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STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OTTAWA

IN RE: COOPERSVILLE COMMUNITY TRAILS DRAIN
BOARD OF DETERMINATION

Proceedings commenced at 10:00 a.m., on Thursday,
October 21, 2021, at the Coopersville City Hall, 289 Danforth
Street, Coopersville, Michigan, held before Marjorie A.
Covey, CSR-2616, RPR, Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary
Public.

APPEARANCES:

- Mr. Joe Bush, Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner
- Mr. Josiah Timmermans, Chief Deputy to Water Resources Comm.
- Ms. Marie Snyder, Secretary

- Mr. Rich VanderKlok, Board Chairman
- Mr. Ken Souter, Board Secretary
- Mr. Josh Westgate, Board Member

- Mr. Ryan McEnhill, Engineer, Eng., Inc.
- Mr. Joe Westerbeke, Engineer, Eng., Inc.

- Mr. Dennis Luce, Coopersville City Manager

- Mr. Alek Mizikar, Coopersville Deputy City Manager

1 Coopersville, Michigan

2 October 21, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

3 PROCEEDINGS

4 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: Well good morning,
5 everyone. Welcome to city hall and here for the Board of
6 Determination for Coopersville Community Trails Drain, as we
7 call it today.

8 We received a petition from the city, and I'll go
9 through the process on why we're here, the public hearing,
10 and introductions and kind of the, how today is going to --
11 the process of today, and why we're here.

12 So again I appreciate you taking the morning to
13 come and learn about what we do and part of -- just one of
14 the many parts of being a drain commissioner or water
15 resources commissioner.

16 First of all, I'll go ahead and do introductions.
17 We have Dennis Luce here who is our newest member of
18 administration here for city manager. Then we have Alek is
19 the assistant, who was working as the interim city manager
20 for awhile. So we have the city here.

21 I know we got some folks from the school district.

22 We have Marie is my secretary. Josiah is my water
23 resources chief deputy.

24 Then we have Joe is from Eng. We have Ryan
25 McEnhill who is the engineer, they're both engineers, but

1 Ryan has done quite a few projects in the city over the
2 years. But Ryan is the engineer on this project.

3 And then we have Margie is our court recorder, and
4 everything is word for word. We do this on every project.
5 This is not required by Drain Code or state law, but I do it
6 because it helps us out years down the road or even a month
7 from now.

8 We're like, who said what, what did Joe say, what
9 did the engineer say, what did the Board of Determination
10 determine? Everything is word for word. It's not somebody's
11 handwriting and their opinion. We're getting it right from
12 what the people are saying.

13 So this is a smaller crowd today. Typically we
14 have anywhere from 500 to maybe a thousand people. So that's
15 a lot of people to try to get all their comments and get it
16 word for word. But we do hire a court reporter since I've
17 been elected and just for everybody's justification down the
18 road.

19 They're always on the website usually about four to
20 six weeks after today's meeting. And if you don't have
21 access to internet or can't get them, always call our office
22 and my secretary is more than happy to make copies and get
23 them to you. We're always able to do that.

24 And then our three board members, people are like,
25 well are these part of city council, anything to do with the

1 school district, anything with the school board?

2 Drain Code says the water resources
3 commissioner/drain commissioner appoints three people that
4 have no -- I have a map here, they have no properties within
5 the drain district. The drain district is in the red.
6 Everybody lives in a drain district, or I call it the
7 watershed. Everybody somewhere somehow live in a watershed.
8 People's water runs somewhere.

9 So I pick three-panel board members over the years
10 who have experience, number one in drainage. They understand
11 drainage, assessments, Drain Code, why are we here and their
12 purpose.

13 Number two, they've all been in leadership roles
14 and then they understand how to run a meeting and conduct a
15 meeting and public comment and Robert's Rules, they
16 understand that part.

17 And they also understand drainage which is probably
18 one of the most important things because they all had to deal
19 with it, whether it's in their own township or whatever. So
20 they all got great experience, a couple of these fellows have
21 been doing this for a long time. And Josh has been doing it
22 for, quite a few of these lately for me so he definitely
23 understands.

24 So I appoint three people who understand the
25 process. That's important because you are dealing with some

1 important issues and we want to make sure these people are
2 educated and they understand why I'm here, and understand the
3 public side too. So they hear both sides, that's why we have
4 a public comment time.

5 Public comment is important because that's their
6 justification on a project or not. We're not here to
7 determine a cost, we don't know the project yet. This is
8 part of Drain Code that says, once you get a petition, Joe,
9 you got to hold a Board of Determination. That means their
10 job is strictly to make a determination on do we move forward
11 or do we not? Do we see the need to move -- or a necessity,
12 basically, to move forward or not.

13 So I don't have a cost. We don't have a project.
14 We don't know what it looks like except, Joe, do we move
15 forward. And this is all in Drain Code, state law. So it's
16 not like we make this up on the fly. I'm just following
17 basically what I'm supposed to with the state.

18 So I'll go ahead and do introductions. From my
19 left to my right we have Josh Westgate. He's a former
20 supervisor at Wright Township, so he has no lands or nothing
21 to do with anything in our drain district or the city. But
22 Josh has been doing these for a little bit now. But he's
23 definitely a key player and understands drainage because we
24 had to deal with that in his own township at some point or
25 another, because there is a lot of drains in Ottawa. Trust

1 me.

2 Then we have Rich. Rich is a former board member
3 in Georgetown, a long-time person on the board. He's been
4 doing this for a long time. Again, he understands Drain Code
5 and understands what the purpose is for today.

6 And then we have Ken. Ken Souter is, oh, boy,
7 nearly 40 years, right?

8 BOARD MEMBER KEN SOUTER: Close.

9 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: Close to 40 years
10 in the road commission in the engineering department. So
11 he's retired, but again, he understands drainage,
12 engineering, what the purpose is, and he's really good at
13 listening to public comment and taking that all in. That's
14 really important to be a good listener and figure out what's
15 the best thing to do to move forward.

16 And he's from Port Sheldon Township and Georgetown
17 and then Wright. So nothing to do with the city, nothing to
18 do with the city council and nothing to do with any lands or
19 assessments in this district.

20 And then again, I don't know if I'm missing anybody
21 that -- I think I got the city.

22 Again, once I give these three gentlemen the oath,
23 they'll run the meeting. I don't run the meeting. They'll
24 run the meeting.

25 They'll pick a chair, secretary, they'll go through

1 all the motions, they'll go through public comment.

2 When we do have public comment, make sure you speak
3 your name loud and clear so Margie can hear it, because again
4 everything is word for word. And they'll make a decision
5 again to move forward or not, whether they see a project or
6 not. Again it's in these three gentlemen's hands.

7 And again, if you have any questions or concerns,
8 be sure to ask during public comment just so we get it. I
9 think that's all I have at this time.

10 So, gentlemen, please rise.

11 Do you each solemnly swear that you will faithfully
12 perform and discharge the duties imposed upon you, as
13 required by law as members of the Board of Determination,
14 appointed by the Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner,
15 to determine the necessity to maintain and improve the
16 Coopersville City Trails Drain located in the city of
17 Coopersville in said county, gentlemen?

18 BOARD MEMBER RICH WESTGATE: I do.

19 BOARD MEMBER RICH VANDER KLOK: I do.

20 BOARD MEMBER KEN SOUTER: I do.

21 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: Thank you.

22 BOARD MEMBER RICH VANDER KLOK: The first thing we
23 need is to elect a chair.

24 BOARD MEMBER KEN SOUTER: I'll make a motion that
25 Rich serve as chairperson for this meeting.

1 BOARD MEMBER JOSH WESTGATE: I'll support that
2 motion.

3 BOARD MEMBER RICH VANDER KLOK: Motion made and
4 supported that I serve as chair.

5 All those in favor, say aye.

6 BOARD MEMBER RICH WESTGATE: Aye.

7 BOARD MEMBER RICH VANDER KLOK: Aye.

8 BOARD MEMBER KEN SOUTER: Aye.

9 BOARD MEMBER RICH VANDER KLOK: Opposed?

10 That's carried.

11 BOARD MEMBER JOSH WESTGATE: I make a motion to
12 appoint Ken as the secretary of the Board of Determination.

13 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: I will support that.
14 Moved and supported that Ken be secretary.

15 All those in favor, say aye.

16 BOARD MEMBER RICH WESTGATE: Aye.

17 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Aye.

18 BOARD MEMBER KEN SOUTER: Aye.

19 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: It's carried.

20 And then rules of public comment, there will be a
21 time for three minutes. If you'd like to make a comment, we
22 just ask that you stand -- or well we're a small group, so I
23 suppose you can remain seated. Give us your name and your
24 address, and then you will have three minutes.

25 So I make the motion that public comment be limited

1 to three minutes per person.

2 BOARD MEMBER JOSH WESTGATE: I'll support that
3 motion.

4 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Moved and supported.
5 All those in favor, say aye.

6 BOARD MEMBER RICH WESTGATE: Aye.

7 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Aye.

8 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: Aye.

9 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: That's carried.

10 We've already heard the role and function of the
11 board, and some of the history.

12 So I'm going to turn it over to Ryan for the
13 presentation from our engineer.

14 ENGINEER RYAN McENHILL: So I'm Ryan McEnhill with
15 Eng. I'm a professional engineer in the state of Michigan
16 and our firm works with drain commissioners and water
17 resources commissioners all over the state of Michigan.

18 So as Joe mentioned, we did receive a petition from
19 the Coopersville Community for maintenance improvement to the
20 drain.

21 Once that happens, Ottawa County Water Resources
22 Commissioner gets in touch with us to kind of take a
23 high-level view of the issues, and what's going on in the
24 drainage district itself.

25 We typically try not to spend a whole bunch of

1 money at this phase of the project because if this board were
2 to turn the project down for whatever reason, obviously we
3 don't want to have a large engineering bill moving forward
4 that would have to be assessed back to the district.

5 So this is kind of high-level view, this is some of
6 the things that we took a look at to get to this point.

7 Obviously we had boots on the grounds taking a look
8 at the conditions out there, reviewing not only the main
9 drain but any potential branches that could be included in
10 this project that maybe needed some work.

11 And then we also -- the whole point is to, because
12 this board knows nothing about this drainage district before
13 they get here today, it's just to provide an independent and
14 unbiased assessment of the system so that these board members
15 are equipped, not only with the engineering review, but also
16 with public comment to be able to make a decision of whether
17 a project is necessary or not.

18 So just to give a brief overview, we had actually
19 updated this drainage district boundary in the last year.
20 That kind of magenta line basically every -- all the land
21 within that magenta line all drain to that blue line which we
22 would call the route and course of the drain. This is what
23 currently is legally established as county drain.

24 So how we do that, obviously technology is pretty
25 good these days. We have, you know, one-foot contours to be

1 able to identify high points. So we use -- we took an
2 inventory of the storm sewer that's out there, where is the
3 enclosed system draining to, and then site inspections
4 actually out in the field determining how that magenta line
5 gets firmed up.

6 And in total, it's 116 acres that comprise this
7 watershed. Again, entirely within the city of Coopersville.
8 It's a little unique in that there is only four properties
9 involved in this district. Obviously the main property owner
10 being Coopersville Community Schools, and then we do have
11 these three agricultural properties there on the southeast
12 corner of this district.

13 So just to give a brief overview of the system, I
14 do have a pointer, but it didn't show up very good on this
15 screen. So I'll just kind of -- we have this main detention
16 pond. You can kind of see the blue lines up on the map.
17 Those are all discharge points and routing of the storm sewer
18 system through it.

19 Obviously a lot of the drainage from the school
20 itself is being discharged. There is three separate storm
21 sewer outlets there at the very north end.

22 We also have natural flow pass from the
23 agricultural properties that all drain into this pond as
24 well.

25 And then it's controlled here at the southern end

1 of the pond with a 48-inch vertical riser control structure,
2 and a 36-inch outlet pipe that eventually makes its way
3 further to the south and underneath the railroad as well.

4 So the big things I'm going to go through today,
5 and the concerns that we saw when we were out there is
6 obviously there is a heavy sediment and nutrient loading
7 that's getting into this pond itself which was noted as an
8 issue. The lack of actual detention time that this system is
9 holding, and I'll go through that in a little bit more detail
10 further into the presentation.

11 And then grade control erosion issues. Some of
12 that was actually resolved recently with a separate school
13 project, I'll talk about that here shortly as well because
14 there has been a coordinated effort between the school
15 actually being proactive and taking care of some of the
16 issues downstream of the pond itself. So a lot of what we're
17 going to talk about today is more related to the pond and the
18 issue that they're experiencing there.

19 Just a brief overview of the soils because it's
20 usually something that the board members talk about and want
21 to know.

22 This is primarily clay loam soils. You can see the
23 hydraulic soil groups for these are in the C/D range, which
24 usually those are high runoff soils. An A/B soil would be
25 primarily sandy soils that most of the time it infiltrates

1 unless we're in seasonal periods.

2 So what we're experiencing out here is primarily
3 C/D soils which are high runoff. Drainage class is poor to
4 moderate. And actually in this case it has a very high water
5 table as well. So a lot of what is falling on the ground in
6 this district is actually making its way to that detention
7 pond.

8 So a couple things before I get into a lot of these
9 photos. There were -- our firm actually does a lot of storm
10 water management reviews for not only Ottawa County but a lot
11 of other counties throughout the state. And the way that
12 this pond is setup, if it were to come through Ottawa
13 County's office today and get a storm water review, it
14 wouldn't meet the criteria in several different facets.

15 The first one would be all the water that's coming
16 in from the school property, the parking lots, none of its
17 being pretreated before it gets to this pond. So most of the
18 time we would have some mechanism for the sediment that's
19 accumulating and being dumped into this pond to be treated
20 before it actually gets to the pond itself .

21 And then the second aspect is the way that the
22 control structure is actually setup. It's not actually
23 detaining very much water. We have these pipes coming in,
24 but then we have a 36-inch pipe coming out. So there is very
25 little detention being provided in this pond itself. So I

1 just wanted to point that out.

2 These are the three main discharge pipes that are
3 coming from the parking lots and the school as well. You can
4 see there is some erosion activity happening at this
5 location.

6 So this is a picture of some of the, obviously the
7 algae. You can -- obviously any time you see something like
8 this, there is obvious nutrient loading that's causing these
9 type of green material to accumulate. Some of it can be
10 salts from parking lots that eventually over time coupled
11 with, you know, heat in July, August, can cause this type of
12 film. And a lot of that is continuing downstream obviously
13 through that control structure which is in the bottom half of
14 that left-hand photo.

15 So when I say that there is not actually much
16 detention happening, you know, that water is stabilized at
17 that rim elevation of this control structure. And typically
18 you might see like an eight-inch restriction or 12-inch
19 restriction. That's just dumping into that 48, and then a 36
20 inch going out. So there is not really a lot of detention
21 happening in this particular design, the way it functions
22 today.

23 This is just some of the runoff from the
24 agricultural properties. These are actually taken, the
25 picture on the left is actually taken about a year ago. The

1 one on the right was just taken in the last two weeks.

2 But you can kind of see on the right just some of
3 the sediment-laden water. In the picture on the left you can
4 see that sediment accumulating in there. You know, you can
5 see that that stuff just continues on further into the pond
6 as well.

7 So one of the things that we try to do from an
8 engineering standpoint when we have issues like this is try
9 to get buffer strips, you know, between agricultural runoff
10 and ponds themselves so that that vegetative area can kind of
11 filter some of those things out.

12 So I just briefly wanted to touch on some of the
13 things that actually the school has been proactive about.
14 They actually engaged a different engineering firm in the
15 last couple of years to fix some of these issues downstream.
16 One of them was a blown-out, 24-inch culvert at a historical
17 railroad crossing. You can see that 24-inch completely blown
18 out there. They've actually replaced that with a 36-inch
19 diameter culvert now.

20 And then the second one was, this is that outlet,
21 36 -inch outlet from the control structure. You can see that
22 there is a pretty significant scour pool at that location.

23 What the school did as part of that project in the
24 last year was actually put a riprap pool at this location.

25 So there is some things that they were able to do

1 already. And that's why I say it's a coordinated effort,
2 because they've already done some things that are good.

3 The main focus I think of any project that may come
4 out of this would be more focused on the pond itself. How
5 can we alleviate some of the sediment and nutrients that are
6 getting into the pond itself, and any kind of design that
7 would ultimately come to fruition. And then I know one of
8 the school's issues was all the sediment that's accumulating
9 in the bottom of that pond itself, kind of getting it back to
10 the condition it was originally designed for.

11 So I think I already kind of touched on most of
12 these items. Again, it's been a coordinated effort to this
13 point. The sediment and the nutrient loading in the pond I
14 think are the key focus of any project that happens moving
15 forward today and addressing that pretreatment element that I
16 talked about during the presentation as well.

17 So just for everybody here today, next steps in the
18 process is public testimony. Obviously it's very important
19 that we get feedback from, you know, the school, the property
20 owners that live out there and what their particular issues
21 are, or if they think things function fine the way they are.
22 Those are all things that the board needs to see.

23 This board will determine the necessity of the
24 petition. So if it's not found necessary, which is why I
25 said we don't spend too much funds up front because if this

1 board were to turn the project down, it's done, nothing
2 further would be done. It would have to wait a year before
3 another petition can be filed.

4 If it is found necessary, that's when, you know, we
5 would start working with Joe's office to evaluate what the
6 scope of the projects would be. Maybe some design
7 alternatives looking at, you know, a cost-benefit analysis of
8 making sure that whatever we get is affordable and makes
9 sense.

10 And then finalized design, getting easements and
11 permits, and prepare documents for, to actually bid the
12 project to contractors.

13 So that's all I have. If the board has any
14 questions for me at this time, I'm happy to answer them.

15 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Okay. Ken or Josh,
16 any questions for Ryan at this point?

17 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: Yeah, Ryan.

18 We're showing a short little drain itself, and it
19 does look like most of the culverts are open, so the water is
20 getting away, that's basically not the problem at this point;
21 or is there a downstream problem? Did you look downstream of
22 where the railroad crosses? Is the water getting away?

23 ENGINEER RYAN McENHILL: Yep, so downstream there
24 was the 24-inch blowout that I talked about at the old
25 railroad bed that has since been replaced and actually

1 upsized that to a 36-inch culvert.

2 Just less than a hundred feet downstream is an
3 actual railroad crossing, that is a 36-inch diameter pipe.
4 So there was no issues with that particular pipe. I think
5 what the school has already done is probably adequate.

6 If there was a project moving forward, I think we
7 would probably look at actually extending the detention time
8 in that pond itself.

9 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: Okay.

10 ENGINEER RYAN McENHILL: So that those downstream
11 pipes would actually be more adequate if that were to occur.

12 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: So basically water
13 coming in, water going out, it's --

14 ENGINEER RYAN McENHILL: Yep.

15 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: It's not an issue that
16 they're backing up water; it's an issue that the pond isn't
17 functioning as a pond, or as a detention pond. It's
18 functioning as a viewing pond is really what it looks like.

19 ENGINEER RYAN McENHILL: Well so if you ask just
20 somebody who is out there looking at the pond, they're
21 probably not going to see an issue with whether it's
22 detaining water for six hours or 24 hours. I think what the
23 premise of getting to this point was there is a bunch of
24 sediment getting in there that hasn't been addressed. And
25 then long term, how do we mitigate the sediment from getting

1 in there in the first place so that we don't have to do a
2 project like this every ten years, fifteen years, a more
3 permanent solution to make sure it's operating effectively.

4 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: It's pond issues we're
5 talking about.

6 ENGINEER RYAN McENHILL: Yes.

7 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Okay. Josh, do you
8 have any?

9 BOARD MEMBER JOSH WESTGATE: No. I think Ken
10 touched on some things I had questions on.

11 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Good. Then we'll
12 open public comment.

13 And if you'd like to make a comment, give us your
14 name, address and tell us if you live within the district.

15 So what I'll do is I'll start in the back with the
16 gentleman with the tie, if you have any comment, your name
17 and address, please.

18 MR. MATT SPENCER: So my role is the superintendent
19 of schools for Coopersville Area Public Schools. And our
20 address is 197 East Street in Coopersville. So our property
21 is significantly within the drainage area that has been
22 identified.

23 So, and you know --

24 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: And your name, sir?

25 MR. MATT SPENCER: Oh, yeah. Matt Spencer is my

1 name.

2 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Okay. Continue.

3 MR. MATT SPENCER: So from the school perspective,
4 you know, I think there is three lenses to look through.

5 One is just maintaining resources that we're
6 partial owners of and significant owners of.

7 The second part is the, what this does for our
8 kids, which everything we do should, as a school district,
9 should include that lens.

10 And the outdoor learning that happens at the pond
11 is really meaningful and significant. In the lay person's
12 term, what we're experiencing is, because of the runoff, the
13 pond is filling up. And because of that, the eco system is
14 impacted.

15 And as I hear what has historically happened at the
16 pond when -- and this is going back 20 or 30 years, it was
17 significantly different in terms of the amount of fish, the
18 size of the fish, the type of birds, the plants.

19 So there is some real learning opportunities there.
20 And we do this and we own it with the park region, with the
21 city, and we view it as a real community resource.

22 And because of that, we want it to be maintained
23 well and high quality, which is why we've committed the type
24 of resources to the culvert, to removal of trees, to
25 maintaining it over the years.

1 So those are three lenses from the school
2 perspective that would be supportive.

3 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Okay, thank you.

4 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: Thank you.

5 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: The lady in the
6 blue? If you have any comments, your name and your address,
7 please.

8 MS. NANCY STILES: My name is Nancy Stiles. The
9 address is 385 East Randall. I don't live there, my brother
10 lives there. It's family property and we own two of the
11 three agricultural properties that are proposed as part of
12 the district.

13 And I have a question rather than a comment, was
14 the agricultural runoff picture from our land?

15 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Pardon me?

16 MS. NANCY STILES: Was the agricultural runoff
17 pictures from our land?

18 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: I'm not sure. I'll
19 have to ask Ryan that.

20 ENGINEER RYAN McENHILL: So that photo was looking
21 from the school property towards the agricultural land.

22 MS. NANCY STILES: Okay. And that drain comes out
23 of, I think it's -- I forget the address of the
24 agricultural --

25 ENGINEER RYAN McENHILL: So if you --

1 MS. NANCY STILES: Can I come up there? I can't
2 see that.

3 ENGINEER RYAN McENHILL: Yes. Yes.

4 So these blue lines here on the east side, those
5 are all waterways that convey water from your property
6 towards the pond itself.

7 And if we go back to that photograph that you're
8 referring to, that star would be where that photo was taken
9 from, looking towards your agricultural properties.

10 MS. NANCY STILES: Okay, is that an actual culvert?

11 ENGINEER RYAN McENHILL: Yes. Yeah.

12 MS. NANCY STILES: Okay.

13 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Does that answer
14 your question?

15 MS. NANCY STILES: Yes.

16 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Okay. Good.

17 The gentleman?

18 MR. TERRY JOHNSON: My name is Terry Johnson. I'm
19 the director of operations for Coopersville Area Schools. I
20 do not live in the community, but my role is to -- my
21 function here is to work with you on any issues we might have
22 or if there is special projects.

23 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Okay. Thank you.

24 No comments?

25 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Nothing.

1 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Then do we have any
2 comments from the city?

3 ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ALEK MIZIKAR: I don't.

4 CITY MANAGER DENNIS LUCE: I don't.

5 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Anyone that I
6 missed? I think everyone else is good.

7 Okay. Then there will be a motion to close public
8 comment. I'll make that motion.

9 BOARD MEMBER JOSH WESTGATE: I'll support.

10 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Moved and supported
11 to close public comments.

12 All those in favor, say aye.

13 BOARD MEMBER RICH WESTGATE: Aye.

14 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Aye.

15 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: Aye.

16 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: And now that is
17 passed.

18 And now comments from Ken or Josh or myself
19 regarding the petition?

20 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: I see this as kind of
21 an unusual -- we don't generally get involved in ponds and
22 this sort of thing, but I can see that it's something that is
23 near and dear to the heart of the school system.

24 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Um-hum.

25 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: And I can understand

1 where they could have a lot of use for training kids, showing
2 kids what actually happens.

3 We're generally involved in places where we got
4 actual water problem that people are getting flooded out.

5 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Right.

6 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: But this is kind of
7 unusual on that basis. I don't think I've ever been at a
8 meeting that is like this.

9 I'm in favor of it because I'm in favor of teaching
10 the kids everything they can learn about water, about nature,
11 about how everything happens. So there is no question about
12 it, my vote is to go ahead.

13 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Okay.

14 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: But we're not at that
15 point yet.

16 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Josh, comments?

17 BOARD MEMBER JOSH WESTGATE: I'm going to agree
18 with Ken. This obviously is a very unique one as we're not
19 dealing with a water drainage issue per se, but the loading
20 of the pond. So I'm in favor of the project also.

21 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Okay. This is an
22 interesting circumstance because, as you said, Ken, we
23 normally deal with drainage issues where folks have problems
24 with water in their backyards and flooding and they're not
25 happy to begin with.

1 But this is a positive in my mind because, as Ryan
2 pointed out, one of the pictures that the major -- the major
3 concern is the sedimentation and nutrient loading issues of
4 the main pond which have to be dealt with.

5 And based on all of the information he's given,
6 plus what Matt, the superintendent, included in his -- the
7 lenses that they're looking through, I think are very
8 appropriate.

9 And therefore, I would make a motion that the
10 proposed maintenance and improvement of the Coopersville
11 Community Trails Drain, as petitioned on July 12th, 2021, is
12 necessary and conducive to the public health and welfare.
13 And so I make that motion.

14 Is that supported?

15 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: I'll second that
16 motion.

17 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: That's moved and
18 supported.

19 All those in favor, say aye.

20 BOARD MEMBER RICH WESTGATE: Aye.

21 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Aye.

22 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: Aye.

23 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: It's carried. Okay.

24 Now, I'm going to ask Joe just to give us a word
25 about the appeal process and any other comments that he may

1 have.

2 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: Thanks, Mr. Chair.

3 You can appeal today's decision. You got ten days
4 after today through circuit court if you want to appeal the
5 Board of Determination decision. Again, that's through
6 circuit court, not through my department.

7 So that's a whole another process, but people are
8 able to appeal it if they feel necessary.

9 The other comment I want to make sure that it gets
10 on the record that the communication and the dialogue and the
11 partnership with the schools, the city and the conservation
12 district who the grant was through to fix the downstream
13 issues by the railroad crossing, working with the railroad
14 people, there has been a lot of dialogue and communication
15 down this road that we're going down, so it's not like a new
16 thing. So the partnerships are, you know, are huge in this.
17 So I'm excited to be working with again the city and the
18 schools.

19 Matt and I have had conversations in the past and
20 just what's on the record that they definitely want -- and
21 the city as well, when Jonathan was here, that the city wants
22 a nice trail, environmentally sensitive area, that we want to
23 make sure that we keep, and protect, with the wetland areas,
24 you know, the pond, sediment, detention.

25 We do want to make sure that the sediment gets

1 removed to make sure that it is at its capacity. And again
2 the education part of it is another one of those lenses that
3 not only is Coopersville doing that, but every school
4 district.

5 I just mentioned I have about seven projects right
6 now with different schools, and even the school's engineering
7 firm they use is just highly recommended as well. J & B, we
8 work with Travis for the record, on many, many projects
9 throughout the county in the last eight years.

10 But recently the outdoor classroom is so critical
11 to kids and education, along with the environmental issues
12 today, and water quality. And we don't like flooding, right.
13 That's what my job is is to prevent flooding and erosion and
14 downstream issues.

15 So all of these would be in this kind of project so
16 I want to make that for the record that partnerships are a
17 huge impact and part of the solution.

18 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Great to see.

19 WATER RESOURCES COMM. JOE BUSH: And thanks
20 everyone for coming this morning. Thank you.

21 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Then there would be
22 a motion to adjourn.

23 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: Moved.

24 BOARD MEMBER JOSH WESTGATE: Supported.

25 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Moved and supported.

1 Those in favor, say aye.

2 BOARD MEMBER RICH WESTGATE: Aye.

3 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: Aye.

4 BOARD SECRETARY KEN SOUTER: Aye.

5 BOARD CHAIR RICH VANDER KLOK: We are adjourned.

6 (Board of Determination concluded at 10:35 a.m.)

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