STATE OF MICHIGAN

OFFICE OF THE MUSKEGON COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

In the Matter of:

Ribe Drain

Board of Determination for

Petitioned Maintenance and Improvement to

Ribe Drain

July 29, 2015

6:30 P.M.

Twin Lake Elementary School
3175 5th Street
Twin Lake, MI 49457

Board of Determination: Mr. Brian Mulinx
Mr. Lou Nordlund (chairman)
Mr. Tom Jasick

RECORDED BY: Michelle M. McKee, CSR 3841
Certified Shorthand Reporter
MS. BRENDA MOORE: We're at a disadvantage tonight. We don't have air conditioning. I have this fan, so hopefully it's not too much background noise. And we don't have a microphone, so-- I know. It's here, but it does not work, unless someone can perform miracles. If you can't hear, we're going to ask you to come forward. The fan off?

(Whereupon, response by audience.)

MS. BRENDA MOORE: All right. I don't want anybody fading on you, but maybe everyone has a stronger voice that-- We'll try that.

First thing, thank you very much for coming out tonight. We have a number of people that can't fit in the township hall. This was our next venue for everyone to fit in.

I'm Brenda Moore. I am the county drain commissioner. What started this process tonight is a petition that my office received. And under state law, what we have to do is get a board of determination. That's these three gentlemen here (indicating). They can't own property in the area and they're supposed to be outside objective parties. They don't know much about what's going on tonight. I just threw them together. I don't know if they've even met each other tonight. We try to keep it objective.
Ryan McEnhill is our engineer. So when I get a petition, I'm obligated to hire an engineer to go size up the problems. We don't do any design. He doesn't make any proposal for fixes. He is just presenting what he found. So any questions about cost and what we're doing, it's inappropriate because I don't know if we can go forward yet. I know that's what's on everybody's mind.

So after the Board of Determination listens to what Ryan found in the field—He's obligated through his profession to be objective and to present facts.—we're going to hear from you all. What we're going to ask, because there's so many people, is you come up front so our court reporter, Michelle, can record everything. She is providing verbatim comments to us. Everything that she records or what we get, we will post on our website, including this presentation.

So tonight when we leave, hopefully we'll have a decision as to whether or not this proceeds. The scope of the project is up to the drain office—me, the drain commissioner, and Stephanie Barrett is my deputy drain commissioner. And we will try to size things up and make decisions if, in fact, we even go on.

So with that, I would like to introduce Ryan McEnhill. He's our engineer that won the bid on this project to do the initial investigation. I don't know if
you want to try to put the fan back on or we all stay real
still, but I will ask that conversation -- side
conversations stay at a minimum because it's bad for those
folks who can't hear and can pay attention to who has got the floor. Okay.

And I need to-- Thank you. Stephanie is helping me. I need to administer the oath to our Board members. I'm going to ask you to raise your right hand; and after you take this oath, I'm going to ask you to sign this paper.

You, and each of you, do solemnly swear that you will faithfully perform and discharge the duties imposed upon you and execute, with strict impartiality according to the law and to the best of your ability as members of the Board of Determination, determine whether the maintenance and improvement of the Ribe Drain is necessary and conducive to public health, convenience or welfare, whether the same is necessary for the protection of public health of Dalton Township and Cedar Creek Township, and whether the proposed revisions to the Ribe Drain Drainage District boundaries as recommended by a licensed professional surveyor and engineer would more accurately define the land benefited by the Ribe Drain and whether such revisions are just and equitable pursuant to Section 197, Act Number 40 of the 1956 as amended.
(Whereupon, Board of Determination responded affirmatively.)

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Thank you, gentlemen. Sign that (indicating).

You guys need to elect public chair and secretary and we need to make motions. We have got some of the presentations. We only have 50 copies. Hopefully, you share them. But like I said, they will be posted on our website probably by tomorrow. I tried to have them today, so hopefully you'll buddy up.

MR. TOM JASICK: I make a motion that Lou has vast experience to be our chairman and Brian to be our secretary.

MR. BRIAN MULINX: Second.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Second.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: You guys need to speak up, please. Use your gym voice.

MS. STEPHANIE BARRETT: There was a motion by Tom, supported by Ryan, for Lou as chairperson; and there was a motion by Tom, supported by Lou, to make Brian secretary. And vote?

MR. BRIAN MULINX: Yea.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yea.

MR. TOM JASICK: Yea.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Ready, Ryan?
MR. RYAN McENHILL: I am.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Got your big voice? You want me to turn off some of these lights back here, would that help, at least the middle ones?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: If you can, that would probably help. All right. Well, good evening, everybody. My name is Ryan McEnhill. I'm with Eng Engineers. I'm a registered professional engineer here in the State of Michigan. Our firm is--

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Can't hear you.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: You can't hear. Okay. Our firm is based in Lansing, Michigan, although I actually live here in Muskegon County and most of my projects are done here in West Michigan. We actually do quite a bit of work for drain commissioners throughout the lower State of Michigan.

So I've been out to the site quite a few times. And what I'm going to try to do here tonight is just kind of give an overview of what I found. Hopefully, for the most part, I'll try to explain the best I can to the Board, who has never been out there, as much information as possible for them to make the decision that they have in front of them tonight. So--

MS. BRENDA MOORE: I'll do this for you.
MR. RYAN McENHILL: Okay. All right. So the big thing is why are we here? Why -- why do we have to have this meeting? And this is a statutory requirement of the Michigan Drain Code. It's all in this book right here (indicating) done in 1956, hasn't changed much. So the first step in that is a petition. And really, there's only five freeholders of people in the drainage district that have to sign a petition for it to move forward. In this case, there was 10 on the petition. So beyond the petition, the drain commissioner can only spend up to $5,000 per mile of drain per year, so anything beyond that requires a petition. Okay? So again, this is a statutory requirement of the Michigan Drain Code.

Brenda talked about it briefly, but these three Board members are disinterested, all reside outside these townships that are affected. And their sole purpose tonight is to determine the necessity of the project, and that's really their -- their sole decision here tonight. They're not going to determine what the scope of the project is, that comes after this meeting and really comes from input from Brenda, and I think she takes my input, too, on what the potential solution would be, but we're not going to get into that too deeply. We're more going to stay focused on the necessity factor.

Yep. So, just to give you an idea of the work
that -- that we performed, Eng as the engineers, three main tasks, really. We researched the file in the drain office, which goes all the way back to 1907, that was one thing to try to figure out what we had. And then the second thing is to delineate a district boundary, which I'll talk about in a little bit in more depth here in a couple slides from now, but to try to determine what the watershed of this Ribe Drain is. And then secondarily, did several field reviews, both myself, we had a survey crew out there. We actually, if you've been on the website, we actually did plan and profile drawings as well for this entire stretch of drain which stretches five miles.

So gathering all that information is basically -- the end result is what you see in this Power Point tonight and hopefully everybody at least has a better understanding of the existing conditions out there.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Can you guys hear him okay?

(Whereupon, audience responded negatively.)

MS. BRENDA MOORE: You need to yell. Pretend you're getting your kids home.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Have him stand in the middle of the room.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Okay. Well, he's--

MR. RYAN McENHILL: You can hit the next one.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Honestly, if this is bad
enough, I can adjourn and do it another day, but I really
would like to get through this and I really hope you yell
like you're yelling at your kids. Okay?

(Whereupon, unintelligible conversation.)

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Yeah, but then he's going
to lose people here and we got people there, so he can
speak up. Sorry, Ryan.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: All right. So--

(Whereupon, audience responded.)

MR. RYAN McENHILL: So, the history of the
drain. A lot of -- this one stretches all the way back to
1907 was when this was established as a county drain.
Okay? In some files, nothing has been done on a drain back
to 1907. In this case, there's actually been a couple
petitions and major projects that have -- that have
happened on this drain. There was petitions to clean,
petitions to extend the drain. You can see '37, 1974, and
in 1982, I guess, is a notable one was because that was
when they actually extended the drain from Michillinda all
the way up to the north and the lake level control that
control the lake levels on these four lakes. But really
since 1982, there has been nothing done on any of the
drains, at least that's been documented. Okay? So that's
30-plus years that nothing has been done.

Okay. So and then obviously we have the
petition from June of this year that kind of set this whole process in motion.

Okay. So the district boundary. Again, we have the two -- the two boards on each side that kind of lay out the district boundary. How do we determine this? Basically, it's all laid out based on topography. We got the -- we got the higher end of the district on the boundaries and then we have the lower part of the district where the drain actually sits. All of these -- all of that land drains to the Ribe Drain. That's how we determine what the district boundary is. We use a couple different methods to do that. The first is the GIS actually has very up-to-date information on the topography, the contours of the land. Okay. We generally lay out our district first based on that and then we'll actually go out in the field, both myself and survey crews, to kind of determine the lay of the land and finalize this district that you see here today.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Next?
MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yep.
MS. BRENDA MOORE: Stay loud.
MR. RYAN McENHILL: Okay. So just to give you an idea of, okay, what is a watershed. The easiest way to think about what a drainage district is is, okay, when water falls, it falls on your property, whether some of it
infiltrates, some of it runs off, eventually it makes its way -- if you're in this Ribe Drainage District, it all runs off to this Ribe Drain. That's the easiest way to think of what a -- what a drainage district or watershed boundary is. And just to give you an idea of the amount of acreage that's in the property, and we actually reduced the acreage from the old district boundary to this updated one here today by over 500 acres, so it's a little bit smaller. Most of that acreage is in Dalton Township, just a little bit runs in Cedar Creek Township. And there's 1700 properties in this drainage district. So when you think about a drain that's five-miles long, there's a lot of property, a lot of land.

Let's talk a little bit about the length of the drain system. The Ribe Drain, basically, it outlets and is part of the Bear Creek Watershed. It outlets at McMillan Road and M-120. There's actually two other existing drainage districts that are county drains, Furman and Brandstrom, that also drain into this Ribe Drain. Some of you may be a part of those districts, as well. So there is -- there is existing easements. They typically vary with some of them from 20-to-100 feet of easement that's already over the drain itself. What that easement does is give the drain commissioner's office the opportunity to go in there and do maintenance on it and that sort of thing.
Okay. This Ribe Drain also includes the lake level control structure that currently sits at Middle Lake Road that controls the lake levels for these four lakes -- Twin, Middle, West and North Lake.

This is just a slide I added because there is a lot of drainage sources out there. There's road ditches, there's -- there's private drains that maybe have been dug for agricultural purposes. The only drain that the drain commissioner has jurisdiction over it, can actually go in and do work on, is the Ribe Drain itself, which is the dashed purple line on those boards. The road commission, the township, some other entity I guess would be on the hook to maintain some of these other drainage systems that are out there. So really, the only one that the drain commissioner's office is able to make -- able to work on is that Ribe Drain itself.

So right now, I'm going to kind of get into the existing conditions, kind of a picture is worth a thousand words. I try to put as many pictures in there as I can to try to tell the story. There's basically three main topics that I want to go through.

The open channel conditions. There's obviously several roadway crossing culverts. Some of them have been recently updated, some are extremely open. I'm going to go through kind of what I saw out there based on
those. And then finally, I'm going to get into the lake level control and talk about how does this control structure operate, because I'm sure that's what many of you really want to know, and how is it controlled to each of the lakes. So first, I'll go in and talk about some of the open channel items.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: You doing all right?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Okay. So for the most part, the downstream section of the drain, and for the most part I'm talking about Riley Thompson to the south, really hasn't been touched in an extremely long time as far as cleaning out, brush removal, opening it up. For the most part, you can't even walk this section of the drain. There's a couple pictures up there. Most of these, the one on the right there is from Beattie Road. I mean, in all of these, for the most part, you can't even really see the drain itself because there's vegetation. And obviously this is in the middle of the summer, everything is grown, so kind of a little bit different now then maybe it does in the spring, but there is obviously heavy vegetation throughout.

Culvert capacity. There was a couple of failing culverts that we found out there. A lot of them, sediment is kind of a major issue, I guess, that we've seen out there throughout the drain itself, and primarily that's
because this drain is extremely flat. Okay? Anytime you have a flat drain, you're going to get sediment and that's going to kind of clog up the culverts themselves. You see at Bard Road, you have an old corrugated steel pipe that is 90 percent full of sediment right now. So you think about what's left capacity wise for water to pass through, those are issues that popped out. And really, the one at Bard Road is really at the end of its lifespan.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Could you explain sediment for everybody, please?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yeah. Sediment, I guess the easy way to look at sediment, it's basically fine soil particulates that they become suspended and they fall out. It can be organic or inorganic matter. But kind of an easy way to look at it, you see a lot of sediment on construction sites. You can get it from erosion, runoff with bare soil. What it does is it gets into this drain and it's naturally occurring decaying vegetation. It all -- it all kind of settles out and it's exacerbated, I guess, when you have a flat drainage system as opposed to a drainage system that has a lot of slope on it. Okay. For the most part, these drains are 0.06 percent of fall. Well, just to put that in perspective, over 100 feet, you're talking about 1 inch of fall. Okay. So it's flat is the easiest way to view that.
We'll take questions after I'm done, sir.

Thanks.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Next?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yep. And these are just a couple more -- a couple more photos that I think are just kind of paint the picture of the sediment issue. You know, you put these culverts in place to operate at their capacity. And when you have this sediment continuing to accumulate-- Again, it kind of gets back to maintenance, too. These maintenance projects, if done on a regular occurrence, they clean up this sediment more frequently. When things haven't been done from a maintenance perspective, this stuff starts to accumulate, it affects the capacity of the drains themselves and so they don't -- they don't operate under capacity.

Okay. So the lake level controls. I tried to put a couple of pictures on here to kind of paint a picture, because I know that these things can't be the easiest to explain without them. So at Twin Lake, we have a pipe, a ductile iron pipe that extends out into the lake, basically sits at the bottom of the lake. Okay? It goes into this control structure, which is just on the north side of Middle Lake Road there, and it's got stop logs on it. Okay. Stop logs are in this case probably three-inches thick that can be pulled out and manipulate
the water level. Okay?

MS. BRENDA MOORE: That's these guys (indicating).

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Right.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: And this is where it goes into the lake (indicating). Right?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Correct.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: And so it comes up like yea (indicating).

(Whereupon, unintelligible conversation.)

MS. BRENDA MOORE: I'm showing the arrow, the water comes in this way (indicating) and here is the stop logs.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: That's the stop log structure.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: And it builds up and goes out.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: You can manipulate -- you can manipulate the water level based on how those stop logs are put in there. You can pull them out and put them in, that's how you manipulate the water level. Okay? When we were out there in May of this year when actually the lake level controls were set at the lowest legal lake level for that period of time, it was 14 inches above where it's supposed to be at. Okay? So that's how that control
structure is currently set up. Basically, the stop log is set at the legal lake level. Okay. So obviously in May when we inspected it, it wasn't operating correctly. I think all of you know that. Okay.

Okay. So I tried to do a profile view of what this looks like, and hopefully it can at least paint a picture of -- of what's out there. All right. The blue lines indicate the 24-inch outlet pipe. And you can see actually it's tilted back towards the lake. Okay. But what it does is that red line is your legal lake level. Okay. The legal lake level is basically at the same elevation as that 24-inch outlet pipe. So the lake level, if the downstream drainage system was operating correctly, should be able to flow out. Okay. I'll get into the issues of -- of why it's likely not operating the way it's supposed to be. Okay. So we're almost 14 inches higher than the -- than the legal lake levels.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Next?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yeah.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Sorry.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Okay. So what are -- what are the issues that kind of popped into my head when I was out there inspecting it, what's going on? The first thing, the extremely flat gradient on the drain that it outlets to. Okay. I talked about the 1-inch of fall in 100 feet,
which is basically nothing, okay, for the most part. A lot of times you think about it this way, water, when -- when a drain is sloped at that flat of a gradient, it needs pressure added or depth of water to be able to move it. Okay. So it's only natural that this water is going to have to come up a little bit for it to move. Okay. So it only operates correctly when there is a free-flowing outlet. So any type of incumbrance that's in the drain, in this case we know there's a bunch of sediment in the drain, a log jam can raise the water levels, a dead animal, deer or something that's in there, a failed culvert, any of those types of things automatically go back and raise the legal lake level -- or not the legal, they raise the water level in that drain itself. So you're basically, there's not a lot of -- there's not a lot of fluff, I guess, in the way it was designed originally for it to operate how its supposed to.

Okay. So the lake levels, I just listed there what the lake levels were and these were observed in -- in May of this year. You can see that Twin, Middle, and West Lake, for the most part, West Lake is a little bit higher. It flows into Middle Lake, eventually it flows into Twin Lake. And then kind of the odd thing was was that North Lake was, you know, six inches to a foot lower. And we actually weren't able to find a pipe that connects the
North Lake to Middle Lake. So when we reviewed the 1983 plans when all of this was built, there was supposed to be lake level control between those two lakes. Well, we had a survey crew out there, I was out there, we're all trying to figure out if this is actually built, and I'm interested to hear you guys or the crowd's input, as well, if you have any knowledge on what's going on between those two lakes. But just based on those elevations that are listed, it would seem like that North Lake is not equalized between.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They closed it down.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Okay. Perfect. So -- so all of these -- all of these creeks that are between the -- that are between the lakes currently don't have any sort of easement over them. Okay. So Brenda and the drain commissioner's office has no authority at this point to be able to go in and maintain those and try to keep them cleaned out, that sort of thing.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Next?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yep. Okay. So where do we go from here, I guess? The next thing that we're going to do-- I'm sure everybody has input and we all want to hear it, what we have to say, whether it be the issues you're having, whether it be the issues that you're not having, you think it operates perfectly, how you think it should, we all want to hear that. That helps the Board.
Okay. This Board, again, their sole decision tonight is to determine the necessity of the petition and that is it. Okay? The cost, the scope, none of that stuff is going to be determined tonight. Okay. If they find that this project is not necessary -- not necessary, the project ends. Everything ends and this -- another petition can't be heard for another 12 months. Okay. If the project is found necessary, the next thing would be that we would get together with Brenda to determine probably a more in-depth review of the system itself would be done and we would try to determine how we would fix kind of the issues that are brought up here today and your input and those kind of things all impact what the ultimate design is going to be. And then we typically have scope meetings before any of this stuff ever gets to construction to get your input again, okay, on whatever -- what the design ultimately will end up being, but that's kind of secondarily to what this Board's decision is.

Okay. So with all that, I'm going to turn it back to the Board. If the Board has any questions for me, I'd be more than happy to answer them.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: You want the lights back up or down? Lights up or--

(Whereupon, audience responded.)

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Okay. Okay.
MR. TOM JASICK: Ryan, I have a question. You showed several culverts that weren't working to capacity. Are those -- are those culverts the responsibility of the drain commission or are they private culverts or--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Road commission culverts.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Well, typically -- typically-- I don't know who that is. Are you representing the road commission?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, I'm not.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But 90 percent of your culverts are road commission.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Typically, they work in tandem with each other to solve an issue. Okay. It's a county drain. A lot of them have been done under drain commissioner projects. Some of them have been done separately by the road commission. It just depends. Does Brenda have the authority to fix that culvert? Absolutely, because a failure of that culvert affects people upstream.

MR. TOM JASICK: Thank you.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Another question, please.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yeah.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: The problem right now then is that the lake level is too high and, therefore, it's
causing problems or it's just the drain isn't working and it's causing people problems? What is the exact problem, other than the fact that-- You know, is the lake level so high that it's causing the problem?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yeah. I mean, sometimes the first time you look at this, well, it's 14 inches higher, is there an issue? Is it causing basement floodings, is it causing people's septic systems to get inundated that it's causing those types of issues? I guess that's something and maybe the petitioners specifically can -- obviously, it's affecting them because they came forward. What those issues are, I think, would be -- would be based on what the crowd has to say and their input, too.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: May I ask a question? Are we ready yet?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: I would leave it to the Board--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: --to determine. I think, Board, if you want to go through your flashcards or if you want to just go down the row of how you want to handle public input.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: I guess we're open for public comment, then. Would you like to go first, ma'am?

MS. JANICE NILES: My name is Janice Niles,
it's 2851 Middle Lake Road, Twin Lake, Michigan. And I
know a lot of you. I have a tiny voice, so I'll try to be
loud. One of my biggest questions and a lot of you are
concerned about the cost. My question is why weren't the
drains all these years maintained properly? Who is
accountable to get -- keep up the drains and have them
working correctly so they didn't get so full?

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: I guess we'll just start in
the front row and go that way.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: I'll answer that.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Oh, we have an answer.

Excuse me just a second, sir. She would like to answer the
question.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: I have an answer. I mean,
it is the drain office that is responsible for that. I've
been in office 18 months. I can't speak to what happened
before I got here.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's a poor answer.

That's a poor answer.

(Whereupon, unintelligible responses.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: We have another speaker.

MR. ALLEN McKay: My name is Allen McKay. I
live at 3231 Riley Thompson Road and I live about a hundred
feet from the Furman Drain. I was in the office and I
spoke to her, and she -- both of them down there, not just the end one.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Turn around.

MR. ALLEN McKay: But the thing of it is--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can't hear you.

MR. ALLEN McKay: All right. I'll yell.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good.

MR. ALLEN McKay: I lived there for 51 years.

And when I moved in out there, your Ribe Drain, if you go down to Beattie Road and on Riley Thompson heading towards the amusement park, look to the right. You'll see the drain and it used to have a dam there. They had planks in it. There is no planks in it now. Well, why did they have to have planks in it years ago? Because it was clean. Now they have to.

It's our roads. Our road ditches, they just went down our ditches we'll say a month ago and took the brush hog and cut the trees all off, went down in there and cut the weeds. Now you talk about sediment from the roads, here is our ditches full of branches, roots, tree branches, I mean, all kinds of stuff.

My Furman Drain that's there, I told her when I talked to her, you can't even see the drain anymore it's so filled up with trees and stuff that have grown. And the only thing they've ever done is come though there and
poisoned it. And they poisoned some people's trees that was alongside the ditch, but all that does is kill that weeds and stuff and fills the ditch up more. They need to dig the ditches.

I live on the Furman Drain. I don't live on the Ribe Drain. Why am I expected to pay for something that does me no good? I had to pay an extra tax a couple months ago for the Furman Drain, something that was done to it that I've lived there 50 years, and what they said it was, I don't remember them doing it. The last thing I seen -- remember them doing to that drain was poisoning it.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Thank you.

MR. ALLEN McKAY: And I just -- they need to clean the road drains, they need to clean those ditches, but they don't need, like this map shows, they want to completely dig the ditches a different place. So how much more is that going to cost to dig the ditches a different route than what's already there?

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Sir, I don't think they've determined what to do yet, according to what--

MR. RYAN McENHILL: That's correct.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yeah. They have--

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Nothing is proposed.

MR. ALLEN McKAY: Well, that ain't what that paper says.
MR. RYAN McENHILL: That's the existing drain centerline.

MR. ALLEN McKAY: It says in there the existing drains and then it says proposed drain.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: If you would like to speak to the engineer further later on.

MR. ALLEN McKAY: No. I'll let -- I'll let other people talk, because I can guarantee you they're going to say things the same as I am.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay.

MR. JIM VANARKEL: I'm Jim VanArkel, 6742 Mueller Road. I'd like to find out from the Board and from the engineer, who are these petitioners and where are their properties located?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Amen.

MR. JIM VANARKEL: Okay. Second thing--

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. JIM VANARKEL: --what are the circumstances of their homes? Are their basements flooding, are their crawl spaces flooding, did they build too close to the water? I want to find that out, too. Also, if there's no connection between Middle Lake and North Lake, why are the people on North Lake being included in this? Obviously, we're not affected by this drain. That's all I have.
MR. LOU NORDLUND: Anyone else in the front row?

(Whereupon, no response.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Next row back?

(Whereupon, hands raised.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes, sir.

MR. DAVID CHESTER: I'd just like to make an observation. I own a piece of property—My name is David Chester. And I can't give you an address on this particular one, but I live a 5462 Staple Road. I got—and this gentleman, I think he got the two letters I got. Most people here got one letter, that's for the Ribe Drain. He got—I got a letter from Ribe Drain, but I also got it for another drain, Erickson Drain, so he may have been—he might have been mistaken with some of the Erickson Drain, just saying that.

MR. ALLEN McKAY: I got one from the Furman Drain.

MR. DAVID CHESTER: Two of them. Yeah, I got two of them, too.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Can't hear you.

MR. DAVID CHESTER: Observation wise, my property is right here (indicating). It runs— I got a quarter-mile Ribe Drain, a quarter-mile Ribe Drain, so I got a whole bunch of Ribe Drain there. And he says -- this
gentleman (indicating) said it was 14 inches over there, over that, and it should be flowing good through here. There's got to be a beaver dam here somewhere, because my water right here is flowing nicely and it's only about that deep, just a nice flow. So if it's 14 inches above here, why is it not more of a flow right here in this little section?

I'm only, what, three-quarters of a mile from the lake. So I don't -- I guess I don't see the complete problem, but I don't under -- you know, I don't know all this, either. You might have a problem down there. But my observation is at this point, it's running -- running fairly well. You know, and it's -- yes, it's got a little grass into it, but every once in awhile the county should come though and just dig it out in the ditch like they do a normal ditch and keep it flowing good. But like I say, I can't speak for down here, but I know here, it's flowing good.

And as long as I'm talking, my son lives on Twin Lake and he's got a basement and his basement is dry today, and he's -- he's probably, what, four or five houses from -- from this -- from right here (indicating). So if that water is so high, why has he got a basement right here and it's dry? So how big of important is this right now at this point? You know, if there should be some little
repairs down here to clean it up, fine and dandy, but a
whole great big wide and deep and all this other kind of
stuff I think is not necessary. If anything, clean out a
little bit and that would be efficient, I would think.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Thank you, sir.

MR. DAVID CHESTER: Good flow right here.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Anyone else in the second
row? We'll just--

(Whereupon, hand raised.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Yes, sir. We'll get
to everybody, you just have to be patient.

MR. BRUCE HAZEKAMP: Hi there. My name is
Bruce Hazekamp, 6710 Mueller Road, Twin Lake, Michigan,
49457. I think there's quite a few people here that know
who I am. I'm a pretty good-known guy in Twin Lake in the
summertime, summertimes, especially. But anyway, I spent
my whole working career as a manufacturing engineer. As a
manufacturing engineer, my primary job was to fix things
and make them work. I did a pretty good job of that.

Today, I went over to the drain where it comes
out of Twin Lake and had a chat with one of the neighbors
there. He showed me the drain as it comes from Twin Lake
and actually it goes under the road, though a culvert, and
into an open drain. Well, they explained this in their
slide in that culvert, and they explained how there was 14
inches of water in there. At the drain end, there was, oh, probably a third level up -- coming up, which says that drain is plugged. You got a hundred yards of drain, all you got to do is--

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. BRUCE HAZEKAMP: --go in there, clean it out, problem solved. It doesn't-- It doesn't take any redigging, redoing, rewhatever, all it takes is a hundred yards of drain that they need to clean out, all it takes.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Yes, sir.

MR. KEN HANSON: Hi. I'm Ken Hanson. I'm Ken Hanson. I live at 3199 Pillon Road, and -- and I appreciate this gentleman's testimony, because I think that makes a lot of sense. I think we have culverts that obviously need remediation, as was pointed out by Ryan.

We're also seeing a cyclical event here. Lake Michigan is 11 inches above what it was last year, so we're going to run into -- you know, you can only get so many gallons of water in a one-gallon jug. But after -- after what's been said about the unclogging of the drain, you know, culverts and whatnot, that should probably be enough remediation, in my opinion.

I'm kind of worried about remediating the whole length of the drain because I'm a bit of a naturalist
and I'm worried about habitat disruption. We live in--
We're privileged to live in a low spot. I mean privilege
is in quotes. We get everybody's water every spring. Ribe
Drain is several hundred feet wide on my property every
spring, and I get water in my basement. When we purchased
the property, the owners said: We never had water in the
basement. And the next year, we had water in the basement,
and the year after that. So I finally put a sump kit in.
We still get a little bit of water, but it's enough to get
out with a small pump.

Anyway, you know, the old timers here have
told me I live in Bear Swamp. I'm happy to be there, but I
value the habitat and I also value some say in decisions
about remediating these culverts, so that's all I got.
Thank you.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes, sir.

MR. CHUCK BUZZELL: Hi. My name is Chuck
Buzzell, 2985 5th Street, Twin Lake. My brother and I own
about 1500 feet that the Ribe Drain flows through. It's
here (indicating). Yesterday, I started at the headwaters
there of the drain. And as Bruce stated, about a third of
the pipe was flowing. I went down the complete drain.
Water is flowing.

There is grass in the drain. The culverts
going under the railroad tracks is flowing well through
Mr. Chester's property down to Michillinda Road, drain is flowing, and then the big culvert that goes under Michillinda Road is flowing. So from my perspective, you know, there's grass there and there might be a stick here or stick there. Under the drain commissioner that was lead by Jeff Hepler, Mr. Hepler and his aides and a few prisoners and the township supervisor, Chris Hall, on several occasions, with shovel in hand and prisoners, would walk that, cleaning it out, taking out any -- any trees and things of that nature.

Now, I can't speak to Mr. Fisher's regime, who was the previous drain commissioner, whether or not he did any manual work, but for years, it's been manual work, prisoners and drain commissioner staff going down through there pulling -- pulling stumps, pulling fallen trees and things of that nature.

This is my last comment. For the last 10 years, on or about September 15th, the drain quits running. This year, we've had a lot of rain early on. We're going into our dry spell. We haven't had any rain now in probably a week and a half. I will guess and I will bet that come September 15th, if nothing is done, there will be no water coming down the Ribe Drain. Thank you.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: I guess we're back to the
third row. Anybody in the third row?

(Whereupon, hands raised.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes, sir. You're next.

MR. LLOYD PRESS: Lloyd Press, P-R-E-S-S, 1910 West Lake Road. Well, I'll tell you what, sir, I can answer your question why the dam was in. There was a gentleman that lived in this community named Mr. Malark. He thought these lakes and the people up here, these lakes where water was being stolen by the Ribe Drain and that's why that dam is there. That dam was on my Grandpa Wiersma's property and he owned a mile. He had four 40's in a row right along side the Ribe Drain. He's the one that put the plank in and he's the one that took it out under Mr. Malark's authority. That's that question.

I don't know, young man, where you got your information on the depth. You said on Bard Road to Riley Thompson there was an inch almost nothing. Did you know, and you can check this with Jim Vallier at the Westwood survey, because he's the one that shot all the angles and the -- to make sure that we could put in a gravity drain. And they -- he started out with the -- the bridge between West Lake and Middle Lake. You know where that is?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Uh-huh.

MR. LLOYD PRESS: Okay. That -- you check with Jim. He can tell you what the range was. But if my
memory serves me correct, from Riley Thompson to Bard Road, there is the 30-foot drop. That's only a mile. Figure that out. And then from downtown Twin Lake where the light is to the light on the Causeway, there is a 90-foot drop. Yeah. Surprised? I'm not.

Now, what I am surprised at is what you said that the wood that's in that drain now is 14 inches above what it's supposed to be. Who put it there? Who has keys to that? Because if I remember right, and I think I do, when that was put in, the only adjustment we had was a six-inch board, whether we take it in or take it out, and that's all the adjustment we could make. Does that make sense?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: What?

MR. LLOYD PRESS: Why is it 14 inches over the lake level?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because the pipe is plugged.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: No. No, that's not why. For this -- for this system to operate as it's designed, basically the invert of the pipe at the Ribe Drain and the legal lake level at the control structure are equal and there is -- it's basically flat in the Ribe Drain downstream. That downstream waterway needs to be -- it can't have any water depth in it. If it has any water
depth in that drain, the lake level has gone up equivalently.

Okay. The only way for this drain to operate as it's designed is for it to be absolutely clear from the outlet headwall at the Ribe Drain downstream. If there's any sort of sediment accumulation, anything that could -- that would be a blockage, the water level eventually goes back, it rises. It has no other choice.

MR. LLOYD PRESS: Okay. That--

MR. RYAN McENHILL: So there's very little margin of error.

MR. LLOYD PRESS: That tells you that there's something plugged up in there, because it worked fine when it was first put in. The water seeked its own level, went over the top.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Just -- just one other -- one other note, too, that I think is worth mentioning. Brenda, when this whole thing first started, contacted a televising and pipe cleaning crew to go out there and take a first glance at this. They told her: You're wasting your money. You do not want to do that. It's not going to have any effect. So a blockage-- And I agree. I said the blockage in the pipe is not what I'm seeing. It is not indicative of the way that -- that the water levels are sitting in there now, at least between the headwall and the
control structure.

MR. LLOYD PRESS: So what you're telling me, that water won't seek it's own level.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Not right now. Not in its current state. It won't--

MR. LLOYD PRESS: Well, then there's something plugged, isn't there?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Downstream, yes, there is.

MR. LLOYD PRESS: I care less where it is, but it's something that is -- can be fixed. Right?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Sure. There's a solution.

MR. LLOYD PRESS: And there's also another solution that the water from West Lake has a heck of a time to get into.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: We can't hear when people are talking, please. This gentleman deserves to be heard.

MR. LLOYD PRESS: Huh?

MS. BRENDA MOORE: I couldn't hear what you said with the background talk.

MR. LLOYD PRESS: Oh, okay. Thanks, you lost my train of thought.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: I apologize.

MR. LLOYD PRESS: But anyway, when that was put in, it worked pretty good. And there's several guys that helped put it in that are in the audience. I'm not
going to embarrass them and tell because then they'll figure they're old. But anyway, that was done a long time ago. And there -- we used to have a supervisor that was cognizant of what happened and he used to get some cheap help and dig the -- the drainage ditch between West Lake and Middle Lake clean. And since then, we haven't had to use the drain, so it's been neglected and it is overgrown, and that should be cleaned out, because you want to watch it. You want a wet basement, come over to my house. I live on 1910 West Lake Road.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Thank you, sir.

Yes?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would like to talk. Can we hear from a petitioner of why they requested it?

MR. LOU NORDLUND: We're just kind of going through the room and I'm sure we'll get to one.

MR. RICHARD RANUM: Richard Ranum, 2525 East White Lake Drive. I live on North Lake. I agree, the water is high right now. I live on North Lake. But it's not as high as 1991 when I moved there. It was at least a foot higher then. 5 years later, I had about 25 feet of beach, because in 5 years, the water dropped. Okay. So we happen to be on 20-, 25-year cycle where the water is high right now. In five years, we'll have low water.

I think that the petitioners for the most
part, because I went and looked at the petition, live right here (indicating). That's why I would like to hear from a petitioner. And that was the old Boy Scout camp area on West Lake. And the reason the Boy Scouts didn't build on that part was -- or put basements in because it was a swamp. It was a great place to get (unintelligible.)

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. RICHARD RANUM: Then 5, 10 years ago, it was dry. Some realtor come along and he drove out there, too, subdivided it, sold off these nice dry properties, and now the people have high water, probably water in their basements, septic systems don't work. If the septic system doesn't work, the township supervisor better get the health department out there, because it's flowing into West Lake. Let's condemn those sewage systems.

The current height isn't abnormal and it's not even close to the historical highs that the lakes have been in many times. And as one of the gentlemen said, the dog days of August are coming. With the evaporation, we'll lose a half inch to an inch of water a day. And at the end of August, we'll be 15 inches lower than we are today, and we won't have any problems. We don't have to dig out the drain. All we have to do is get dry basements for these people, whoever they are.

And a suggestion from the -- Brenda, I Have
Water In My Basement, it's one of the headliners of her website. And some of the things, if you get way down here, it's raise your house, seal your basement, get a moving company, and that's my suggestion.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Third row still, anybody?

(Whereupon, hand raised.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes.

MR. BILL SCHELSKE: My name is Bill Schelske. I live at 3131 Riley Thompson Road. And the last time you had water problems here in Twin Lake, the water in Twin Lake was up to the seawall. Where is the water now in Twin Lake? Huh? Where is the water now, do you know?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yeah. I had the elevations listed there.

MR. BILL SCHELSKE: How -- how far away from water is -- is the water from the seawall? I'll bet you it's a good 30 or 40 feet away from the seawall.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Okay.

MR. BILL SCHELSKE: The last time we had a problem, the water was up to the seawall. And what the people did that lived on the lake, they got their money together and hired a pump in there to pump the damn lake dry, and the pump run for probably 2-1/2 months. And if the people on the lake want to get the lake pumped, let
them pay for it, that's what I say.

There's no real problem with the drain. The drain-- The Furman Drain runs right through my property and there's only about six or -- eight inches wide, about six inches deep running in the Furman Drain. So these people on the lake, if they want to get their -- the water lowered, let them -- let them do it themselves. Let them hire somebody to pump the lake like they did back in it was either late '70s or early '80s when they pumped it. That's all I have to say.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Thank you, sir.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Over here (indicating).

Yes, ma'am.

MS. JENNIFER JURA: Jennifer Jura, 6380 Staple. I did not write the petition, but I am one of the petition signers, and I know we're getting to more of them soon.

Just a couple of quick things from me. First of all, it is not primarily people up here where Camp Douglas used to be. By the way, I -- my great-grandpa bought my property in 1940, so I've been there my full 40 years. It's -- it is people on -- on the west side of West Lake there, but places that have been there my whole 40 years -- And I do remember, like that gentleman just said,
when I could ride the row boat behind my neighbor's cottage because the water was so ridiculously high back then and, yes, that's why we had this put in, but this was put in and not maintained. And I believe our engineer just said that the drain is not working properly and we have it established that the drain is supposed to be maintained and working properly, and that's all this petition is asking to have done is to maintain the drain as it is supposed to be done as the law stated back in 1982.

I know several of you are just curious about what are some of the problems people are seeing and, no, it is not a flooded basement, and it's -- it's more minor than that. It's that we can't mow our lawn because it's soaking wet. And I'm not saying it's a huge, big problem, I just would like the drain to be maintained as it is supposed to be. My neighbors, who you'll hear from, have bigger problems, for sure. But I am concerned because I know there are a lot of old cottages on our lake that if the drain is not maintained and the water level does come back higher, then I won't be able to swim in my lake because there is going to be septic tank problems from some of the older homes and cottages around. And if that happens, it's going to affect everybody. You know, you get a little ecoli in the water and all of the sudden now nobody can be in our lake anymore, and I don't want to see that happen.
(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Let's see. We're there. Now, we're back over here (indicating). Thank you. We're coming this way yet.

MR. RICHARD JELIER: Richard Jelier, 1896 West Lake Road. Board right here (indicating).

MS. BRENDA MOORE: He's passing around old newspaper articles, I believe, from the--

MR. RICHARD JELIER: Show that to the Board.

My name is Dick Jelier. We have-- I'm a petitioner. I detected a lot of hostility and I can understand why. Some people who are not involved in the lakes are worried about being assessed again, as we were when the Ribe Drain was extended from the three lakes to the old CCC live drain that sat as a ditch for a number of years.

I hope you can hear me. I'm 83 years old and dealing with a 19-day pinched nerve in my neck and a little hoarse. But basically, there really shouldn't be a concern. It's true, the Ribe Drain was put through and built in 1984. In 19-- We built a cottage in 1952. Up until 1975, we had no problem at all. In fact, there were periods of time where we -- people thought maybe the lake was going to dry up in the late '50s. But in the middle -- early '70s, the lake slowly began to rise.

And in 1976 -- 1975, first, the lake level was
not as high as it is today. In 1976, the lake exploded with weeds. And for those of you that are familiar with West Lake Road, the water came all the way up to West Lake Road. Septic tanks were under water. Weeds grew in the lake. At 20 and 30 foot of depth, you could see the weeds sticking out of the lake.

A number of citizens in all the lakes were concerned because we recognized, as the Department of Health stated, that the lakes were becoming unhealthy. With great cooperation of Marty Hulka and the city drain -- county drain commission and Leroy Scott, the Dalton Township supervisor, they worked hand-in-hand with the residents in the community to establish an extension to the old Ribe Drain. They were able to obtain a $45,000 grant, and the approximate cost of the entire project was, as described by the engineer with the cylinder outside of north side of Twin Lake, cost $90,000. It was done in three weeks. It was a masterpiece, very simple engineering. (Unintelligible) two crews off the lake, it comes up, water seeks its own level, it spills over. I personally have looked in that drain with one inch of water over the level determined by the Department of Natural Resources as 678.5 above sea level, and the water just gushed over and rushed out the far end.

I agree with the gentleman that I believe
there is some blockage in that tube, because I went there earlier this year after talking to the people from the County Drain Commission that said it wasn't flowing. I went there. It wasn't flowing. It's now flowing, so I think nature has probably dislodged some of the blockage in that tube flowing to the Ribe Drain.

But this should not be a real expensive project. Frankly, the reason we're in this dilemma is because in -- and to the gentleman who said -- just an answer to his statement, he doesn't know if there was any work done. For about the first 15 years after the Ribe Drain went in-- And that Ribe Drain is capable of bringing the lakes down one inch per week when we got -- when we have heavy rains.

Leroy Scott and Martin Hulka worked together, and after Leroy Scott, Merl Hittle became the drain commissioner, they saw to it that the ditch between Middle Lake and West Lake and Middle Lake and Twin Lake-- And it doesn't have to be open. It can be a very small ditch. But they saw at that stage there, Merl Hittle would check that, saw that it would be sand barred over or plugged over and get people out and get the water flowing.

Jim Preston (sic) spoke earlier was very instrumental in the last board of determination hearing which was held in 1982. At that time, the board determined
there was a need to create an extension to the Ribe Drain. There was a couple of people who had objections, one of whom brought a lawsuit on to try to block that Ribe Drain. By so doing, we would lose the $45,000 grant. It went before Circuit Judge Max Daniels. He ruled that there was a need for this drain and denied the lawsuit. The person who initiated the suit appealed. It went to the Court of Appeals, the appellate court in Grand Rapids, a three-person judge. They, too, threw the lawsuit out and deemed that the Ribe Drain was a necessity.

The Ribe Drain then was immediately -- the petition from Martin Hulka, the drain commissioner, and Leroy Scott went to the DNR. The DNR approved it. The question of the North Lake came up. The original petition from Leroy Scott and Martin Hulka had four lakes involved in the petition. There was a lot of testing done by the DNR, by the Muskegon Health Department, by the Michigan State Health Department. They deemed that it would not be wise to include North Lake in the immediate flow because the phosphorus level was high and there were other chemicals that were involved, and so they deemed that only the three lakes would be directly connected to the Ribe Drain.

Now, you know, there may be a need for a Board of Determination. I really don't know why. If, as several
people have stated, these drains would have been
maintained-- I'm not blaming it on Brenda and her workers,
because this has extended over a period of time. Being old
and having experience, they can attest to the fact that
I've been knocking on their door, their predecessor's door,
their predecessor's predecessor's door. I've been to the
county drain commission over a number of years. I know the
cycles. We have a perfectly workable drain that works on
gravity, low cost. It's simply the ditches need to be
maintained and kept open.

I didn't get a lot of support because we had
low water and everybody was complacent. We had a lot of
young people who have bought homes, replacing those on the
lake, don't know the history, don't know how quickly it can
flow, but it can.

Another problem is they put paved roads around
West Lake. When they put paved roads at the bottom of the
hills, they ran ditches -- or cisterns into the lake so
that when the rain water runs off the pavement, it runs
into the lake. And there's several of these around the
lake. They're wide, they're big, millions of gallons of
water flowing with what normally would have been absorbed
by the road into the lakes so that when you get a one-inch
rain, the lakes will go up more than one inch.

And I don't think this is an expensive
proposal. I think that if they connect the ditches between
the two -- the three lakes, they clean out the immediate
underbrush in -- the first block and a half from the outlet
from Twin Lake needs to be cleaned out, there may be a few
other hot spots along the way, but I think it's a doable
situation. I don't know how far $5,000 can go, but I think
it would go a long ways and get this thing operational with
low cost to everybody.

I understand the particulars of somebody that
doesn't live on the lake, but the problem is -- my plea is
this. We have the system in place to make all of us happy,
it just has to be maintained. That's it.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes, sir.

MR. RICH JELIER: Hi. Rich Jelier. I'm Rich Jelier. That's my dad that just spoke. I'm the next
generation on West Lake. My grandfather built a cute
little blue -- we called it Little Blue in 1952 and now I'm
raising my family there. I spent my entire 53 summers
hanging out at West Lake, and now I have the opportunity --
my children who are 5 and 9 and 11 are having that same
kind of experience.

Just driving it home a little bit, since this
is a hearing about the necessity of drain maintenance and
improvement, I remember in the '70s in my own childhood
when we had 2-1/2 feet inside our cottage, I cleaned it out
with my dad and my grandpa.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Turn around so we can
hear you.

MR. RICH JELIER: Sure. So I lived through
those days in the '70s before the Ribe Drain when there
were about 2,000 properties that were completely flooded
out. But today, we're actually at higher levels than we
were in '91. I'd like to take exception with the
gentleman. We're at the highest levels that we've been
since the major flooding in the '70s.

So this summer, my kids were sleeping in the
porch, ended up with two inches of water in our porch after
a heavy rain. My neighbors next door built a retirement
home. They lost-- They sodded their entire front yard.
They've been on the lake since 1950. Their entire front
yard was under water. I can send the pictures.

The drains aren't working. Most of my 53
years, we've had clear channels. I've been able to take my
little kayak between West and Middle. Those haven't been
maintained. It's a simple question of maintaining the
right drain. The need became clear. It was a simple
solution. And if we don't do anything about this, we're
going to see the kind of contamination we saw in the lakes
in the '70s and '80s where they were weed infested, they
weren't swimmable, we had huge problems. Obviously, I'm one of the lower properties among the four lakes, so we're--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where is your property?
MR. RICH JELIER: 1896 West Lake Road.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where is it on the map?
MR. RICH JELIER: We're right over here (indicating). We're one of the original cottages that haven't -- around us, we've had rebuilt homes. We have lost probably a fifth of our yard into the lake. It's lapping right on top of the grass. The last two summers, my kids are running around soggy front yard where they sink into the yard. I've been out there for 53 years. This hasn't happened since the '70s.

So I think there's a clear problem, hopefully a simple solution. Thank you.

(whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Thank you. Is that your father? Is that your father? Can you give these back to him (indicating). Thank you.

Okay. Let's see. Yes, sir, with the green shirt.

MR. RICK HELM: Yeah. My name is Rick Helm. I used to work for the drain commission. I live at 6320 Fowler Road. I was underneath Marty Hulka.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Can't hear you.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: You need to either get closer to her or speak louder.

MR. RICK HELM: I got a problem with-- My name is Rick Helm. I live at 6320 Fowler Road, Twin Lake. I used to work for Marty Hulka. I retired from Muskegon County Drain Commission in 2009. I am the one with the crew of prisoners that would get out every morning and we would get out there and we'd cut trees out of the Ribe Drain, we would take shovels and dig out the ditches and clean the culverts with shovels, and we'd make it flow as much as we could possible by hand, and we never had a complaint until now.

When I retired, Jeff Hepler took over with another dude, and it stopped the crews because they didn't feel safe enough working with the jail. I never did. Look at me. Who's going to assault me? That's what I used to tell them. But I did my job, I took complaints from everybody. They would call the drain office, I would come out and talk to you. I'd inspect the drains. I mean, I've been in mud this deep (indicating). Person my size, this deep, it's a problem to get out. They used to say have to come and get a truck and a rope, I'd say whatever.

But come out at the end of the lake, go into the lake, there's a tube out there and there's a screen at
the end of the tube. We used to have the sheriff's deputy out because he would go out there with the dive team, he would go out there for the drain commission and clean out the end of the tube. Like if water dried, to get it to flow, we would get out and clean that out, the water would flow.

I've dug all the drains. I've dug every drain in Muskegon County. I've done the Ribe Drain, I've done extensions. The only thing I got mad about the extensions when they put it in there, it's flat. You had it dug 3 times that I know of in my 30 years working for the drain commission. That's when I first started working in '79 for the drain commissioner. We had it dug three times, that I know of, and it was never clean. I have no understanding why, but we took it, we cut all the trees out, we dug out the leaves.

The culverts, the culverts between the Ribe Drain, when it first hits the lake, Ribe Drain, whoever goes down there, you'd go down there, I'd crawl on my hands and knees in the tube. I took out dead animals and stuff and cleaned them out. I had my prisoners out there doing the same thing I was doing. We cleaned it all out, we made it flow. It goes down into Michillinda Road, goes underneath Michillinda by Dick's house by blueberries, all the way out to Riley Thompson, go underneath Riley
Thompson. Right there on the corner, the people that lived there would not let us cut the vegetation. They were having fits about it. And I am not a type of person who go against home owners. I would go in there and cut as much as I could around the tubes. I would not get up there to cut lilacs or rose bushes or stuff like that, but I would get in there and cut it out. And I've walked--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How often did you have to do that?

MR. RICK HELM: Ribe Drain, you'd get to maybe once every two weeks, actually walk it. And as Chris would know, he seen me out there busting. I cut grass, I cut the vegetation, I'd cut the trees down, poison ivy. I'd pick up dead logs, deer, anything you can think about. I even some old home owner, I don't know who it was, took garbage bags, filled up his dog excrement and suck it in the tube. We had to get down in there and clean that out, filled with water.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You say you did it twice a month to keep it going?

MR. RICK HELM: Twice a month, and we got two-- What is it, Brenda, two drains in Muskegon County?

MS. BRENDA MOORE: 129--

MR. RICK HELM: I'm talking about drains.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Miles. I'm sorry.
MS. STEPHANIE BARRETT: There's about 126 drain districts.

MR. RICK HELM: Drain districts.

MS. STEPHANIE BARRETT: And then there's about 300 433 drains and there are drains on personal property.

MR. RICK HELM: I done those, too. So I did everything up until 2009. And I had walked this. I drove down along the drain, because there's no--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No one does it now after you?

MR. RICK HELM: Nobody does it. We don't see nobody out there walking around. To me, it was my baby, Muskegon County Drain Commission was. I took it personally. If a home owner didn't like it, I was the one fixing it. I mean, I tried to work it out with them or whoever. We couldn't work it out, let Frank take care of it.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Anything else?

MR. RICK HELM: Nope, that's it.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Thanks a lot.

MR. RICK HELM: You're welcome.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Go ahead.

MR. JOHN CHALKO: John Chalko, 2550 Cove.

Maybe we can get some useful information for them. Show of
hands for anybody that has septic problems. Now is your chance to get that count.

(Whereupon, hand raised.)

MR. JOHN CHALKO: We have one. Show of hands anybody that has got water in their basement.

(Whereupon, hands raised.)

MR. JOHN CHALKO: About 8 or 10. That's all I've got. Mine are good.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Thank you, sir. I think we're back over here still (indicating). I guess, yes, gentleman with the cap.

HON. MICHAEL NOLAN: Mike Nolan, 2726 Middle Lake Road. My name is Mike Nolan and I do have a booming voice, so I hope you can all hear me. I moved to Twin Lake in 1996 in a two-story. The first is from the '70s. I paddled in a canoe in a canoe race from the park, through the channel in Twin Lake and Middle Lake, and under the bridge between Middle Lake and West Lake, and the water was a lot higher then than it is now.

In 1996, I moved to Twin Lake. At the end of my dock, the water was over my head. It is now about just about, oh, chest level. That lake level is a lot lower than it was in 1996.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No way.

HON. MICHAEL NOLAN: Now, Jennie -- Jennie and
her West Lake neighbors, I feel sorry for you, but I don't 
think the Ribe Drain is your problem. I live one house-- 
Jim Baker lives right next door to the Ribe Drain and I'm 
one house over from him. I don't think it's the drain. 

I remember when that channel was clear between 
West Lake and Middle Lake and between Twin Lake and Middle 
Lake. And they filled in that land between Twin Lake and 
Middle Lake, and my guess is -- I'm not an engineer, but my 
guess is is that the water is no longer flowing in Twin 
Lake because it's backing up, because it is. Look at the 
drain between -- or the channels that used to be there 
between Twin Lake and Middle Lake and Middle Lake and West 
Lake. And if they clean those out, maybe West Lake would 
them drain the way it's supposed to. That's just a 
suggestion.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Lady with the black shirt 
on.

MS. JAHEL NOLAN: My name is Jahel Nolan and I 
live with Mike on Twin Lake. And what I'm hearing from the 
petitioners, it seems, is that they want the drain cleaned 
out, but I don't -- I haven't heard anything about 
relocating, widening, deepening, straightening, tiling, 
extending or relocating, adding lands and/or adding one or 
more branches of the drain, so I'm just wondering if
cleaning out is just going to do it.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: I can -- I can just give some clarification on that, that language.

(Whereupon, unintelligible conversation.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Can we have it quiet, please? Thank you.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: The language in the petition is boilerplate language. It does not mean that all of those things are going to take place. It's just -- it's written that way. Those things could take place. A lot of it's archaic language, to be honest, and that's the way the drain code -- like I said, it hasn't been updated since 1956, so that's not to say that all of those things are going to happen. Okay?

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes, sir.

MR. EUGENE CARR: My name is Gene Carr.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Wait until you get up here. She can't hear you.

MR. EUGENE CARR: I've lived there since 1968. I was there through the hot water and cold, way around when people sandbagged their basements and when guys had crawl spaces.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Don't talk to them, talk to us. We can't hear you.

MR. EUGENE CARR: We had places where we had
to sandbag the houses, get the water out of the crawl spaces in the basements. We had--

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Give us your name and address for Michelle.

MR. EUGENE CARR: My name is Eugene Carr. I live at 2055 Lake Avenue, Twin Lake. I'm at the highest point on Lake Avenue. So anytime the lake has gone up or down, it hasn't affected me. I've been there when people when -- when my neighbors thought the lake was going to dry up, I've been there when they thought it was going to run over their houses. We pumped the lake out in 1970 -- late '70s, across Middle Lake Road and down that stupid ditch into the drain. We put a tube underneath there and pumped it into that tube down through that darn thing. So you can't tell me that drain can't handle it, because I know it can. It did. And it had a heck of a lot more water than it's got right now.

Now, I want one question from you. If you pull all those things out and put that in there to level the lakes, will it take the drain down or will it leave the 14 inches of water in the lakes?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: It will stay the exact same level that it's at right now.

MR. EUGENE CARR: Then what good would it be spending, then?
(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes, sir. Then we'll be back over here for another comment, I think.

MR. CHAD BARTLETT: My name is Chad Bartlett. I live right over here (indicating). I'm new to your area, so I won't try to say that I know what your lake levels do and everything else, but I do know what Lake Michigan does. And it's been at historic lows for 10 years, but now it's up. There's places along Lake Michigan that used to have 40 feet of beach, now they have 12.

I also know that I like to fish these lakes, but there's some home owners on the lakes that live near launches that make it very difficult. There's launches that are messed up and you can't even park, because if you park in the wrong spot, that home owner will call the cops. So why should I take money that I work hard for to help them when they won't even let me use the damn lake?

And in terms for high and low and all and everything else, I keep hearing you people talk about, well, we got to clean out the ditch, we got to do this. My question is if we give them -- let them clean out the ditch and give them -- keep telling them, yeah, clean out the ditch, does that give them a free pocketbook to do whatever they need to do for taxes?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You want to pay our
MR. CHAD BARTLETT: Yeah, but I'm talking about is it going to raise our taxes if they -- if they -- if we say, yeah, we need to clean out the ditch and they decide to go through and do everything else that they want to do, extend it and tile it and whatever else is in the petition, does that give them free rein to do that? Does it turn from, you know, a simple job to a major undertaking? You know, everybody's in favor for digging it out and everything, but, you know, once you open the purse, can it be closed?

So I mean, I -- I feel bad for these people that can't mow their lawn. I'm sorry. I got a big lawn back there. If you want to come mow lawn, you're more than welcome to come over. I'm sorry for these people that can't mow their lawn.

But you know, I mean, people along the -- people along the river aren't telling the county that, hey, you got to make these banks higher so that when the river floods, my basement don't get wet.

(Whereupon, unintelligible conversation.)

MR. CHAD BARTLETT: Hey, if you want -- you give me permission to cross your property, all I got is a kayak, I'd be more than happy to come across, be a lot easier than fighting with some people to get access.
MR. LOU NORDLUND: If we could, please, we don't stand -- we could be here all night. Let's not converse back and forth. That's something you do later.

MR. CHAD BARTLETT: That's fine.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay.

MR. CHAD BARTLETT: But like I said, I'm new to your area. I just moved in in October, but I really don't want to see my taxes go up. I don't think many of you -- the rest of you do at all, either. So you might want to be careful what you allow, because once you open that purse, it might not close. You know, this $90,000 job is spread out between what, there's how many properties supposedly affected?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: 1700 plus.

MR. CHAD BARTLETT: 1700. Doesn't sound like a lot. Turns into 2, $3,000 job, then that's raising it quite a bit. 3225 6th Street.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: I think we have some people in the back first. Yes, ma'am.

MS. JENNIFER TYLER: Jennifer Tyler. Jennifer Tyler, 3065 Pillon Road. I live at the end of Pillon, right by McMillan.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can't hear you.

MS. JENNIFER TYLER: I live at the end of Pillon, right next to McMillan. There's one property from
mine to the drainage ditch where it ends. We maintain our
portion of the ditch. I don't understand why other home
owners that are having problems don't do the same thing.
We get out there, we take the debris out, we maintain it.
Back of our property is protected wet lands. I don't see a
problem why home owners can't maintain their own ditches on
their properties.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're not allowed to do
that.

MS. JENNIFER TYLER: You can take garbage out
of your ditch.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're told not to.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Folks, let's not--

(Whereupon, unintelligible conversation.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: --argue back and forth.

MS. JENNIFER TYLER: Is it a law that you
can't clean garbage out of your ditches, is that a law?

MS. STEPHANIE BARRETT: No.

MS. JENNIFER TYLER: Not a law? So home
owners can clean trash out of ditches. Right?

MS. STEPHANIE BARRETT: Yes.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Loose logs and stuff, you
need to be careful if you're starting to tear up trees and
tearing up vegetation.

MS. JENNIFER TYLER: Tearing up vegetation,
there's laws against. Cleaning out garbage, there's not. Cleaning out garbage, there's not. Cleaning out garbage, there's not. Cleaning out garbage, there's not. There's a dead animal in your ditch and you take it out and bury it. Thank you.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Thank you.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: A couple more in the back.

Yes, please. Yes, sir.

MR. ERIC ODMARK: My name is Eric Odmark, 6722 Mueller. This will be really brief. I've enjoyed hearing a lot of the various people speaking, some really good information. What I would really like to do is kind of give you a real feel for the people out here. There's about 230 people in the room. If you would like to ask them for a show of hands how many people would like to support going ahead with this, it might be worth your while.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes.

MR. GENE ROBERTS: Gene Roberts, 2090 Lake Avenue, Twin Lake. I'm Gene Roberts. I've lived out here since 1958 on West Lake, across from West Lake. West Lake is probably 30 yards below. This year, I'm getting water coming up through my floor of my basement, something which never done this before. Now, something is wrong in our system, because I should never get any water in my basement
except condensation. I got two dehumidifiers going through five or six gallons of water every day. Now, there's something wrong. And from what I've heard here, it sounds like we need to clean and maintain the drain.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. GENE ROBERTS: And I don't think you need to have a lot of cost, either. I think we need to get people that are going to do their job. We had one man up here said he used to do that all the time. He's retired now. Well, we better get some people that's going to do the job. Thank you.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: We have one more from the back.

MR. MIKE CONNELLY: My name a Mike Connelly, 3300 5th Street. I've just got a couple of quick questions. I notice with the -- with the -- with the drain, my first question is is I'm hearing from everybody on the lake and I can appreciate the problem because I grew up on Muskegon Lake during the time when water was-- I lived with my great grandparents and had water in their family room in the basement, so I can appreciate that. But I live two blocks east of here, and my one question is by doing this, does this help affect the groundwater -- the level of the groundwater? Because I've had problem with water in my basement, just a little bit, but I was
wondering if by lowering this -- these lakes and cleaning
this drain if that will help some of the people that live
off the lake?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Not likely, only because
-- only because of the-- I'm just looking at the proximity
of where the lakes are to where you're at. Without --
without some other mechanism, just the lake levels
themselves, with the proximity that you are from the lake,
I wouldn't see a drastic effect.

MR. MIKE CONNELLY: Okay. My second question
is looking at the boundaries, why are the boundaries to the
east so much further away from the drain than the
boundaries to the west? And it looks like it encompasses
the residential areas to try to get the tax money out of
them, if that's not going to affect us in any way. And
like I say, I can sympathize with your water problems.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: There's a couple of
things. Do you mind if I--

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Go ahead.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: There's a couple of things
that I think have come up with the issues with the lake
levels and maybe some people that are farther away from the
lakes. Okay. The assessments-- If there is a project,
the assessments are based on benefits derived. Okay? That
-- that's the term that is used and that's how Brenda does
her apportionments or assessment roles. Okay? So somebody
that, for instance, lives on the lake is -- depending on
what the ultimate project is is going to get a bigger
benefit than somebody that's two miles away from the lake
and isn't necessarily going to -- going to see a big impact
from those lake levels. Okay? So -- and that's why she's
in an elected position, because that's her job to do that,
to determine benefits derived. Okay? So that's how the
basis of the assessment role. Okay? And that's something
that's way down the line, but that just gives you a
background on how those are determined. It's not just a
blanket everybody is split equally with their assessment.
Okay? They're all going to be different based on a bunch
of different factors.

MR. MIKE CONNELLY: Thank you.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Now, we're still
trying to get people that -- with something new to add, so
we'll get to people-- We don't want to have rebuttals to
each other's arguments, just the thought that you have.

Yes.

MR. JIM BAKER: My name is Jim Baker, 2750
Middle Lake Road. My name a Jim Baker and I've lived on
Twin Lake for 11 years now. And the lake level has
fluctuated every single year, but I think it's just a
natural cycle. When I moved in, the first year we had
about five foot of beach at the bottom of our seawall.

Okay. Right now, my seawall is about knee deep.

The question that I have is the gentleman from the engineering company stated that the lake is 14 inches above the legal level. How is the legal level established? When was it established? Someone could shed some light on that, that's the question that I have.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yep. Yep. The legal lake levels are set up through -- in this case was through the M-DNR, and they look at a bunch of different factors in how they set up those lake levels. For instance, when I was out there in May, the legal limit was 678. At this point, it's 678.5 is the legal lake level. But there is a permitting process through the state that happens to determine what those lake levels should be.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What's Lake Michigan's legal lake limit?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Lake Michigan doesn't have a lake level control structure. Okay? There's not-- These inland lakes do, and for good reason. If there wasn't--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What about Blue Lake, do they have one, too? What is that, Blue Lake?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: What's that?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Blue Lake?

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Blue Lake is not under the
county drain commission jurisdiction. Wolf Lakes does.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Asking the question he
determined is if it had a lake control structure, then a
level was established as a (unintelligible.) It does not
have one, there is no legal limit, is that what you're
telling me?

MS. BRENDA MOORE: The DNR's petition
(unintelligible) lake level, it doesn't necessarily have to
be tied with the structure.

MR. JIM BAKER: Okay.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Let's see. Are
there people who haven't had a chance to speak yet?

MR. KEVIN GUE: I got one.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yeah.

MR. KEVIN GUE: My name is Kevin Gue, 1615
Interlochen Way. Ryan, in your presentation on the
channels that go between the lakes, in that presentation,
you said that our drain commissioner did not have access in
those. Is that correct, what you said?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: She doesn't have an
easement to maintain it.

MR. KEVIN GUE: So as the Judge said, you
could go through those when he was younger and a lot of us
were younger, we could go through those. How could we set
up the drain -- you know, as all these lakes in this drain
without easements through those channels and how can we maintain those channels, because those channels seem to be the main problem. If that channel is not open between West Lake and Middle Lake, it's not draining over to Middle and Middle is not draining to Twin, then how do we go about establishing those easements? Thank you.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yeah. One -- one of the things-- And again, we said that we don't want to talk about possible solutions, but I think one of the things that probably would have to be done, if necessity was found with the project, was to try to acquire easements over those waterways between the lakes so that future maintenance could be done so that we could maintain those levels.

You see-- Up on the board there, you see the difference between the lake levels between the three lakes. You know, West Lake is 4/10's of a foot higher than Twin Lake, okay, which is, you know, over 18 inches above the legal lake limit, so there is issues. The further you go, Middle Lake is much higher, West Lake is even higher. So yeah, there's something going on with those -- with those channels between the lakes that would likely need to be addressed to be able to maintain that legal lake level.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Are there any others that haven't had a chance to speak?
(Whereupon, hand raised.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes, sir.

MR. DALE WEISNER: Dale Weisner, 2179 West Lake Road. Unlike most of you, I speak a little bit louder because for 25 years I smoked heavy and I drank heavy and had a hell of a good time. I don't have the lung capacity I used to have, like you who couldn't speak loud enough for anybody to hear.

So let me tell you about Twin Lake. I know about Twin Lake. I've been here since 1942. 1942. I have swam in every lake -- Twin Lake, Middle Lake, North Lake, and West Lake. I have peed in every lake -- Twin Lake, Middle Lake, West Lake, and North Lake. I have fished in every lake. I have water skied in every lake. I have been on the lake forever.

I can remember back in the '50s when the water table was so high, it was on the first step off of the -- off of the wall at the Twin Lake Park. I can remember when the -- when the water table was so low that you could almost walk around the bath house, which was a -- which was 50 feet long from the wall to the end, you could almost walk around it without getting your feet wet. I've seen it come up and I've seen it go down.

So let me say this. If you had a bad real estate agent who sold you a piece of property where Camp
Douglas used to be, man, you got a nice piece of property here, all this lake front. It's only $90,000. It's a deal. So you build your house there, two years later, the water table comes up, floods your basement. Whose fault is that? Go sue your real estate.

The Muskegon County Drain Commission's responsibility does not (unintelligible) where you put your house. They do not come out and tell you where you put your house, if your house has to be raised, your house should go down low. Their responsibility is to make your drain system work so it has to, so they tell you how high you have to pump it up to have a working drain system. We don't have that anymore. I mean, they -- that's the job they do.

You talk about pollution in the lake, look at the fertilizer. When I was young, we could swim all over those lakes. They weren't filled with weeds. You know why? There wasn't many people there. They don't have beautiful lawns like they do now. They didn't pour thousands of dollars of fertilizer and whatever.

See, the only -- the only thing I can see where these people are at fault is when they put in the drain system and they took the lake -- Twin Lake area will never get any higher than this, so you build your house at that level, and the lake comes up and floods your basement,
who is at fault? Somebody -- somebody did not do their job. They either lied to you or they didn't know what's going on. You can -- you get both.

Back in the -- in the '50s and '60s, we used to get so much water runoff in the spring that we used to fish along Dawson Road to get pike. Pike used to come up along the road in the ditch. The game warden was even coming out chasing us. What's the matter with them dumb fools, they ain't got nothin' better to do? We're getting food. We're getting food right out of the road.

Over by Jim, Jim lives on North Lake, just south of Camp Douglas. Reverend Cox built a house on West Lake just south of Camp Douglas, beautiful yard, from here way past that guy in the door, beautiful yard. When the water table come up, his fuel oil tank was half under water because he built it when it was down. Whose fault is that? You'll have -- you'll have to do your own -- your own job. If you're going to depend on realtors to do a job, they're in it to make money. They don't -- they don't care what they do.

The drain commission was asked to put in a lake leveler, supposed to control all four lakes. You don't get any flow from West Lake. This-- Go back to the early '40s -- late '40s, early '50s. I used to play in Twin Lake all the time. Kids from Camp Douglas, they come
up to Camp Douglas from Chicago. It's a camp. Camp of kids that come. They used to take their canoes and paddle from Camp Douglas across West Lake, go through the channel from West Lake into Middle Lake, cross Middle Lake, go through the channel from Middle Lake to Twin Lake, and come down to Twin Lake and hang around with us young kids back then at Gordon's. You can't do that anymore. Nobody has maintained those ditches.

You want to -- you want to-- You can have a nice drain system. But if you're going have a drain system and not take care of it, then the drain commission is at fault. If you built your house--

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. DALE WEISNER: (Unintelligible) lakes will never get any higher than they are now. Did they lie to you or did they not know what they were talking about?

I've lived there all my life. I'm 73 years old, so you don't have to do the math. I've seen it all. I laughed. I told my wife, they're going to put a lake leveler in here to keep the lake at this certain level. I laughed. I says: How stupid can them people be? In four years when the water table goes down to nothin', they got 200 feet of beach but no lake. That's what happens. When you -- when you have a level coming in and you have a hot, dry summer, you lost everything. You've lost your lake and
gained a lot of beach. Of course in Dalton Township, you
can fill in the beach and build a house on it. Dalton
Township is the only township that allows you to buy
property underneath a lake, underneath West Lake. The
people at the south ends own a hundred feet out into West
Lake. Now, you tell me how you do that without being
(unintelligible).

We had -- we had -- we've had for many years, Earl, we had the road commission that would dig the ditches
and keep the water flowing. Right? We used to fish it.
If you're going to depend on the road commission to do
anything to take care of the water problem, you might as
well -- you might as well hang it up. The Muskegon County
Road Commission has made more bad decisions in the last few
years than anybody I've ever seen. And as far as I'm
concerned, they ought to be fired.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Thank you. Thank you.
Yes. I'm sorry. Ma'am, could she go first? I told her a
minute ago.

MS. MARY NYMAN: Go ahead.

MS. MARY JEAN SMITH: I'll make it short and
sweet. Mary Jean Smith, 1892 West Lake Road. I'm in the
area where the water is high on West Lake, but it seems to
me everybody is getting all nervous about all these extra
taxes and all these other things. Why don't we just clear
the area between West Lake and Middle Lake, Middle Lake and
Twin Lake and see what happens. Start with something like
that, because we're the ones that are suffering from the
problem. It seems to me that would be the cheapest way to
go and would solve our problems.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MS. MARY JEAN SMITH: Instead, everybody is
worrying about-- Check that out. I mean, to me that--

(Whereupon, unintelligible conversation.)

MS. MARY JEAN SMITH: I'm sorry?

(Whereupon, unintelligible conversation.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Folks, let's just let the
people make the comment, please.

MS. MARY JEAN SMITH: That's what I'm saying,
because everybody that lives way -- not even on the lake,
they don't know what it's like to be on the lake, but I bet
you come and fish on our lake that we stock for you that
you can catch fish--

(Whereupon, unintelligible conversation.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Excuse me.

MS. MARY JEAN SMITH: I just want -- I just
want to say you got to think of other people, too. But it
would seem like it would be the easy way to start with the
main problem that seems to be, if all the levels are okay
the other way, why not help us out and make us happy and it would be a simple thing.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Thank you.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Ma'am?

MS. MARY NYMAN: I'll be nice. Mary Nyman, 2324 Johnston. You guys have all been really nice and quiet. I have to commend you. Wonderful. No speaker system. I don't think we ever had it when I was here. Taught here for 14 years at Twin Lake Elementary. I was on your council board for 14 years. Thank you, I think. I'm not sure about that, anyway.

A couple of things. That lake level was set to benefit the people on the lakes. Yes, it was. It benefited the people on the lakes. We lived on West Lake at the time, we had water everywhere. We needed relief, a gravity flow drain, cheap, easy. My husband worked on that stupid tractor pump. He worked on the other pump. What a relief not to have that noise, because the minute that pump -- that tractor quit, everybody was calling. The pump quit. Hurry up. You know, we had so much water.

I'm not sure it's a legal lake level because, according to what we heard back then, if you establish a legal lake level, you had to maintain that level. With spring-fed lakes, no inlet, there's no way to maintain that
level. You're right, once things start drying up-- We haven't had that much lake frontage, by the way. Once things start drying up, there's no way to put the water back in except from the springs.

We built a house in the old camp property. And no, it wasn't 90,000, it was 120,000 for the lot. We had a designated area within which to build called the envelope. You couldn't build any closer to the lake because of that lake level that was established. So the idea that it's the people who built in the camp property's fault, it isn't. None of us had basements in there. It wouldn't have been smart to have a basement in that area, personally. And we knew you couldn't because of that established area.

Third thing, make -- to maintain something just makes common sense to me. It was put there to benefit pretty much everyone. Let's maintain it. Let's get the lakes all at the same level. Let's not have some of the lakes higher than some of the other lakes. How do we do that? I don't know. That's going to be up to the drain commissioner. There is a process. You've heard about it. Let's let the process work, see where it goes. There will be more meetings. Let's find out at those meetings what the determination is so that we can give more advice to a panel or to the drain commissioner. That's all I'm asking.
Thank you.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Are there others who haven't had a chance to speak yet?

(Whereupon, hands raised.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. I guess we'll go way back over there (indicating) and then back around here, if you don't mind.

MR. RANDY NEWALD: Randy Newald, 3652 Tyler Road. I got this in the mail and I'm -- I'm -- I'm just -- I'm trying to understand. Seems to me the way -- what we're here tonight to do is determine is there a problem. I've heard about wet socks, lawns that can't be cut, if -- and maybe some basements that had leakage. I don't know-- I mean, it seems to me the first thing to do is determine is there a problem? Obviously, lakes fluctuate. They do. We all know that. Drains get plugged up, they need to be cleaned. Who does that? Who is responsible for maintaining the ditches? I'll take garbage out of my ditch, but I'm not going to go out there and weed whack my ditch. I have 700 foot -- footage of ditch. I don't have the time to do that. Whose responsibility is that?

Was the Ribe Drain engineered properly -- initially, was it engineered in such a way that it would work? And if it was, then why isn't it working? That -- I
think that's the whole thing. All this other thing, I resent that about the fish. I don't fish. And if the lake was stocked, it wasn't out of her pocket, I'm sure. That came out of the state. I resent that.

So, I guess that's the thing, what are we here for? Are we here to see if there is a problem? Is there a problem? Who determines that and then what is the next step? Isn't that what we're here for? Is there a problem and we're going to determine, if there is a problem, what are we going to do about it? And then yeah, let's maintain the darn thing, and who is responsible for that?

I don't want to pay for it. I mean, live -- I live so far away -- I live way down here (indicating). So I guess I -- I guess I just don't understand, what are we here for? We could go on, and on, and on, and on, and on, but is there a problem and what is it and who is responsible for it?

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Over here (indicating).

Okay. Thank you.

MR. JIM MASTEE: Jim Mastee, 1900 West Lake Road. Well, you know my question is this -- everybody is talking about Twin Lake, West Lake, Middle Lake. It seems to me the drain is there and it does a lot, and it's probably been there since long before the drain from Twin
Lake into -- into the draining system. So if you've got a

drain, it's -- that's that large, it's draining a lot more

water than just the water out of the lakes. It seems to

me, the drain should be maintained or eliminated, one of
the two. That's all I got to say.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Thank you.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes, ma'am. And then we'll
get to you next.

MS. CONNIE MARCHUK: Connie Marchuk, 6629 Lake

Road. We've been on the lake for over 40 years and we've

watched it go up and down, the same thing. What I think is

what I heard before, she made the comment that there's

$5,000 that should be allocated each year for maintaining
this drain. My question is have you use the $5,000 this
year to maintain that drain?

MS. BRENDA MOORE: The 5,000-- May I?

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: There's nothing in the

current account. There's nothing in the current account.

That $5,000 statutory limit every year comes from

assessments. Under law, that's the only way a drain

commissioner can raise money. So over time, ideally,
you're making small assessments and you're building up a

kitty so you can go do what you got to do. I'm starting
with zero. 5,000 a mile with-- Ribe is what 25,000?

MS. STEPHANIE BARRETT: 30,000.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: 30,000 in one year. I still have to assess to collect that. I'm afraid with the level of work that needs to be done, if in fact we go forward, it's beyond 30,000. Hopefully it's not much more than that, but it's beyond that. And this is a system-- The concern is you've got to treat the whole system. If you piecemeal it, I'm concerned you would cause other problem that won't really fix it.

MS. CONNIE MARCHUK: Can't we use that $5,000 to fix the drain at the point it north -- or at Twin Lake where it's not draining, like Ruth was talking about before? Can't we dig that out, clean that out with the $5,000 or work between Middle Lake and Twin Lake to clean out that so that water level flows? It just seems like if there's $5,000 there, we should be using it to fix the drain at this point.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Those are options, but there's zero now and we have to decide -- this body has to decide whether it happens.

MS. CONNIE MARCHUK: If there's zero now, you take 30 years at 5,000, that's $150,000. What happened to that money?

MS. BRENDA MOORE: It was never assessed.
MS. CONNIE MARCHUK: Then somebody made a mistake somewhere, because it seems like $150,000 just seems to (unintelligible) and nobody knows where it goes.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: No, no, no.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Thank you.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: I really don't want this misinformation. There was never an assessment. The money was never collected. It's been zero for years. We do not get general fund money. The drain code specifically says the drain commissioner collects money through assessments. The only thing the county board is obligated to do is pay our salaries. That money was never collected. It couldn't disappear. It's zero.

MS. CONNIE MARCHUK: So then do we have to each year say that we want to have that $5,000 assessed? How do you -- how do you access that money?

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Would you like me to continue with this?

MR. LOU NORDLUND: I think it's important.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Yeah. Yeah. And these are good questions. I just don't want to go off on a tangent. I don't know if I can go off.

Ideally, it's assessed over time. You don't have to ask, you build up a certain amount. But even if there was a buildup more than that, to spend more than
$5,000 a year, I still have to get permission from the
township or I have to have a petition or the road
commission can petition. It's kind of a check and balance
to not get assessments and not do anything. But
unfortunately, an assessment was never billed. But
ideally, you're right, you build it up, you maintain it all
along, you keep up with it, it doesn't get so out of hand
it becomes a bigger problem.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Yes, sir.

MR. RANDY DAUNT: My name is Randy Daunt. I
live at 3481 East Sweeter Road. We're in Dalton. I have a
question. Everybody is worried about draining these lakes.
I want to know where that water is going. Our property
there is low. Is that going to raise our water table
because someone is not competent enough to build a house at
a level that they can have to maintain their basement and
their water level, is our water level going up?

MR. LOU NORDLUND: You want to answer that?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Well, sir, you're
actually--

MR. LOU NORDLUND: We didn't answer that
question. Go ahead.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Sir, you're actually I
think in a -- in a separate -- you're in the Furman or
Brandstrom?
MR. RANDY DAUNT: Where the white line goes, that waterline goes?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Yeah.

MR. RANDY DAUNT: Right on that corner.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: No. I mean, what we're -- what we're trying to do is -- I mean, this water would all be contained within the Ribe Drain, so -- so water backing up that far is not going to happen. So no, you're not going to see changes in your -- depending on what -- depending on what the scope of the project is, you're not going to see impact to groundwater levels at your property with where you are that you just explained to me.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Yes, ma'am.

MS. ALENE NEWALD: Alene Newald, 3652 Tyler Road. I have a couple of questions. I've heard a lot about maintenance, that it's not being done. Evidently it's not, because there's a problem. I don't quite understand all this, what exactly you want to do. I haven't heard anyone tell me what exactly is the plan of action that's going to happen if you go ahead to fix said problem. Are you going to be digging more drains -- I mean, more ditches or fixing things? And with this new stuff that you do, since they haven't been maintaining the old stuff, who is going to maintain the new work? I mean, why go ahead and do more if you're not taking care of the
old?

And I've heard that I've only been here 19 months, but you should have information from before what's been going on to tell us -- tell all the people here what is going to happen? What's the plan? I haven't heard an actual plan, just that there's a problem.

I understand for these people, I feel bad for them. We've had trouble with water at our place and I would want that problem fixed. I understand that. But what is the actual plan and how are you going to maintain it.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Ma'am, the purpose of the board here isn't to figure out what to do about it but just to determine is there a problem and is it something that can be fixed? And after that, then there will be other meetings.

MS. ARLENE NEWALD: Okay.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: May I speak? I think it's a valid question. May I?

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: All I can share with you is my philosophy. Because until I get the ago ahead or not, it doesn't make sense to spend time on an engineer or otherwise if I can't move forward. I can tell you on other drain projects, my background is natural resource
management. I don't intend to go in with backhoes and dig any more than we have to. We're going to be selective and strategic and not ravage the system.

This is the headwaters of Bear Creek. This goes into Bear Lake. Anything we do here is going to impact downstream, and we have to recognize the system and keeping the system healthy, so it is a balance between draining and not draining too much. So that's all I can share.

I don't know what it will be. It will take more study, it will take more dialogue, but I'm not going to run a line of backhoes.

MS. ALENE NEWALD: Right. That was my concern, because it seems like there is a plan of action and I'm not hearing it. That's all.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: That's just a philosophy.

MS. ALENE NEWALD: Okay.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Are there any other comments?

(Whereupon, hand raised.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes, sir.

MR. CHRIS HALL: Make it very quick. Chris Hall, 2360 Middle Lake. The petition that was submitted to the drain commissioner's office was to clean and widen the proposed channels that went between West Lake, Middle Lake,
Twin Lake. If I heard correctly, that cannot be done at this point because there was never easements granted, so then that would be the case -- if everyone here is wanted to open that up, property values would increase I think if everyone could access from all the lakes. So would they have to take eminent domain then from the drain commissioner's office to seize those properties to clean them out? You know, I just I don't -- this whole project is based around that petition, not the cleaning down below.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Actually, the way I understand the petition and the way we reacted to it is due to need to deepen, widen, et cetera. It's the whole Ribe Drain system.

MR. CHRIS HALL: The wording is not that correct -- doesn't--

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Well, I guess--

MR. CHRIS HALL: I'm just asking, because that's a problem right now, that's what everybody is saying.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: We can talk about that in a little bit. But we have to get easements on other projects we're working on. And normally when we talk to reasonable property owners, they grant them and we have had people agree to do it for free. Some people want to have their assessment lessened by the value. There's any number of
things you can do. Yes, eminent domain is an option, but it's the last resort.

MR. CHRIS HALL: Because I know we've tried in the past to get those cleaned and the residents along those have been--

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Not in -- not in this particular case, but in our experience with the other drains. Remember, we're just getting started with some other big projects. I haven't had the go ahead from a lot of property owners, we're just hoping they cooperate. But in the experience of the engineers-- We work with five engineering firms. But in their experience, we can usually work with reasonable people and get those easements without a huge fight. I can't speak to this. That is my hope.

MR. CHRIS HALL: And a second note, an item, the drain is a gravity flow so it doesn't flow out like a river like you would think at the other end where it goes into the drains, where it starts. Has anyone sent-- This is a simple, weird thing. --a tennis ball through there to see if it would come out the other end or if it's plugged instead of running a camera up there? There's a lot of different options I think maybe you could do. I don't--

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Yeah, I don't think that--

MR. CHRIS HALL: I mean, like even looking at the end, like that one gentlemen said, you know.
MS. BRENDA MOORE: It's got a cap and it's really -- with water flow, I think it would get hung up and we'd just be littering.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Unintelligible) point though.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: We will look at all the simple measures we can. I'm not interested in super sizing anything.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry. Instead of a tennis ball, why don't you put a dye through there. A tennis ball would get hung up, but a dye wouldn't. Why don't -- if a tennis ball would be littering, why not a small amount of dye, see if it's blocked.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Do you want my input on that?

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yeah. We can have a person who knows what he's doing tell you.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Okay. So, the water level -- we actually went out there with a survey crew. Okay? So the water level at the control structure is a certain distance above the stop log. We actually shot that elevation. Okay. You go up to the outlet headwall and take another -- another survey shot at that -- at that same location, they're at the same elevation. Okay. If there was some sort of blockage in between those two lake
locations, there would not be water elevations at the same level. Okay. There would be a blockage. If that water was going to move downstream, it would move. There's no reason for it not to.

There is -- there is obstructions downstream of the drain itself, such as sediment, drain encumbrance, anything that might be blocking a culvert. Those type of things are the things that are affecting those lake levels. Okay. From what we've seen, there is nothing that indicates that there is any sort of blockage in that pipe. If there was, those -- those levels wouldn't -- wouldn't be exactly the same.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I thought you said West Lake was higher than Middle and Twin.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: I'm talking just specifically at the control structure between Twin Lake, the control structure where the stop logs are at and the outlet pipe.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I thought I heard you say--

MR. RYAN McENHILL: I'm talking--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: --West Lake was higher.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Let him finish.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Right. So the elevation -- the elevation at Twin Lake and in that control
structure is the exact same elevation above sea level as at
the outlet headwall. They're the same elevation. If -- if
there was--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, if you--

MR. LOU NORDLUND: One at a time, please. Let
him finish. And then if you have something to say then
we'll get to you next. Okay?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: I guess what I'm just
trying to convey, if there was a blockage in there, those
water elevations would not be at the same level because
that water would be able to flow downstream and be gone.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's talking about
channels between the lakes, not the--

MR. RYAN McENHILL: You're talking about the
channels?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Okay. Well, the channels,
there's issues with blockage between the two of them.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. Why not just
have them cleaned?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Because that doesn't--
The legal lake level in Twin Lake is still abnormally high
relative to what the legal lake level is. So now all you
have instead of -- instead of West Lake, for instance,
being 18 inches above the legal lake level, now it's only
14 inches above legal lake level, but it's still quite a bit above what it should be.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Ryan, could you explain how that helps to keep -- you know, it's supposed to be at a certain level and that maintains it (unintelligible) below that. Is that correct? So that the legal limit is set at a certain point. Correct?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Correct.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: And now it's higher. It won't go lower because there's a little dam stopping it going?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Correct.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: And a retaining wall?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Right.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: So right now, it's higher and that water doesn't have anyplace to go because, like the gentleman said, water seeks its own level.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: (Whereupon, nodding head.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Yes, sir.

MR. BILL SCHELSKE: I got a solution for this.

Bill Schelske, 3131 Riley Thompson Road. I was up here earlier.

I know those culverts that go under the road there on Middle Lake and -- between Middle Lake and West Lake there, I -- I know them are not what they used to be.
years ago. There's all kinds of cattails and everything in there that's grew up. If you clean them -- them channels between the lakes, I think that will solve your problems.

And you people that are having the problems, if you go over -- get together and go around and ask these people if you have permission to go in there and clean it up, you could get 50 people around the lakes there to help you do that and it wouldn't take you maybe six, eight hours. So why don't you try that?

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Thank you. Okay. One more. Okay. We have time for one more, then. Go ahead.

MR. BRUCE HAZEKAMP: Bruce Hazekamp, 6710 Mueller. As I commented about in my first trip up here just a few moments ago, and Ryan here said that the levels -- they shot levels on the inlet and the outlet of the drain and said that they were both the same and the levels were -- I think they're the same today. If the levels were the same and they were 14 inches above the boards, if you took that 14 inches out, the water would not drain though the drain because there was only maybe 10 inches of water at the outlet of the drain today. So that's saying that, you know, if there was 14 inches of water, that water would have to be at the top of that drain almost, and there was only 10 inches of water, maybe.
MR. RYAN McENHILL: I guess I would qualify my statement to say that this was in May. Okay? The elevations that I'm talking about were weather in May, so they absolutely could have changed since then.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Well, I can-- I live on North Lake, and with the seawall that's in front of my house, I can see the water levels pretty close. And the water levels are on North Lake, which is not connected, are probably today two inches higher than what that date back in March, probably within two inches.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. If you have further questions of Ryan, you can ask him later. Thanks a lot. Sir?

MR. LLOYD PRESS: I'll be short.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: It's getting late, it's getting warm.

Mr. LLOYD PRESS: I have a question for you, Junior. What is the lake level?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Today or the legal lake level?

MR. LLOYD PRESS: No. What is-- We asked-- When we were on the committee to get this done, we asked for a high water level that it would drain. We didn't ask for a lake level. We were intelligent enough to know if we asked for a lake level, if it dropped below that, you would
have to pump water in. We didn't want to do that. We just
like to pump water out.

So, to me, the man that did the shooting of
all the sites, if you was to talk to him, you could find
out what the lake level is supposed to be. His name is
Vallier, Jim Vallier. He runs the survey. I'm sure you
know who he is. And you can get-- I don't know where this
14 inches comes from, because when we seen it work, there
was only a 6-inch board that we could either remove or take
out. I have -- that's the same thing, but we could put in.
That's all -- where did the 14 inches come from? Is that
wood.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: No. The 14 inches only
refers to the depth of the water level from the legal level
up to where the water level is at the time of inspection.

MR. LLOYD PRESS: You told the people this
is-- What size vessel we're talking about, the pipe, it's
24 inches?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: 24 inch, yes.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Sir--

MR. LLOYD PRESS: Okay. For you folks that
don't know how this is supposed to work, they took and put
a filler in in the middle so that this side, the water
comes up and goes in here and goes out. Right?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Correct.
MR. LLOYD PRESS: That's the way it's supposed to work. And if the water don't go in, it don't come out. And if you got it 14 inches above the -- what the level is supposed to be, to me, that's wrong.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: That's -- that's kind of what he's saying is is 14 inches above the retaining wall and it's not going out very fast. It should go out, but it's not going out, is what I understand. Is that correct?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: Correct.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: That was in May.

MR. TOM JASICK: In May?

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yeah. At that point in time in May that was the scenario.

MR. LLOYD PRESS: Okay. Where is it now?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: I don't know where it's at right this minute. I can't -- we can't go out and survey it every two weeks. I'm just saying in a snapshot in time--

MR. LLOYD PRESS: You knew for two weeks we were going to have this meeting and that might come up. I rest my case.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Thank you, sir. We have some comments that need to be read yet, so if we could kind of get to that next, please.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: This is from William Short
at 6680 Mueller Road. Per your letter to residents of the affected area, i.e. North Lake, I am responding for dissemination at the proposed meeting at Twin Lake Elementary School tonight.

I am not in agreement with the need to draw down the lakes in Twin Lake, Dalton Township. I do not feel that high water for one season is a reason to spend the money or adjust the lake water level. Seasonal variation is the norm and our lake's springs are affected by the water level of Lake Michigan, which is in the high range. We have not experienced flooding or damage to residents homes and it would be too early for any decision of that magnitude.

Shari Tanner Rohn. I hope I'm not butchering anybody's name.

Good Morning, I am the owner of 3959 East Bard Road, Twin Lake.

I received a letter stating that I may be charged for an assessment if a project is determined necessary by the BOD, Board of Determination, regarding the Ribe Drain.

I have NO drainage problems with my ditch, drive, or lawn. Other people on my road do have major problems that may need addressing but all are located further West from my property.
I do not need any inspection or study done and request my property and pocketbook be left alone.

Thank you for your time.

Lynda and Jerry Alger. Your letter regarding Ribe Drain, says that we may contact you with our thoughts.

So here goes:

NO MORE ASSESSMENTS!!!!

We have owned our home on North Lake for 20 years. And I spent weekends there for 33 years before that, when my grandparents owned the home. Over the years, the lake goes up and the lake goes down. It cycles back and forth. Those of us who have been there many years understand that. A lot of the more recent homeowners don't. If the drain needs fixing for some other reason, then fix it, but don't charge us for it. As far as the water cycles go, let me repeat...NO MORE ASSESSMENTS!!!! Please!!

We are unable to attend the meeting this Wednesday the 29th, but we would greatly appreciate getting our thoughts on record.

Daren Anderson, 2383 Duff Road. I am writing this letter in regard of the Ribe drain in which I received a letter stating that you are creating a BOD to review the condition of the Ribe drain and determine if any work needs to be done to affect the water level in the following
lakes? Twin, Middle, West, and north. I own two
properties on Middle Lake and believe that the water is at
a good level. I have talked with numerous neighbors and
all feel that the level is great and would not like it to
be much lower. Most we talked to would actually like to
see something done to open up the waterways between the
lakes to allow better flow and access to all. There
finally after 30 years have water in the channels -- I'm
reading this verbatim -- but also is very overgrown and
could easily be opened up. I will be out of town and
unable to attend the meeting therefor writing the board.
Daren Anderson.

To who are concerned about this issue: I have
water starting in my yard -- standing in my yard and back
field. Bad in spring. I'm unsure if this has to do with
Ribe Drain Drainage. Sincerely Ruth Johnson, 4220 Beattie
Road.

Here's one. Mark Jastrzembski.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Jastrzembski.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Say that again.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Jastrzembski.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Thank you. What she said.

2179 Lake Avenue. Thank you.

I've lived on these lakes since 1956, first on
Twin East and now on Twin West. I know that as I have
entered into my "Golden Years" my memory is not what it
used to be. Apparently some of my dear neighbors (and I do
love them all) are having an even more difficult time with
their memory because they submitted this petition. I was
in my present home went the Ribe drain was put in at great
expense. I was opposed to that project even though my home
-- my own home was somewhat dangerously close to flooding.
I felt the pain of some of my neighbors across the lake
that built on obviously low lands decades ago knowing that
the possibility of high water might endanger their homes.
Yes, their homes had to have sand bags around to keep the
water out. To accommodate their grandparent's errors in
judgement the rest of us had to put in an expensive and
dangerously designed engineering project of questionable
value in the long term. That drain itself was and is
problematic.

My view (and I think most scientists would
agree) was that water levels rise and fall in cycles. I
personally seen that over the last six decades. It was not
that long ago in 2007 that the lake water levels were so
low that sprinkling bans were in place on Twin Lake and I
swear that if I waded out into West Lake and had my brother
do the same on the opposite side that in my younger days I
might have been able to hit him a baseball and he could
have caught it. That is how low the water was that year.
West Lake looked like a river. Some were concerned that the lake might actually be on a path to going dry like Fox Lake did. So, patience my fellow West Lakers. The water may rise a few more inches this coming year but it will cycle lower again in coming years. That you can take to the bank. Save the money from a costly assessment to do further unwitting damage to our environment by messing around trying to drain the lakes. Mark Jastrzembski.

Last one, which is also lengthy. I am replying on behalf of my family to the meeting notification of the Board of Determination. We are land owners in the Muskegon County District who would be affected by any decisions made concerning the Ribe Drain. As such, we are grateful for the opportunity to provide input to this meeting, as we are unable to attend in person.

We have significant concerns about the proposal to fundamentally modify the Ribe Drainage. The apparently justification is that lake levels are now high, and, therefore, this project is "necessary and conducive to the public health" of Dalton and Cedar Creek Townships. We would request that we be given information to substantiate these claims. As noted on the Muskegon Drain Commissioner web page, the offices of Drain Commissioner were created historically on the basis of public health concerns, relating to water-borne disease ("malaria, cholera, and
yellow fever") in the mid-1800s. Today, the risk of those
diseases in southwestern Michigan are virtually nil. Thus,
a claim that this project is "necessary and conducive to
the public health" of Dalton and Cedar Creek Townships is
apparently based on antiquated public health concerns.

Furthermore, we believe that the assertion
that lake levels are "high" is questionable. Personally we
can testify that lake levels in North Lake were higher 40
years ago than at present, but we never carried out
systematic observations, other than noting the shoreline
over the years. Indeed, in recent years lake levels have
been unusually low for this 40-year period (itself a very
brief window of time), and so we are presumably seeing a
return to normal levels, not that lake levels are getting
higher than historical averages. For example, adjacent to,
and immediately east of, North Lake there is a swampy area
that has been an important wetland for the lake, with a
melodious chorus of calling frogs in the late spring and
early summer, abundant waterfowl, and so on. Over the last
decade there was little standing water in "the swamp" by
mid-summer, and last year the swamp was bone dry. This
year there is standing water there, as in the past.
Although we have no scientific data to support the
following claims, this year North Lake has been unusually
clean (water clarity extends to about 8 feet deep near
shore) in comparison to the past several years, with a notable reduction in invasive aquatic plants and snails, presumably associated with an improvement in water quality due to a return to more normal levels.

An important consideration for the Drain Commission is to adopt policies that improve water quality in our lakes and wetlands. As noted in the Drain Commission web site, its mission is no longer simply to make more land suitable for agriculture and other "uses" in our state, but rather to balance these needs with the importance of minimizing environmental degradation. Indeed, we now know that swamps, bogs, lakes and streams, and other "marginal" wetlands provide critical ecosystem service functions that perhaps represent the most important "uses" of such areas, including filtration of water that passes into the groundwater, lakes, and creeks, preserving habitat for waterfowl, including ducks and other creatures important to our state's fishermen and hunters.

Thus we strongly encourage the Board of Determination to objectively evaluate the scientific basis behind the claim of this petition. Are lake levels in fact higher on average than historically when the drainages were established? How significant are the public health consequences? We need a proper balance between alleged public health care consequences of not undertaking the Ribe
Drainage modifications, balanced by the essential ecosystem service functions provided by naturally varying water levels in wetlands and lakes. If, however, the project is routine maintenance that has been deferred that will improve the quality of the entire watershed we would be supportive, if it benefits the majority, and not just a few landowners.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to provide comments, and for your attention and consideration.

William T. Wcislo (on behalf of the family.)

(Whereupon, raised hand.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Question?

MS. DIANE ENGELMAN: I just have a quick comment, and I'll be quick, because I got to go to work tomorrow, too.

My name is Diane Engelman. I'm at 2120 West Lake Road. I am not part of the flooded area, but I do have a neighbor that has some flooded grass that he is able to mow.

I have several questions. I guess I don't know how this whole scenario works, but you keep talking about in May you assessed the lake, but the petition didn't even come to you until June, so how does that work? Like it says on our letter we get on June 15th that you received a petition.
MS. BRENDA MOORE: Ma'am -- ma'am, I -- I got -- I received a lot of calls and complaints before I received the petition.

MS. DIANE ENGELMAN: Before that? Okay.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: And basically, we went out and looked at it to see what we could do. And frankly, like I said, if I get a petition, I'm forced to move faster. We have so many other things going on--

MS. DIANE ENGELMAN: Sure.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: --it's kind of like do it, do it now. It's like, well, the petition forces my hand.

MS. DIANE ENGELMAN: Okay.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: So that's--

MS. DIANE ENGELMAN: That's how it works?

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Yes.

MS. DIANE ENGELMAN: Okay. Perfect. Then my other comment is I've been there all my life and I've seen the flooding and I've seen it come and I've seen it go. And I live downstream of this whole thing. I mean, that is low land. You choose to live on low land, you're going to flood. That's why we have ditches.

I think once upon a time my parents paid a hefty price for this ditch to be maintained. And I was one of those kids that went from West Lake to Middle Lake to Twin Lake. And somewhere along the line, those got blocked
and so it seems to me that we paid for this drain that
really Twin Lake is the only one benefiting from it. We're
not draining anymore. Middle Lake is obviously not
draining anymore. We know there's a problem.

So I guess what I think all of us knows
there's a problem. I guess what we would ask is that I
understand that the drain affects the five miles or
whatever it is, but I guess what -- since the complaints
came from obviously the end of my lake, I guess what we
would ask is what can be done, since you don't want to put
-- make this a huge project, but with this letter and I
think the way people feel, feels like you want to make it a
huge project. We just kind of want to know is there a
quick answer?

You know, obviously something that has been
delved 30 years ago isn't going to sustain another 30
years. We all know that. But I -- I think if we just-- I
mean, I'm pretty sure there would be 50 people on my lake
that would be willing to run a Kubota and dig that drain
out -- or dig that channel out. But, I mean, I'm just
saying we also worry about the ecological end of our lake.
I mean, we don't want septic tanks in there. And God
knows, I swam when they were flooded in there. So, I mean,
we don't -- we don't want that to happen again.

And I truly understand that there is benefits
to the drain but, like I said, at this point in time, I
don't feel like our lake is benefitting from it; but, at
the same time, I don't feel like -- I feel like it's a
cycle. I mean, the water is high, the water is low, the
water is high, the water is low. It just is what it's like
when you're on a lake.

And I guess I would just ask that from here on
out that you take what everybody said today, go forward,
and maybe make another meeting and see what kind of answers
to our questions there can be.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, unintelligible conversation.)

MS. BRENDA MOORE: That's up to you.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Can I say something before

I-- I really should have said this earlier. This was in
your letter. But before too many people go, either way
this decision goes tonight, you have 10 days from our
signing of some documents tomorrow to file in circuit court
either way. So the clock starts ticking tomorrow. If you
don't like the decision, you may file in circuit court.
I've alerted the court we may get some. I know this is a
hot topic.

So if you know people who left, please help
get the word out. It is in your letter. We are really not
obligated to tell you how to sue us, but I think it's full
disclosure.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: We have time for two more
comments.

(Whereupon, hands raised.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes.

MR. ALLEN McKay: All I'm going to comment on
is, like I did the first time, I lived just off of the
Furman Drain. I was in her office here, what, three months
ago or so while you were going to assess me for another $40
for to do something with the drain. It ain't been touched.
It hasn't been touched in years, but it just cost me money,
cost my son money, cost my neighbors money. And you're in
here wanting to do a massive deal. I just feel we're
throwing our money in somebody (unintelligible). I asked
her if she's going to get a new car, because what's --
where's the money going?

MR. LOU NORDLUND: They don't know how much
it's going to cost.

MR. ALLEN McKay: Well, I'll tell you what you
do, mister. You drive down Riley-Thompson and you'll see
the Furman Drain. You look at it and tell me it's going to
drain. 30 years ago, there was fish in that drain. There
ain't nothing but frogs now.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Thank you.
(Whereupon, hands raised.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes, sir.

(Whereupon, unintelligible conversation.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: I said two more comments.

The gentleman with the--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The question might go to Brenda. Is the channels between the lakes is that part of the drain system since it doesn't have easements?

MS. BRENDA MOORE: It's not currently, but it's open for a possibility.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. So if they vote -- they vote for it and they don't open the channels, it doesn't do us any good.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: I mean, we sat through all this tonight. It's not going (unintelligible). You helped us learn more about the system.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It comes down to these three guys. If they say yes, it goes, and then the next time you talk to them is when we get our assessment. If they vote no--

(Whereupon, unintelligible conversation.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. I make a motion that we close comments at this point. Board?

MR. BRIAN MULINX: I second that.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: All in favor?
MR. BRIAN MULINX: Yea.
MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yea.
MR. TOM JASICK: Yea.
MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Then I guess our job is to sit here and try to figure out what we ought to do.
MR. TOM JASICK: I need to make a clarification of what I think I heard tonight. And even though the meeting is no longer open to the community, I'm sure you'll probably agree one way or another. But to me, there was one drain when we came here tonight. I understood there was a drain called the Ribe Drain. It's 5 miles long, 1700 people's property is on it, da, da, da, da, da. There was one drain, that's what we're here to talk about.

As the night progressed, people got up and talked about the problem with the Ribe Drain doesn't exist, there's no problem, it's functioned for many years. And many people in the audience applauded and said yes (unintelligible) and the person would go sit down. Someone else would get up and talk about a drainage problem and somebody better do their job to clean the drain out, and everybody would applaud and clap. And I'm thinking, hold it, you just clapped for the person who said there is no problem with the drain and now you're going to clap for the guy and the gal that got up and talked about there's a
problem with the drain and somebody is not doing their job.

So I was kind of confused about the first hour until I heard a gentleman talk about the fact that there is drains between the lakes which are really the issue that I'm kind of hearing now that are not being maintained which legally is not even the responsibility of the drain commissioner. And if this goes forward, some way we have to legally go try to get approval to go work on those culverts or whatever they are underneath the roads and that from lake to lake, so I got confused until I became convinced that there's two drains that we are talking about. There is a 5-mile drain called the Ribe Drain, and then there's other drains in between the lakes which make that 12-, 14-inch difference between the lakes a problem for more people on one lake, sounds like in particular, than the other lake.

And the fact that the water was 18 inches higher in May-- Personally, I have the same problem on my own property. I have a culvert that goes under my driveway. There's a 12-inch culvert. And in May, the water is six inches above my culvert and about six inches below my driveway. Fortunately, every year, it drains down to where it drops over that two-week period.

But I'm hoping-- I kind of picked up that there is two different drains everyone is talking about.
The big five-mile drain is got the trees and stuff growing
in it, from what the pictures we've seen, but the other
drain that seems to be really a contention for a lot of
folks here was the connection between the lakes.

MS. CONNIE MARCHUK: No, that's not quite
right.

MR. TOM JASICK: Okay.

MS. CONNIE MARCHUK: People were talking about
the Furman Drain, right, tonight?

MR. TOM JASICK: I'm only talking about the
Ribe Drain.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yeah, that is the only one
we have tonight.

MS. CONNIE MARCHUK: Okay. But that whole --
that whole five miles is that drain and what -- and
there's, to my knowledge, no culverts or no drain between
the lakes, and that North Lake isn't even connected. So
what people were talking about cleaning up where these
little channels between the lakes which are now private
property and are not included in the drain.

So that's a huge issue, because you can't tell
people you're in this drain when they were never really --
what I'm hearing is they were never really included in the
drain and there -- there's no culverts or there's no --
they aren't part of the drain. Am I wrong?
MR. TOM JASICK: I don't know if we opened it back up to the public.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: We didn't open it back up.

It's been closed to public comment.

Can I ask for clarification on that?

MR. RYAN McENHILL: You want me to? I just wanted to -- just to expand on what you said. The drain between the lakes currently aren't part of the Ribe County Drain System. Brenda currently doesn't have the authority to maintain those.

Now, the way that the petition reads is for cleaning out, relocating, widening, deepening, straightening, tiling, extending, relocating, adding lands, and/or adding one or more branches. So that being said and the issues that we've heard tonight with -- with those drainage ways between the lakes, it's certainly plausible that Brenda would look to add those as branches of the Ribe Drain should it -- a project go forward so that she has the ability with the project to make improvements to those.

MR. RICHARD JELIER: May I interject something here? I have a question.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: We've closed comment. We closed comment.

MR. RICHARD JELIER: I have -- I have the DNR request by the county drain commission. It specifically--
MR. LOU NORDLUND: We closed comments.

MR. RICHARD JELIER: --speaks to the fact that there would be a connection. This is the Ribe Drain. It speaks to the fact that--

MS. BRENDA MOORE: This has gone really well and I--

MR. RICHARD JELIER: --a connection between the lakes.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: The Board of Determination has closed down public comment, which means their decision--

MR. RICHARD JELIER: Yeah, you don't want to be confused by the facts, Brenda.

(Whereupon, unintelligible conversation.)

MR. RICHARD JELIER: That Ribe Drain is part of the connection. It's in the DNR report.

(Whereupon, unintelligible conversation.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Ma'am, thank you.

(Subsequent to a brief recess, the following transpired:)

MS. BRENDA MOORE: We need to have it quiet, because they have to make their decision for the public to hear, and now they've huddled up and that's not appropriate. So if you want to hear, please stay, but you have to be quiet. They need to make a decision in a public
MR. LOU NORDLUND: Question. Do we have to okay all four of these?

MS. BRENDA MOORE: You have to decide on all four.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. But if you say one of them is okay--

MS. BRENDA MOORE: If you say no to the first one, the rest are moot.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. If you say okay to the first one, can you say no to the rest of them?

MS. BRENDA MOORE: The other two are whether the Township gets any benefit out of this, so you have to decide that.

MR. BRIAN MULINX: We still go either way on it?

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Yeah. But in all fairness, it should be the same on both of them. And it's really about-- I'm trying to explain what the motions are so everybody doesn't feel like we're huddling up. There's actually four things under the law they have to decide. The first one, is there a necessity, is there a problem, should there be work done. If they decide no, the rest are moot.

The second two talk about whether Dalton
Township and Cedar Creek Township, the Townships' general funds should help pay for this because there's benefit to the general public.

The fourth one is talking about whether or not land should be added or taken away as -- as recommended by the engineer based on topography and what they've done out there, and they vote on that.

So there's four things: One, necessity; two, the two townships; and then the fourth thing is whether or not these district boundaries are reasonable and should be valid. Does that help you?

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yes.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: There's four, two townships, Dalton and Cedar Creek. So please stay. If you don't want to, you can call our office, we'll tell you what happened. But if you do, you must be quiet, and I guess no more comments, and you guys need to be open so they can hear you.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Thank you.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. I guess I'll make the motion. It was moved by Lou Nordlund. Seconded, anybody?

MS. BRENDA MOORE: What's the motion?

MR. LOU NORDLUND: That maintenance and
improvement of the Ribe Drain are deemed necessary--

MR. TOM JASICK: No.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: --and conducive to public health or welfare. We need a second.

(Whereupon, no response.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: There is no second? Then I guess that's it--

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Offer an alternative. There's no decision if you don't vote.

MR. BRIAN MULINX: I think we should--

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Oh, we have to vote.

MR. BRIAN MULINX: Should we not have a discussion a little bit?

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Well, we have -- we have to second before we can discuss.

MR. TOM JASICK: I'll second the motion that we have discussion.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Get it on the table.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Because it was not on the table, we can't have discussion about it. Okay. So is there a problem that needs to be maintained?

MR. TOM JASICK: I feel that there's a problem that needs to be evaluated, but the Drain Commissioner in Muskegon County does not have the authority to address the
-- the beginning area to look at and that is between the lakes. Therefore, to approve this and move -- go forward, you're opening up an area that I don't -- I'm not sure that's really going to solve your initial problem.

I feel that the community should re-evaluate how they wrote the petition and probably not petition the county, because the county has no legal authority for the initial problem is the way I understood after almost three hours of listening.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. I understand it that there is no way for the water to drain from that pipe that's supposed to maintain the levels that has that little water maintainer in there so that the lakes don't go too low or get too high, that that water isn't going anyplace. It pretty much can't run through the pipe and go down the drain, so someplace or another there's something that's keeping the water from running.

MR. TOM JASICK: I believe, the way I understood that, that was that point in time in May--

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Yeah.

MR. TOM JASICK: --when the water tables, rain runoff, snow melt, everything brings everything to a new level and it over floods the pipe and it can't go any -- get any faster and it takes time for the water to seek a new level. And going through five miles of drain and
pulling out tree stumps and that, which can't hurt, are not
going to solve the initial problem that the people are
having right now.

    MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Any comment?

    MR. BRIAN MULINX: Can I ask the engineer a
question? So you have the pictures of the culverts that
were -- and I think you mentioned that some of those were
closing up with sediment and filling up. I mean, there
must have been a time -- a time when those weren't like
that. Was that -- would the system have been functioning
-- I mean, is that -- is that what we're getting at is
maybe those need to be cleaned to a certain capacity to
allow this system to function?

    MR. RYAN McENHILL: Well, like with most of
these projects, there's usually multiple factors that play
that ultimately -- ultimately come back to that issue.
That's certainly one of them. You're talking about-- I
mean, you sized these culverts to handle a certain design
storm. When you--

    UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I object to his line of
speaking right now. I object. The audience--

    MR. LOU NORDLUND: We have to have discussion
up here, please.

    UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I object to his line of
questioning right now -- or answer.
MS. BRENDA MOORE: But, I'm sorry, you can't
object. They're just having their dialogue.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. But he's not
part of the elected board so--

MS. BRENDA MOORE: They can ask questions.

MR. BRIAN MULINX: I need to determine my
answer based on a professional in the field, I guess.

MR. RYAN McENHILL: I guess I didn't even know
I--

(Whereupon, unintelligible comment.)

MR. RYAN McENHILL: I guess I didn't know I
finished my thought. I was in the process of finishing my
thought. I just started.

So what I'm saying is that anytime you have a
culvert that's sized for certain design storm and 90
percent of it is filled with sediment, you're certainly
going to have issues that affect the system.

MR. BRIAN MULINX: For me, it just seems
logical. I mean, the water can't go anywhere. I think
what I heard here on both sides of this is that there's an
issue. I mean, there's an issue with the drain. Whether a
drain between the lakes or the Ribe Drain, who -- I don't
know which one of those is the solution. Obviously, one of
them is not -- not necessarily the drain commission's
jurisdiction.
MR. TOM JASICK: In my opinion, that one has to be addressed first. You have to start at the head where it begins, and it's between the lakes. And the lakes need to be working together as they were designed years ago to work with one another and all come down together, and that's not happening. And I believe some of the people who are on the lake that's 12, 18 inches higher than the other lakes, because they're not working together, are suffering, and that is not for our drain commissioner. It's not even her responsibility or in her charter to take it to address that. And if we go forward on this, it opens up -- you could maybe address it. You could go petition private citizens and say, let us do this to help these people, but they could do that themselves. I think that was recommended tonight by somebody. Maybe you need to address it yourself personally first before we take it to the community.

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Mr. Chair, and I know there's frustration. We're here to answer questions and clarify. We're not trying to sway, because for me it doesn't matter, whatever. But I do want to clarify that the petition does enable my office to go try to deal with the drains in between. It does. That would give me the authority to go investigate options. I just wanted to make sure you understand that.
MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. So, I guess we have to sign what we're going to vote. Yea or nay on the first one?

MR. TOM JASICK: I'm a nay.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: You're a nay. Okay. We have a no.

MR. BRIAN MULINX: I'm also a nay.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: Okay. Two no's. Motion fails.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MR. LOU NORDLUND: I would have said yes. The rest of them, you don't have to--

MS. BRENDA MOORE: Motion to adjourn.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: I move to adjourn.

MR. BRIAN MULINX: Support.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: All in favor, say yea.

MR. TOM JASICK: Yea.

MR. BRIAN MULINX: Yea.

MR. LOU NORDLUND: We passed. We adjourned.

(Whereupon, meeting concluded at approximately 9:29 P.M.)

--ooOoo--
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF MUSKEGON  

I, Michelle M. McKee, Certified Shorthand Reporter (CSR-3841), and Notary Public in and for the County of Muskegon and State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing drain commission meeting was taken before me at the time and place herein before set forth.

I further certify that said meeting was by me recorded stenographically, and subsequently transcribed under my directions and supervision; and that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct transcript of my original shorthand notes.

I further certify that I am not counsel for or related to any of the parties to the foregoing cause, or employed by them or their attorneys, and am not interested in the subject matter or outcome thereof.

The foregoing certification of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means unless under the direct control and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.

Dated at Muskegon, Michigan, this 11th day of August, 2015.

Michelle M. McKee, CSR-3841  
Notary Public, Muskegon County, Michigan  
My commission expires June 7, 2021
Years [1] - 99:2
yelling [1] - 9:3
yellow [1] - 101:2
Yesterday [1] - 31:20
yourself [1] - 120:17