

## **Project Background For the Hiawatha Drain Petition Project**

In May of 2009 Grand Haven Charter Township petitioned the Ottawa County Drain Commissioner to establish a Drain, under the provisions of the Michigan Drain Code. Prein&Newhof was hired to create the drainage district and design the proposed Hiawatha Drain. The following provides a brief background of the established drain scheduled for construction in 2017.

### **2008 - 2009**

- June 2008, heavy rains over 5 days caused flooding across Ottawa County.
- September 2008, heavy rains in two 5-day periods further elevated ground water levels.
- Winter 2008-09, above average temperatures and winter rainfall occurred.
- April 2009, heavy rains over 5 days caused flooding in the district.
- Spring 2009, areas throughout district had standing water for weeks.
- May 2009, Grand Haven Township Petitioned the Drain Commissioner.
- June 2009, heavy rains over 5 days caused flooding in the district.

### **2010 - 2011**

- April 2010, notices were sent to property owners for a public meeting.
- May 2010, a public Board of Determination Meeting was held and determined a project was necessary.
- Project survey and preliminary designs were initiated.
- Project alternatives were reviewed.

### **2012 - 2014**

- Easement discussion, permitting, route discussions with County Parks.
- January 2013, Joe Bush was elected to the office of County Drain Commissioner and changed the name to Water Resources Commissioner.
- Ottawa County Parks obtained a grant to fund a Natural Features Inventory of the Hiawatha Forest Property.
- Easement and permitting discussions continued.

### **2015 - 2016**

- Additional project alternatives and grant opportunities were reviewed.
- June 2015, ground water monitoring wells were installed.
- Route discussions continue with Ottawa County Parks upon completion of the Natural Features Inventory.
- December 2015, County Parks and Water Resources Commissioner partnered to apply for a Coastal Zone Management Grant request of \$100,000 (not received) with support from The Nature Conservancy, Michigan DNR Wildlife Division, Land Conservancy of West Michigan, Herpetological Resource Management, Martinus & Associates, Prein & Newhof Engineers.

- Project design continued.
- July 2016, County Parks and Water Resources Commissioner partnered to apply for a Wildlife Habitat Grant request from Michigan DNR of \$160,000 (not received) with support from The Wild Turkey Federation.
- Nov 2016, ground water monitoring wells were removed.

#### 2017

- Easements were obtained and permits received.
- Complete project final design.
- Financing alternatives were reviewed.

#### 2017 - 2018 (*anticipated*)

- May 2017, hold Informational Open House.
- July 2017, project bidding.
- Final apportionments and assessments determined after bids received.
- Send notices to residents with tentative assessments and Day of Review.
- July 2017, hold Day of Review.
- Proceed with construction.
- 2018 complete construction.