

Pierson Drain – Muskegon County Drain Commissioner

Drainage District Facts

- The original drain was established in 1904
- Last maintenance on the system before the petition was in 1971.
- The total watershed is 5,967 acres
- 4,234 acres are in White River Township
- 1,733 acres are in Montague Township
- Under the petition the district was extended north to stream headwaters and south near Anderson Road.

History of the current project

- Petition filed April of 2013
- There was a lull in project due to a terminal illness of previous Drain Commissioner. A new Drain Commissioner appointed November 2014.
- Early 2015-2017:
 - ✓ Project design completed
 - ✓ Easements obtained
 - ✓ Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) permit issued
 - ✓ Bid solicitation (fall 2017).
- Project commencement May 2018

Scope of work

- Headwater grassed waterways.
- Buffers purchased along entire drain.
- Water detention of “first flush” planned.
- Sediment removal from watercourse, bank seeding and blanket where necessary.
- Restoration of highly damaged banks downstream of Post Road.
- Hancock Road Bridge replacement with a “box culvert” rather than two metal tubes (which are prone to clogging and blowing out).
- Ramthum Road and Eilers Road culvert replacements.

The current project has 3 contractors; one for the bridge, one for drain work, and a third for the grassed waterways.

Financing

- The project is financed with a 30-year municipal bond.
- This is a 3.2 million dollar project.
- The county pays 20% of the project, the townships 10%.
- The first assessment will be placed on the winter tax bill and will be due in February of the following year.
- White River Township has a supplemental assessment, which cut assessments in half for White River residents.
- County Road Commission is paying a portion of the Hancock and Eilers Road bridges; this is in addition to what the County Board of Commissioners is obligated to.