



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL  
DIRECTOR

## **Notice of Drainage Board Meeting For Determination of Necessity**

### **VAN CASS INTERCOUNTY DRAIN (Van Buren and Cass Counties)**

**DATE:** June 24, 2020  
**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83917482431>  
Or by telephone at 312-626-6799; meeting ID: 839 1748 2431

The Van Cass Intercounty Drain Drainage Board will meet virtually at the above date, time and location to hear all interested persons, receive evidence and determine whether the maintenance and improvement, as set forth in the petition dated May 28, 2019, is necessary for the public health, convenience, or welfare; and further, to determine whether it is necessary to revise the boundaries of the Drainage District pursuant to Chapter 8 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended.

Proceedings conducted at this public meeting will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and Governor Gretchen Whitmer's and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' recommendations to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and also in conformance with Executive Directive 2020-2 dated March 13, 2020 and Executive Order 2020-75 dated May 6, 2020. Individuals are invited and encouraged to actively participate through electronic means, including providing public comment during the designated portion of the proceedings. Written comments may be submitted prior to the meeting, or additional information may be obtained from the following offices:

**Joe Parman**  
**Van Buren County Drain**  
**Commissioner**  
**219 E. Paw Paw St.**  
**Paw Paw, Michigan**  
**269-657-8241**

**Bruce Campbell**  
**Cass County Drain Commissioner**  
**120 N. Broadway**  
**Cassopolis, Michigan**  
**269-445-4428**

To view live video of the proceedings on YouTube **without** participating, please visit [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf21aNvKXM4Zdr\\_UV3-7lfQ/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf21aNvKXM4Zdr_UV3-7lfQ/videos). Any comments made through this platform will not be monitored during the proceedings and will not be included in public comment. Please use the above-described procedures to participate via audio-conferencing if you wish to provide public comment.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Drain Commissioner of their County at the number listed above or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Anyone aggrieved by the decision of the Intercounty Drain Drainage Board may seek judicial review pursuant to MCL 280.122a.

Dated: May 27, 2020



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Brady Harrington, Deputy  
For Gary McDowell, Director  
Michigan Department of Agriculture and  
Rural Development



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL  
DIRECTOR

May 27, 2020

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

Mr. Joe Parman  
Van Buren County Drain Commissioner  
219 E. Paw Paw St.  
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Mr. Bruce Campbell  
Cass County Drain Commissioner  
120 N. Broadway  
Cassopolis, MI 49031

**RE: Van Cass Intercounty Drain**

Dear Commissioners:

Enclosed is a Notice of Meeting of the Drainage Board to determine the necessity of the Chapter 8 petition to maintain and improve the **Van Cass Intercounty Drain**. Please retain a copy of the notice for your records.

Please follow the following instructions carefully. Notice of the meeting shall be served by each county, not less than 10 days before the meeting, as follows:

1. Publish the notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the drainage district.
2. Provide notice by personal service or certified mail to the county clerk and a member of the board of county road commissioners of each county, and to the supervisor of each township and clerk of each city and village in the drainage district. If there are state highways in the drainage district, we also recommend service on the director of the Michigan Department of Transportation by certified mail, even though this is not specifically required in Section 122.
3. Provide notice by first-class mail on each person whose name appears on the last city or township tax roll as owning land in the drainage district, at the address shown on the roll.
4. Post the notice in your office or your building where other such notices are posted. If your county maintains a website that is accessible to the public, the notice shall also be posted on the homepage or other webpage dedicated to public notices.

All expenses of notification shall be paid by the treasurer county of the Drainage Board.

The Zoom meeting will be recorded in order to take a transcript of the meeting.

Finally, **please provide this office with a copy of the Proof of Publication, Affidavit of Mailing, Affidavit of Posting, and Proof of Service for the drain.** If you have any questions regarding any of these requirements, please contact me at 517-284-5624.

Sincerely,

Brady Harrington  
Deputy for the Director

Enclosures

**AGENDA**

**Meeting to Determine Necessity of Petition  
for Proposed Maintenance and Improvements**

**VAN CASS INTERCOUNTY DRAIN**

(Van Buren and Cass Counties)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83917482431>

**312-626-6799; meeting ID: 839 1748 2431**

**1:00 p.m., June 24, 2020**

1. Call to order
2. Introduction of Drainage Board Members and engineer  
Brady Harrington, Chairperson, Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Joe Parman, Van Buren County Drain Commissioner  
Bruce Campbell, Cass County Drain Commissioner
3. Motion to elect Secretary
4. Approval of the agenda and meeting minutes
5. Reading of petition, explanation of procedures and voting rules - Chair
6. Presentation of preliminary engineering – Engineer
7. Petitioner Presentation -
8. Public comment and questions **(please complete a speaker card)**
  - Please state name and relation to drain
  - Limit comments to 5 minutes until everyone has their first opportunity to speak
  - Be specific/describe problems or desired changes
9. Board member comments
10. Motion regarding necessity of the drain for the good of the public health, convenience, or welfare
11. Motion regarding revising drainage district boundaries
12. Motion to retain financial consultant(s) and authorize interim borrowing
13. Closing comments and administrative procedures
14. Adjourn

### **History and procedure**

The Van Buren County Drain Commissioner received a petition from 69 freeholders on May 28, 2019 requesting maintaining and improving of the Van Cass Intercounty Drain to address drainage issues in Marcellus Township in Cass County and Porter Township in Van Buren County.

The Drainage Board met on August 23, 2019 and determined that the petition was sufficient and the requested improvement was practical. The Drainage Board retained to provide preliminary engineering alternatives and cost estimates.

Today's meeting is to make a public presentation of the preliminary engineering study and engineer's recommendations and cost estimates and to receive additional public testimony. The Board will make a decision based on the engineering study and testimony received at this hearing and earlier in the process, from the petitioners, landowners and local officials as to whether or not it is necessary for the good of the public health, convenience, or welfare to proceed with some level of construction project to provide the relief requested.

The decisions today will be made by a majority vote of this Board. The Chairperson does not vote except in the event of a tie (abstentions are not allowed)

Again, it should be made clear that the Board will be deciding if there should be a project to address the relief requested in the petition and whether the project is necessary for the good of the public health, convenience, or welfare.

If the Board makes the determination that there is no need for any level of project, and there is no appeal, the petition process comes to an end and the costs of the procedure to date will be apportioned among the drainage district counties. These costs will be apportioned according to the benefits that would have accrued to the counties if the project had been completed.

If this Board finds a project Necessary at the end of today's proceedings and there is no appeal within the designated 10 days, this Board in conjunction with the recommendations of the engineer and testimony received from the hearing process, will decide on scope and breadth of the project to be constructed.

You have the right to appeal the decision of the Board whether the Board decides yes or no. Your appeal is to the Circuit Court of the county in which you reside, within 10 days of today's hearing. The scope or design of the project is not subject to appeal.