's
10 clogging up the water.

11 While I would like to see something done to drain
12 all this, I would like to see the bigger picture taken care
13 of. Let's do something about the creek that's overflowing at
14 the same time.

15 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: At this point I'm
16 going to comment to that comment.

17 There is -- what they're trying to do is establish
18 this as a drain. Every drain drains into another drain
19 drains into another drain until it gets out into Lake
20 Michigan.

21 So you may be in one drainage district here, but
22 you're in a bigger drainage district, in a bigger drainage
23 district.

24 MS. CAROLYN FUNCKES: But nobody seems to own that.

25 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: I think the city has

1 got to take a look at that and actually petition for the
2 Noordeloos drain to be cleaned out.

3 Is that a county drain or not?

4 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: No, it is not.

5 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: But it could be
6 established as that?

7 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: It could be.

8 MS. CAROLYN FUNCKES: That's my concern.

9 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: I think what we have
10 to do is take a look at our area here to start with, but in
11 the same time things have got to be looked at to get rid of
12 the water from that point.

13 MS. CAROLYN FUNCKES: We've had our basement
14 flooded. We have an outbuilding out back, that's had 18
15 inches of water in it. It wrecked tools. We had no idea.
16 It ruined all kinds of things back there and it comes from
17 the creek which is coming north.

18 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay.

19 MS. CAROLYN FUNCKES: So maybe tie in this with
20 something up there so that we can do not only their problems
21 but -- if we're going to drain all this water into the creek,
22 we're going to have more problems for the people that live in
23 the creek.

24 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: We're actually at
25 this point, our board is tied into this drain. We can make a

1 recommendation that they look at the rest, but our board is
2 really tied into trying to solve this problem right now.

3 MS. CAROLYN FUNCKES: Okay.

4 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: And the ultimate
5 problem probably needs to be solved.

6 MS. CAROLYN FUNCKES: It does.

7 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: But our board can't
8 do that, the board we have scheduled right here. We're here
9 to look at the Alice Street drain.

10 MS. CAROLYN FUNCKES: Maybe the city can petition
11 something else.

12 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: We can make
13 recommendations, but we can't do anything.

14 MS. CAROLYN FUNCKES: To me it's like draining a
15 sink into an overflowing bathtub.

16 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay. Yes, sir?

17 MR. MARK TIMMER: Mark Timmer, 572 Alice Avenue.
18 I'm directly south across the street from the open channel.
19 And I have -- my property was built in '78 and we're high, so
20 we don't have any water trouble. Although I realize that's
21 probably creating some for the neighbors by that.

22 We will disturb muskrat habitat because they've
23 been eating my front lawn over the winter. So they come up
24 through the storm sewer and eat my lawn.

25 But I do have a question at some point in time, if

1 I can get that answered. Haven Church is really not
2 substantially in this, and I'm just -- is that really -- are
3 they really draining the other way? I guess that's my
4 question. It's hard to understand that that --

5 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Can you show me
6 where that is and we'll ask the engineer?

7 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: 539.

8 MR. MARK TIMMER: This is Haven Church on this
9 corner, and it just skirts this drainage district. And they
10 added an addition I guess a year-and-a-half ago or something
11 like that, and also the parking lot and all that.

12 But where is that water going I guess, if they're
13 not really in the district? That's the question I would
14 have.

15 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay, I got a
16 question for the engineer then.

17 Did you look at the church and where that drains?

18 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: Yeah. And I don't know if
19 you can see this or not, maybe it would be easier for me to
20 point it out.

21 So there is a storm sewer along Williams
22 (indicating), and then they've got a stub, storm sewer stub
23 that comes out to the church. And that's where their water
24 goes.

25 And then that storm sewer goes to the --

1 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Same spot -- close
2 to the same drain but goes in a different direction?

3 ENGINEER KYLE VISKER: Yes.

4 MR. MARK TIMMER: And I'm not trying to throw Haven
5 under the bus. I'm a pastor of another church in town, so I
6 love them, just wondering where it's going.

7 Thank you.

8 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Thank you.

9 Next?

10 MR. BILL OLNEY: My name is Bill Olney. I live at
11 578 Alice Avenue.

12 I can just drive home the point that my neighbors
13 have been making, we do have a problem there. The mosquitos
14 are horrible in the summertime. We do have a high water
15 table. When we have heavy rain, my sump pump runs nonstop.
16 If it kicks off, it might be for five seconds and it kicks
17 right back on again, there is that much water coming in.

18 I'd sure like to see something done about it, we've
19 lived here since 1988.

20 And we have a bigger problem in that the streets
21 flood, I think the last time was three years ago, when your
22 tree was coming down, Ralph?

23 The street didn't flood as bad as it normally does,
24 but we had some heavy rain there and all the water backs up
25 behind the Funckes' house in that drain back there.

1 And the drain that you pictured on the north side
2 of Alice, we just have a mess down there.

3 We'll probably be, I guess -- I don't want to
4 exaggerate, but I think it's at least 12 inches deep in the
5 road. And sometimes it's there for eight to ten, twelve
6 hours.

7 I'd like to see something done if we can do it.

8 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Is there anybody
9 else that's got something new to add to this?

10 MS. CAROLYN FUNCKES: Can I say one more thing?

11 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Yes.

12 MS. CAROLYN FUNCKES: After it stops raining --

13 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Your name again?

14 MS. CAROLYN FUNCKES: Carolyn Funckes, 581 Alice.

15 After it stops raining and after the snow melts and
16 everything, that creek raises for three to four hours, it
17 still keeps going up, up, up. So it's not just from around
18 here. It's from another area.

19 But it will go up and up and up, and you think, oh,
20 thank God it stopped, but (indicating). And it's been over
21 the top so many times that a few years ago we had to dig up a
22 sprinkler that had 18 inches of dirt on top of it.

23 It's going uphill all the time which is good
24 because the water stays closer to the creek. But the
25 backyard by the creek goes like this (indicating). It's just

1 building up and building up.

2 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Thank you.

3 Any other comments?

4 Okay. I'd like to close the public portion of
5 the -- the public comment portion.

6 BOARD SECRETARY RICH VANDERKLOK: Do you have any
7 letters or correspondence?

8 MR. CHAD MEINTS: I did not have any.

9 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay. I guess I
10 need the board's comments. What are you feeling on this
11 right now?

12 BOARD SECRETARY RICH VANDERKLOK: Based on the
13 comments that I've heard here from almost everyone there
14 certainly is a necessity for the welfare and for the
15 convenience of these residents. So I would be in favor of
16 establishing this drainage district as it will be presented.
17 And so I think it's a very clear case that something needs to
18 be done obviously.

19 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Larry?

20 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: I have a question.
21 Do most of you people have trouble with water in the
22 basements?

23 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I have very seldom, maybe twice a
24 year, and then it's just a little seepage. I've lived there
25 52 years.

1 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: It sounds like a big
2 water problem in that area.

3 MR. STEVE QUILLAN: Yeah, I actually just started
4 -- Steve Quillan, 592 Alice.

5 I've actually just -- I'm in the finishing process
6 of finishing my basement again. And in order to combat this
7 I've actually left the drywall up off the concrete floors six
8 inches. Not just an inch or two, six inches with plywood
9 underneath it, that is also not touching the drywall, and
10 then actual hardwood baseboard on there.

11 So if I do get water in the basement, all I have to
12 do is pull that stuff off and I don't have to damage the
13 entire basement.

14 But at least every time it rains hard, hard hard, I
15 will definitely get three inches of water in my crawl space,
16 of which unfortunately I don't think the previous homeowner
17 put drainage tile around it anyway, so that's part of the
18 reason.

19 But I definitely get water in my basement. There
20 is water in my basement right now.

21 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: Okay, thanks.

22 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Anything else,
23 Larry?

24 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: I've heard enough
25 about water here that I think something should be done. So

1 I'm ready for the question.

2 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay. We would
3 entertain a motion that the location, establishment and
4 construction of the Alice Street Drain is or is not necessary
5 and conducive to public health, convenience and welfare.

6 Do I have a motion for that?

7 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: So moved.

8 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Do I have support
9 for that motion?

10 BOARD SECRETARY RICH VANDERKLOK: I'll support that
11 it is, because you said is or is not.

12 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: That it is.

13 BOARD SECRETARY RICH VANDERKLOK: Correct.

14 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Okay. All in favor
15 of that motion?

16 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: Aye.

17 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Aye.

18 BOARD SECRETARY RICH VANDERKLOK: Aye.

19 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: All opposed?

20 I'd say it carries. Okay.

21 Joe, it's up to you to get stuff down now.

22 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: Are you done now?

23 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: We're done.

24 BOARD MEMBER LARRY BRUURSEMA: You've been a good
25 audience.

1 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Great audience. I
2 thank you for your comments.

3 I hope that Joe can take care of you and get
4 something done for you.

5 I don't know where you go with what the problem is
6 with the outlet, the young lady said.

7 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: I was going to hit
8 on that.

9 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: Could you hit on
10 that?

11 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: So there is a
12 10-day appeal process to appeal today's hearing if someone
13 wants to appeal it. Legally in the Drain Code you have 10
14 days to appeal it. So call me or see me if you want to do
15 that.

16 Also, I was looking at the outlet, and I know the
17 engineering firm has some pictures of trees downstream, like
18 Chicago Drive, more towards the northeast. So I will point
19 out, one thing that we will do is probably go out to the
20 outlet and then walk it and then look downstream and look at
21 all the trees that are down.

22 There is a lot of dead ash trees that I know for
23 sure are probably slowing the water down. I know since they
24 did the new bridge it has relieved some flooding. But I do
25 know you guys still get a lot of water. Some of that could

1 be upstream. But if we can help take some of the trees out
2 downstream, I think that would help all the way down. Which
3 gets costly, that's not really a county drain, but maybe we
4 can and extend the route and course maybe a little further
5 and include that in the project so we can clean out more ash
6 trees, because that is a problem.

7 I think some of you, if you ever walk it or go down
8 there, there is a lot of trees and that's between 104th all
9 the way down to Chicago Drive.

10 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: The other way too.

11 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: The other way too.
12 There is a lot of ash problems. That's a big problem in
13 Ottawa County and actually state wide.

14 The other part I didn't mention was Rich VanderKlok
15 is the other -- I don't know if I mentioned Rich's name, the
16 guy to the far right, but that is Rich. So I thought, well I
17 don't know if I mentioned your name.

18 BOARD SECRETARY RICH VANDERKLOK: You did.

19 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: I thought so, but
20 I wanted to make sure that I included you for the minutes.

21 And again these minutes are all online in about 4
22 to 6 weeks is about how long it takes to get them back to my
23 office.

24 So if you want to see what you said or read any
25 other comments, they're all in there.

1 Again, I appreciate everybody's time tonight. I
2 know it's an evening, but I appreciate your time.

3 It's important that you come and give me testimony
4 for the Board and for myself, now that we know it's going to
5 be a county drain or that it is a county drain now.

6 BOARD CHAIRPERSON KEN SOUTER: It is a county
7 drain.

8 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: You can call me
9 with any issues, and we're here to assist with the city. And
10 you're still all my constituents, so I appreciate -- phone
11 calls are always appreciated.

12 So thank you.

13 (BOD concluded at 7:01 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION OF COURT REPORTER AND NOTARY PUBLIC

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STATE OF MICHIGAN)

) SS

COUNTY OF MUSKEGON)

I certify that this transcript, consisting of 47
pages, is a complete, true and correct record of the Board of
Determination - Alice Avenue Drain, held in this case on May
20, 2019.

DATE: May 26, 2019

MARJORIE A. COVEY, CSR-2616
141 East Michigan Avenue, Suite 206
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
1.800.878.8750

Notary Public Expires: October 14, 2021, Muskegon
County, Michigan/Acting in the State of Michigan.

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