

FAQs

Ken Yonker
Kent County
Drain Commissioner



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS Saddlebag Drain Board of Determination

What is a Board of Determination?

A Board of Determination is a 3-member panel of disinterested property owners. The role of the Board of Determination is to receive evidence and hear testimony of interested persons and determine whether the petitioned consolidation, maintenance, and improvement is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare.

What is a Drainage District?

A drainage district is the land area that benefits from the drain. The drainage district makes up the watershed that contributes water to the drain. Each property and municipality within the drainage district pays for all costs incurred relating to the drain.

Why did I receive a notice?

Grand Rapids Charter Township filed a petition with the Kent County Drain Commissioner requesting consolidation, maintenance, and improvement of the Saddlebag Drain and the Gillette Drain. All property owners owning lands within the drainage districts were sent a copy of the notice.

Why are the drainage districts proposed to be consolidated?

The Township petitioned for consolidation because the two drainage systems are interconnected and act as a single drainage system.

Does the Board of Determination decide what work gets done?

No, the Board of Determination decides necessity, but does not determine the scope or

cost of the project. Further, the Board of Determination does not determine how much property owners and municipalities will be assessed.

Do the decisions of the Board of Determination have to be unanimous?

No, only a majority vote of the Board of Determination is required. Only the members of the Board of Determination vote. The attendees at the meeting do not vote, but instead provide testimony to the Board members to assist in their determination.

What is my assessment amount?

Estimated assessment amounts are not yet determined. If the Board of Determination finds the project necessary, the Drain Commissioner will hold a public meeting to review apportionments after a project scope has been determined. Notices for the public hearing on assessments will be sent out at a later date.

Do I have to attend the Board of Determination?

No, you are not required to attend the Board of Determination; however, it is your right to do so.

Can the decision of the Board of Determination be appealed?

Yes. If a person feels aggrieved by the board's determination of necessity, he/she may institute an action in circuit court within 10 days under MCL 280.72a.

How can I get more information?

Please call (616) 632-7910 if you have questions.

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Kent County Drain Commissioner

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