

# PIPELINE

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONERS  
MANAGING MICHIGAN'S WATER RESOURCES SINCE 1899

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**2021 SUMMER CONFERENCE  
INFORMATION**

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**BOB-O-LINK DRAIN  
2021 MACDC INNOVATION &  
EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER**

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**JOE BUSH**

**Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner**



Dear MACDC family.

It is with a humbled heart that I send out my last President's message to you all.

How the world has changed since first becoming your President over two years ago. We, as a society and MACDC group, have been through some very difficult times, however, there are a few lessons learned through all of this that I would like to share with you as I move on from this role.

## **Family means more than we might have realized.**

In 2020, when quarantine set in, we soon realized that our family became so very important. We became closer and many more games helped pass the time. It is my hope that as a MACDC family, we don't forget each other, continue to support, and lean on each other. Continue to reach out with questions and ideas to better our great state.

## **Self-care is a non-negotiable item.**

Our jobs are extremely busy and ask a lot of us mentally. The changes in this world prove the importance of taking care of ourselves and carving out time to rejuvenate is crucial, so that we are the best that we can be physically, mentally, and emotionally. With that, don't forget to reach out and offer assistance to our fellow commissioners and engineering staff in order to help with our overloaded work demands.

## **Always be prepared.**

Just like you never want to head to the store to stock up on the basics and find yourself staring at bare shelves that once stored packages and packages of TP, you also don't want to find yourself unprepared in the job that you are in.

Having the paperwork filled out correctly, the contacts made, and everything lined up, you may save yourself from being caught off-guard as you head into your next project.

## **When our space seemed much smaller during quarantine, it was nature and the bodies of water that could be visited that opened the world back up.**

Don't forget the huge impact that is made for generations to come with the work that is done in improving our state's waterways. A simple walk down the path or a visit to the creek or drain saved so many people's sanity. It recharges us and helps us calm down and feel refreshed. Don't forget the impact of our jobs and how it affects so many people.

As my time as president is coming quickly to a close, I want to thank all the people who supported me along the way. I want to thank everyone who served within the MACDC and helped us be the best Association in the State of Michigan. I have enjoyed being your President and am proud of who we are and what we do!!!

In Partnership,  
Joe Bush  
MACDC President



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# 121<sup>st</sup> Summer Conference

## July 14-16, 2021

### SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

#### Wednesday, July 14

10:00 am	Registration Begins
<b>**Bonus Session**</b>	
10:00 am	Wetlands and Geology of Mackinac Island
1:10 pm	Call to Order and Welcome
1:15 pm	Stormwater Standards and Economic Development: A Balancing Act
2:00 pm	Tapping into Michigan's Lab Network to Solve E. coli Mysteries
2:30 pm	Borrowing for my Bonds and Notes
3:00 pm	Break
3:15 pm	Great Lakes Erosion and Infrastructure
3:45 pm	Use What You Got
4:15 pm	Legislative Update
6:00 pm	Reception
7:00 pm	Dinner
9:00 pm	Entertainment

#### Thursday, July 15 *Dam Safety Series*

9:00 am	The Four Lakes Story
9:30 am	Dam Safety Task Force Update: What to Expect
10:00 am	USFW Funding for Projects
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Part 307: Upcoming Issues/Changes
11:30 am	Lake Improvement Boards 101 (a 2021 perspective)
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Networking Activities
6:00 pm	Reception
7:00 pm	Dinner

#### Friday, July 16

7:30 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Association Meeting
9:30 am	MACDC District Meetings
10:30 am	Adjourn

### CONFERENCE SESSIONS >>>>>>

#### Wednesday, July 14

10:00 am

#### **\*\*Bonus Session\*\***

#### **Wetlands and Geology of Mackinac Island**

*Stu Kogge, PWS, GEI Consultants*

Bike ride around the island stopping at numerous geologic features, coastal shoreline and wetland features, assessing erosion, and other unique wetlands and streams around the island.

1:15—2:00 pm

#### **Stormwater Standards and Economic Development: A Balancing Act**

*Regional Stormwater Standards Collaboration Committee (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston Counties)*

The session will feature a panel discussion of revised standards developed in collaboration with Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Livingston Counties. The revised standards promote consistency and balances improved water quality and economic development.

2:00—2:30 pm

#### **Tapping into Michigan's Lab Network to Solve E. coli Mysteries**

*Tami L. Sivy Ph.D., Department of Chemistry, Saginaw Valley State University*

This session will focus on surface water monitoring, E. coli exceedances, and fecal contamination.

2:30—3:00 pm

#### **Borrowing for my Bonds and Notes**

*Bobby Bendzinski & Stephen Hayduk, Bendzinski & Co.*

Discussing the different methods of selling Drain Bonds and Notes and explaining what method is best for the type of bond or notes the drainage district is issuing and the costs associated with each type of sale method.

3:15—3:45 pm

#### **Great Lakes Erosion and Infrastructure**

*Dana R. Burd, P.E., Prein & Newhof*

Present infrastructure impacts of Great Lakes Water Levels and shoreline erosion focused on Allegan and Ottawa Counties (co-presenter Joe Bush). See Pipeline article. I will also reach out to MDOT on repairs made to M185 around the island for local relevance.



# Mission Point Resort, Mackinac Island, MI



3:45—4:15 pm

## Use What You Got

*Joel Morgan, Kent County Drain Office*

When working for a county office, we don't always have the budget to afford the latest gizmo, gadget, or great idea. The goal of this talk is to introduce several free or low cost workaround tools for drain inspections, maintenance, and communication with the public.

4:15— 5:00 pm

## Legislative Update

*Deena Bosworth, Michigan Association of Counties*

MACDC lobbyist Deena Bosworth will discuss the bills that have been introduced this legislative session that affect the work of county drain offices.

## Thursday, July 15 Dam Safety Series

9:00—9:30 am

### The "Four Lakes Story" Midland and Gladwin Dam Failures: What Happened and What We Learned

*Dave Kepler, Four Lakes Task Force  
Joe Colaianne, Clark Hill PLC  
Ron Hansen, P.E., P.S., Spicer Group*

This presentation will discuss the Four Lakes project from its beginning to where it is today, the restoration plan, and the lessons learned along the way. The effort involves coordination of environmental permitting, design construction to meet state dam safety requirements, financing and fundraising.

9:30—10:00 am

### Dam Safety Task Force Update: What to Expect

*Evan Pratt, P.E., Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission  
Luke Trumble, EGLE Water Resources Division  
Amy Lounds, EGLE Water Resources Division  
Joe Colaianne, Clark Hill PLC*


This presentation will review the process of establishing the Dam Safety Task Force and key recommendations for changes and improvements to Dam Safety and what happens next. Also, an update on the EGLE dam safety unit and discussion on how changes in dam safety may impact Drain Commissioners.

10:00—10:30 am

### NRCS EWP Program: Overview and Recovery after the May 2020 Flood

*Dan Vasher, P.E., NRCS  
Warren Miller, P.E., Spicer Group  
Ron Hansen, P.E., P.S., Spicer Group*

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program allows the NRCS to act quickly to address adverse impacts resulting from natural disasters, without a disaster declaration. After the May 2020 disaster in Mid-Michigan, the EWP program provided substantial assistance in the recovery efforts. The presentation will review the EWP program and outline how and when Drain Commissioners can sponsor. The presentation will provide examples of recovery projects implemented along Sanford and Wixom Lakes, after the Edenville Dam failure, and implemented along with county drains.



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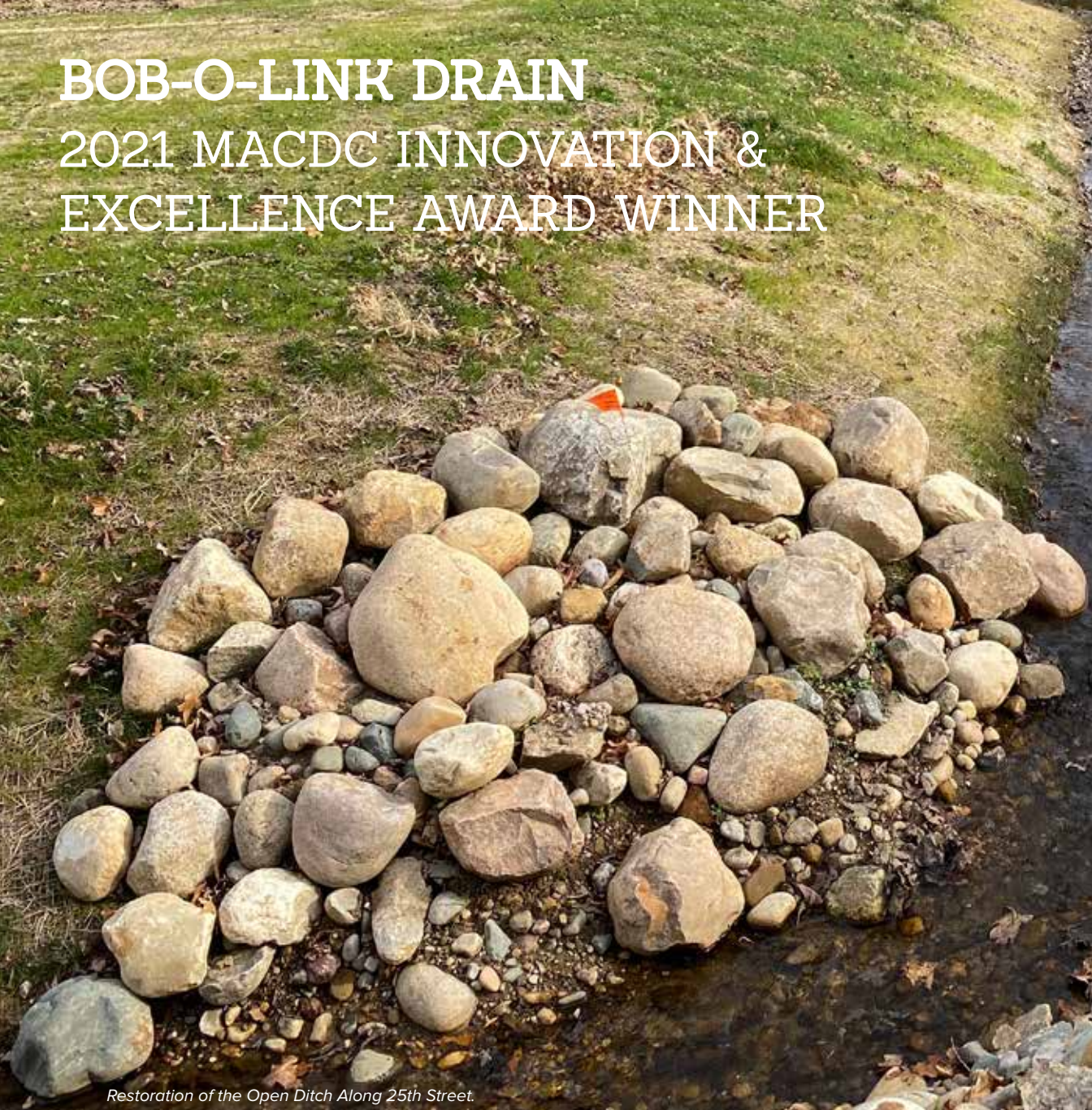
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# BOB-O-LINK DRAIN

## 2021 MACDC INNOVATION & EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER



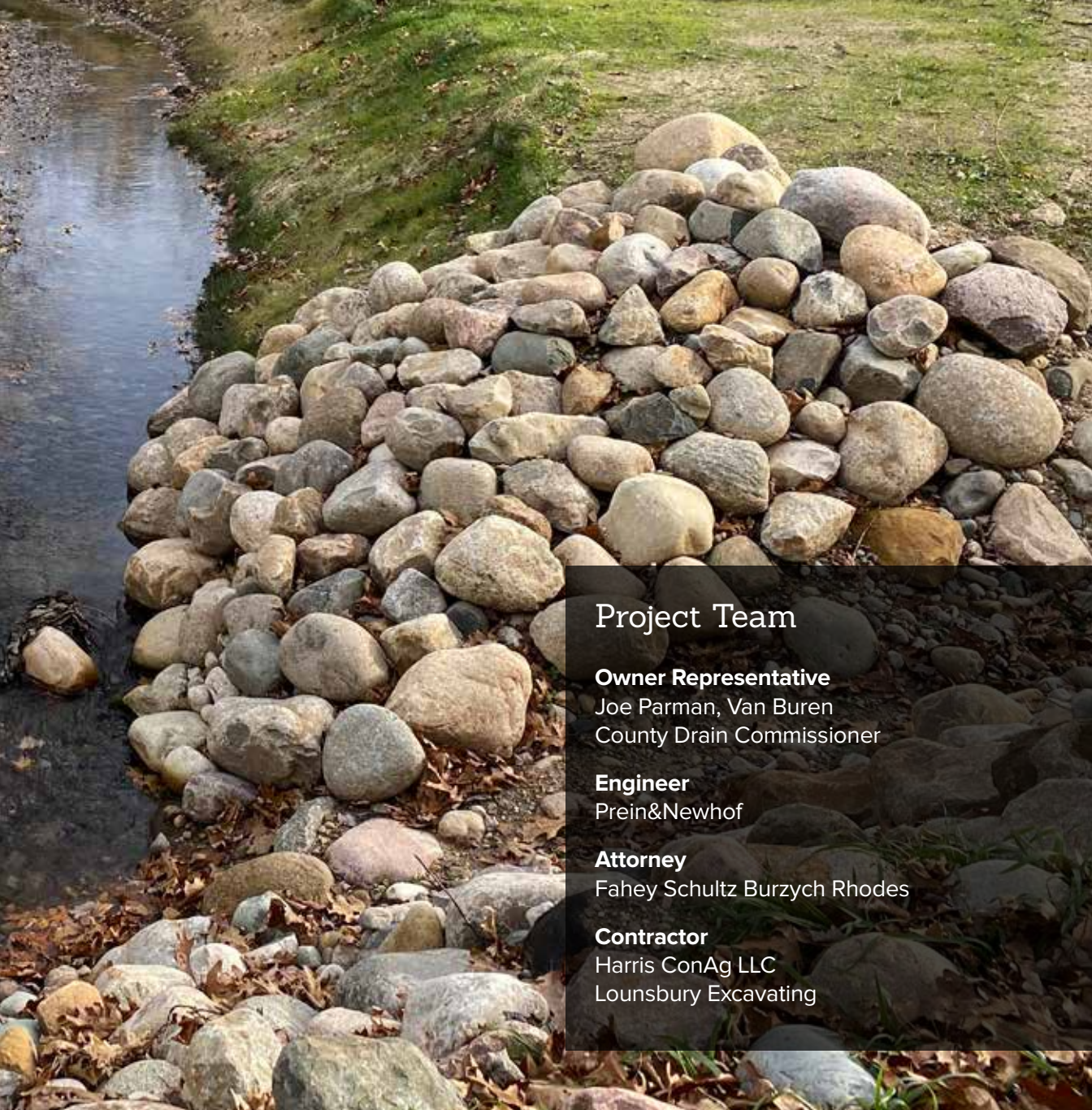
*Restoration of the Open Ditch Along 25th Street.*

### When It Rains: How the Van Buren County Drain Commissioner Helped a Southwest Michigan Village Manage Their Serious Flooding Problems

**By: Lucas Timmer, PE | Prein&Newhof**

The village of Mattawan in Van Buren County, like many communities in Michigan, has had substantial issues with high groundwater and flooding due to a heavy amount of precipitation over the past four years. One of the worst flooding problems occurred near Bob-O-Link Estates located between I-94 and French Road and east of Main Street. During a heavy rain

event in April 2017, the pond overflowed and caused water to flow westward toward Main Street. As the rain continued to fall throughout early 2018, the soils in the area became completely saturated, increasing the risk for serious flooding.



## Project Team

### **Owner Representative**

Joe Parman, Van Buren  
County Drain Commissioner

### **Engineer**

Prein&Newhof

### **Attorney**

Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes

### **Contractor**

Harris ConAg LLC  
Lounsbury Excavating

For three days in February of 2018, the Mattawan area received over 3 inches of rainfall combined with snowmelt of over 2 feet on frozen and saturated ground. The event resulted in the Bob-O-Link Estates Drain retention pond overtopping its banks and overflowing to the west toward Bronson Medical Center. Extensive flooding of the Bob-O-Link Estates pond overwhelmed the Bronson Medical Center retention pond and caused flooding of its parking lot. The floodwaters then breached Bronson Medical Center toward North Main Street making this road nearly impassable for several days.

Floodwater then crossed Main Street and overwhelmed the Family Dollar, Mancino's, and Mol-son's Western Diversified Plastics retention ponds.

Bronson Medical Center was forced to close its facility for several days due to the flooding. A dozen homes near the overflowing Bob-O-Link Estates retention pond also experienced flooded basements. Several other businesses within the area also had to adjust operations due to the flooding.

Continued spring storms, including one in mid-May, resulted in further flooding extending along 25th Street, south of Red Arrow Highway, with more homes experiencing flooded backyards and basements.

The February flooding event compelled the village to petition for the maintenance, improvement, and an extension of the Bob-O-Link Estates Chapter 433 Drain to alleviate flooding concerns. The Van Buren County Drain Commissioner Office (VBCDC) mobilized quickly to organize a Board of Determination (BOD). Concurrently, Joe Parman, Drain Commissioner, and Peter VanDop, Drain Engineer/Chief Deputy also developed a temporary solution to curb the flooding crisis.

Research by the drain office of old aerial photography of the area and record drawings indicated historic drainage (prior to the commercial and residential development of the area) would flow in overland flow paths to the west and eventually reach the Cook Drain—nearly a mile west of the Bob-O-Link Estates development. However, development over the decades blocked these flow paths. From this historical perspective, VBCDC determined the flow path towards the Cook Drain needed to be restored to alleviate further flooding.

**THE SOLUTION**

Prein&Newhof, who joined the team in early May, was asked to provide assistance for a long-term solution. Concurrently, the

**The Short-term Solution: Temporary Pumping**

Upon conclusion of the BOD, VBCDC immediately secured approval from Mol-Son (property owner of Bronson Health Medical Center and Western Diversified Plastics) to allow for temporary pumping across Main Street to lower both the surface water and the groundwater table in that area. VBCDC reviewed multiple options with Lounsbury Excavating on the best course of action for pumping out the retention ponds and providing a flow path to the west towards the Cook Drain.

The team determined that using two pumps (one at the Bob-O-Link Estates retention pond pumping toward the Bronson Medical Center retention pond, and one at the Bronson Medical Center pond pumping through 2,400 feet of pipe to the Western Diversified Plastics storm sewer system) was the most cost-effective and would result in the highest discharge rate.

Through the successful coordination and cooperation with both Mol-Son and Lounsbury Excavating, VBCDC was able to move forward with the installation of this system that could temporarily alleviate flooding in the Mattawan area.

**The Long-term Solution: Cross-Country Storm and Open Drain System**

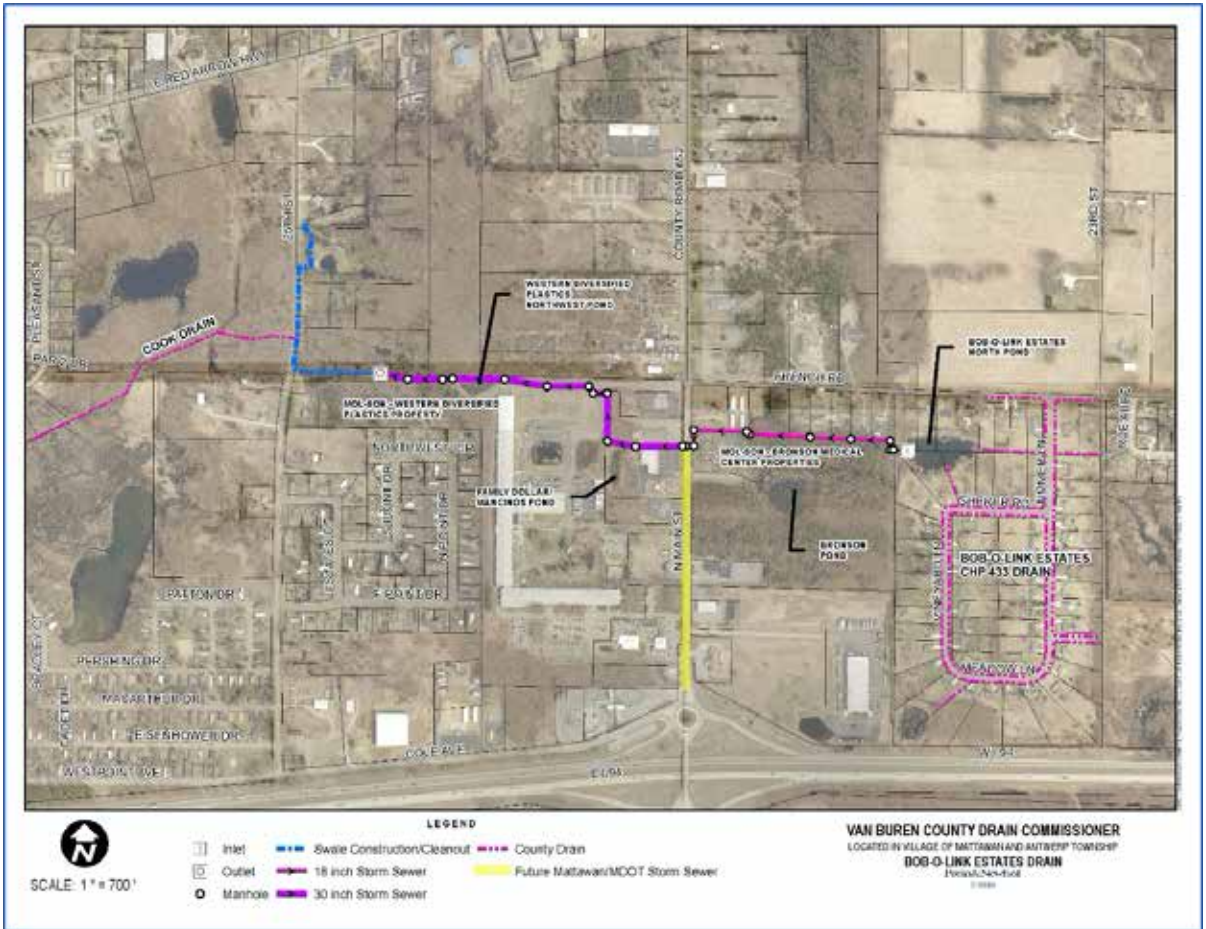
The long-term solution was the design of a storm sewer that would provide an outlet for the Bob-O-Link Estates pond towards the Cook Drain and would follow natural flow patterns.

Through VBCDC’s initial conversations with property owners, a route that would pass by the four retention ponds would be valuable since it would allow for possible connections and positive outlets as a part of the project:

- Bob-O-Link Estates Pond
- Mol-Son’s Bronson Medical Center Pond
- Family Dollar and Mancino Retention Pond
- Mol-Son’s Western Diversified Plastic Northwest Retention Pond

VBCDC and P&N also worked with the Village to consider the Village’s master plan for installing a storm sewer in Main Street. Flooding issues were also occurring near the northside of the I-94 roundabout that the Village was looking to alleviate. By providing a future connection into the Bob-O-Link Estates storm sewer, a branch could be extended to the south for the Village storm sewer, ultimately providing better drainage for Main Street and I-94 in the future.

This route minimized the number of properties disturbed and roadway and parking lot pavements that needed to be crossed—making it a cost-effective solution. It also allowed the Village to address future improvements to the south along Main Street. With this route in mind, Prein&Newhof moved ahead with the surveying and modeling needed for the design.



VBCDC staff implemented a temporary solution to alleviate the potential for any further problems that could occur during the course of design and construction of the long-term solution.

A Board of Determination was held on May 23, 2018, to determine if the improvements were conducive to the public health, convenience, and welfare. VBCDC presented their findings on how the area previously drained and how flooding

had since devastated the area. Rain gauge data from the area indicated nearly 13.6 inches of rain since February 2018 (including 5.5 inches of rain in May 2018) not only caused surface flooding but also caused the groundwater table to reach the highest levels seen in 40 years. Countless residents addressed their concerns with flooding during public testimony, including many who were still experiencing flooding in May of 2018 and not receiving any help from their insurance




Flooding Along the East Side of 25th Street – February 2018.



Bob-O-Link Estates Pond Breaching and Forming a Channel Toward Bronson in February 2018.

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*Main Street Flooding – February 2018.*

providers. With testimony heard by both VBCDC and the public, the board approved the necessity of drainage improvements to the Bob-O-Link Estates Drain and for work to begin on the project.

### DESIGN AND PERMITTING

With the proposed route in place and master planning for the future in mind, Prein&Newhof was able to model a system that would handle the outlet flow from the Bob-O-Link Estates retention pond while also being able to handle flow from the future Main Street improvement.

An 18-inch storm sewer with an 8-inch restrictor was designed to outlet the Bob-O-Link Estates pond. At Main Street, the storm sewer would transition from an 18-inch-diameter to a 30-inch-diameter to handle flow from future Main Street improvement projects. A 6-inch underdrain along the bottom of the trench of the storm sewer pipe was added to provide drainage of the high groundwater table in the area and allow for any future water table increases to drain through the underdrain. In addition, an open drainage system was designed that would be cost-effective and provide some water quality before entering the Cook Drain for the parcels along 25th Street.

This corridor also had multiple areas where utilities were of concern. Near the 30-inch storm sewer outlet into the open ditch, the storm sewer needed to cross a 12-inch water main, a 16-inch sanitary force main, a 15-inch sanitary sewer, an electric line, and multiple fiber lines. At Main Street, two 8-inch sanitary sewers, a 12-inch asbestos cement water main, a 4-inch gas main, multiple underground electric lines and services, and multiple fiber and communications lines needed to be crossed. Private utilities for Mol-Son's Western Diversified Plastics also needed to be crossed, along with many fiber crossings at



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*Temporary Pumping Discharge Point at Western Diversified Plastics – May 2018.*

the open-cut excavation of the ditch along 25th Street. Communication and cooperation with utility owners during the design process made it so there were not any utility problems that impacted the construction schedule.

Once design was finalized, a Joint Permit application was submitted to EGLE due to the potential impact of nearby streams and wetlands. This permit was especially challenging to get approved because the Cook Drain is designated as a cold-water trout stream by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). During the public notice period, the MDNR mentioned concerns about added flow temperature and any impacts on the 2-year flood event (bankfull). Modeling studies indicated that only a minor increase in a 2-year storm event would occur and would not cause any temperature impacts or cause substantial changes to bankfull conditions and resulted in the permit being issued.

#### **EASEMENT DIFFICULTIES, COVID-19, AND A BOARD OF REVIEW**

Easement acquisition proved to be difficult for this project. Several property owners who said they were initially willing to work with VBCDC complicated the process by involving attorneys and requesting benefits that were impossible for VBCDC to fulfill. After nearly a year and a half of easement negotiations by VBCDC, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes (FSBR), and the property owners, VBCDC finally obtained all easements without needing to go through the expensive and time-consuming condemnation process.

In January 2020, Harris ConAg LLC of Bloomingdale was awarded the construction contract. The Day of Review of Apportionments was scheduled for March 27, 2020, and they anticipated a mid-April start. As with all other projects throughout Michigan, construction was

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## WHEN IT RAINS CONT. ....

impacted when the state locked down due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

The pandemic complicated the typical in-person Day of Review of Apportionments, but with the help of their attorneys at FSBR, the meeting was able to be held via Zoom on May 29, 2020. The Day of Review resulted in two appeals, thereby requiring a Board of Review. Once each aggrieved party stated their case and VBCDC provided their response, the Board of Review ruled there was no manifest error or inequality and the apportionment was sustained.

### CONSTRUCTION, FINALLY!

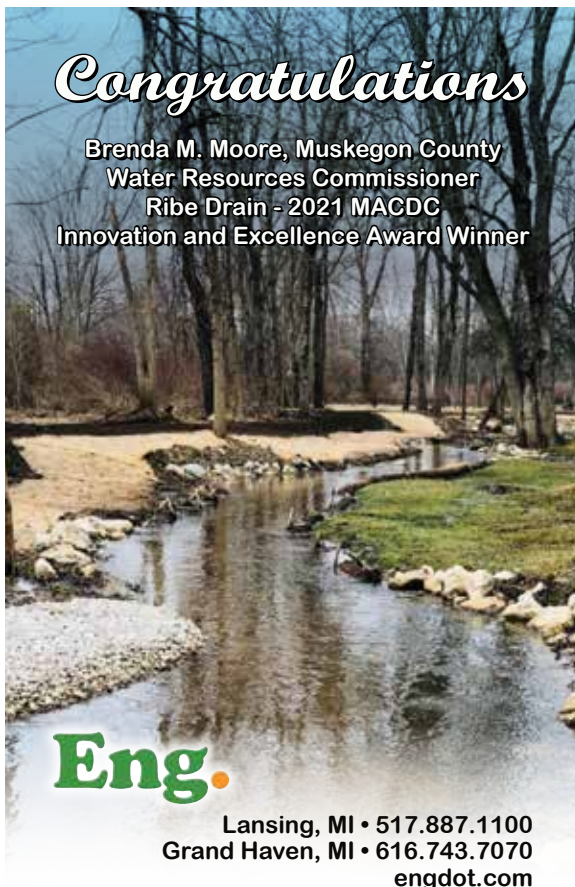
July arrived and construction officially kicked off. Fortunately for the project, Harris ConAG LLC had adjusted its schedule and began working immediately. The first challenge was the lowering of an important electric line that Midwest Energy and Communications owned so that the 30 inch storm sewer outlet could go above it. Effective coordination during the design process resulted

in a smooth lowering of the line by the utility company at no additional cost to the Drainage District.

Harris ConAG LLC successfully navigated the countless storm sewer, fiber lines, electric lines, sanitary sewers, and water mains in Mol-Son's Western Diversified Plastics property and only had to lower one water main. The lowering of this water main required a shutdown, which occurred at a time coordinated with Western Diversified Plastics so as not to impact their operations.

The next challenge was at Main Street. A sanitary lateral needed to be adjusted and a 12-inch asbestos cement water main needed to be lowered. When Harris ConAG LLC dug up the utilities before any pipe installation began, it was determined that the utilities needed to be relocated. This pre-planning resulted in these utilities being adjusted and lowered without any issues to the public or the project.

Once the project was completed, the temporary pumping was removed from the site, and the




*Congratulations*

Brenda M. Moore, Muskegon County  
Water Resources Commissioner  
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storm sewer has since handled all rain events to date.

## A WRAP

This was one of the biggest projects VBCDC had ever undertaken and although there were a number of difficulties that presented creative challenges, the project was successful. Several property owners have reported they no longer need to constantly run their sump systems. One owner had eight sump pumps in his basement running 24/7—and, for the first time in years, feels safe leaving his home and can sleep at night knowing that the reduction in the surface water flooding and groundwater table is a direct result of this project.

Through the hard work of designing a temporary and a permanent fix, the foresight in determining where potential conflict points could occur on this project, and the successful communication and cooperation with the village of Mattawan (and property owners such as Mol-Son, the Bob-O-Link Estates Drain has given residents and businesses a sense of relief knowing there is no longer any worry about flooding retention ponds and Main Street being inaccessible.



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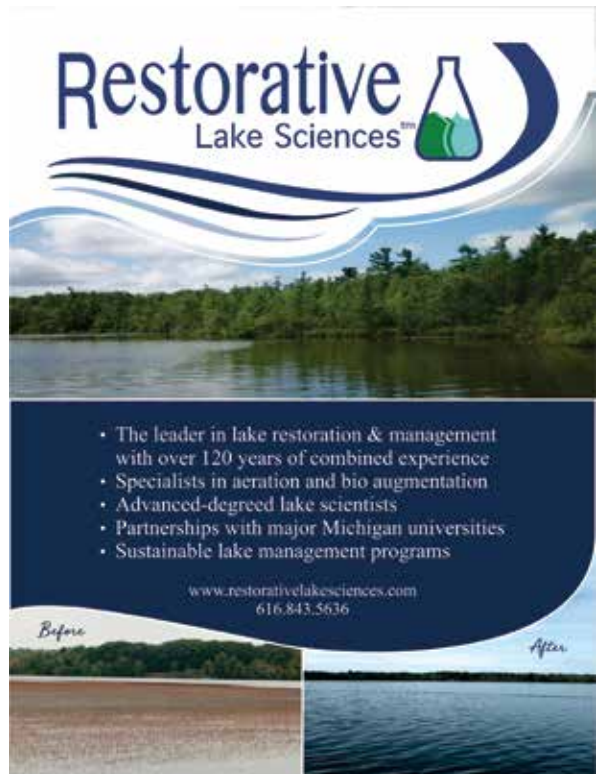
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# Spotted Lanternfly could be the next invasive species to threaten Michigan's agriculture, natural resources

By: Robert Miller, Invasive Species Prevention and Response Specialist, MDARD



In November 2020, the United States Department of Agriculture confirmed dead spotted lanternfly insects were found in Michigan. While the specimens found were dead, these cases demonstrate one of the many ways this insect could find its way into the state. There is no evidence of established populations of spotted lanternfly in Michigan.

In light of this recent discovery, MDARD is asking people involved in transporting and

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is asking the public to help be on the lookout for spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect with the potential to seriously impact Michigan's agriculture and natural resources. This insect could damage or kill more than 70 varieties of crops and plants including grapes, apples, hops, and hardwood trees.

First found in the United States in 2014 in southeastern Pennsylvania, spotted lanternfly has spread rapidly across the nation. Infestations have been confirmed in Delaware, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, West Virginia, Connecticut, and Ohio.

Spotted lanternfly causes direct damage by sucking sap from host plants and secretes large amounts of a sugar-rich sticky liquid called honeydew. This honeydew and the resulting black, sooty mold can kill plants and foul surfaces. The honeydew often attracts other pests, particularly hornets, wasps and ants, affecting outdoor recreation and complicating crop harvests.

handling goods or freight to become familiar with identifying spotted lanternfly adults and egg masses, as both could become attached to vehicles or goods themselves and unintentionally be brought into Michigan.

Spotted lanternfly adults are roughly one inch long. Their folded wings are gray to brown with black spots. Open wings reveal a yellow and black abdomen and bright red hind wings with black spots transitioning to black and white bands at the edge. Egg masses resemble old chewing gum, with a gray, waxy, putty-like coating.

If you find a spotted lanternfly egg mass, nymph, or adult, take one or more photos, make note of the date, time, and location of the sighting, and report it to MDARD via email [MDA-Info@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDA-Info@Michigan.gov) or call MDARD's Customer Service Center at 800-292-3939. If possible, collect a specimen in a container for verification.

For additional information on identifying or reporting spotted lanternfly, visit [Michigan.gov/SpottedLanternfly](http://Michigan.gov/SpottedLanternfly).

# New Stormwater Engineering Design Standards for Oakland County

By: Trisha Bruzek, Marketing and Communications Supervisor, Oakland County Water Resources Commission

Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash has announced plans to implement new stormwater engineering design standards. The new technical standards, requirements, rules, and design criteria for stormwater management were discussed in detail at a virtual stakeholder rollout meeting last month.

The standards took effect on May 31 and apply to any new or redevelopment projects that are 1 acre or greater, or are part of a larger common development, and connect directly to an Oakland County drain. The standards are the culmination of more than 40 meetings facilitated by Commissioner Nash with input from neighboring counties, along with numerous Oakland County communities and stakeholders.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), requires Oakland County and other regulated entities to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements. The purpose of these standards is to address post-construction stormwater runoff controls required under this permit.

The new standards are formulated to achieve eight primary objectives:

1. Improve surface water quality as well as channel and stormwater infrastructure protection.
2. Require volume-reducing, low-impact development measures and protect natural features.



3. Control both the quality and quantity of stormwater runoff.
4. Promote sustainable regional stormwater management practices.
5. Long-term operation and maintenance of stormwater systems.
6. Consistent and straightforward regional standards that meet federal and state permit requirements.
7. Promote consistent stormwater reporting, tracking, and mapping.
8. Recognize that similar standards are anticipated for combined sewer areas.

These standards establish minimum requirements for the design, construction, and maintenance of stormwater systems for subdivisions, site condominiums, commercial, industrial, and other development and redevelopment projects. Local municipalities may elect more restrictive standards and, when conflicting standards arise, the more stringent requirements govern.

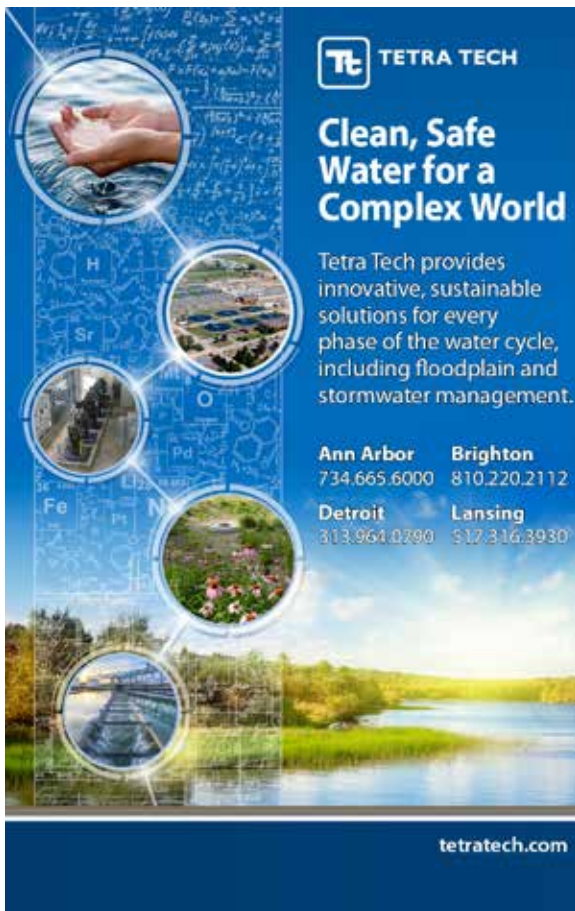
The standards are expected to be adopted by local communities later this year. The standards generally apply to development and

redevelopment projects with construction activity of 1 acre or more, or are part of a common plan of development or sale resulting in a development or redevelopment activity of 1 acre or more. The standards may apply to development projects smaller than 1 acre if a community chooses.

“We’re confident that communities within Oakland County will appreciate how straightforward these standards are,” Nash said. “This was a goal of our regional collaboration effort from day one. Changes to meet local needs are expected, but they may require approval from EGLE.”

The new rules were developed in close coordination with Wayne, Macomb, and Livingston counties, as well as with the City of Detroit, to provide a generally consistent set of standards across the region.

To view the presentation from the stakeholder rollout meeting, visit [oakgov.com/water](http://oakgov.com/water) and go to the Stormwater Engineering Design Standards tab.



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# ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS

## PREIN&NEWHOF PURCHASES SUMMIT SURVEYING: WEST MICHIGAN ENGINEERING FIRM ACQUIRES ALLENDALE-BASED LAND SURVEYING COMPANY

Prein&Newhof announces that it has acquired Summit Surveying, Inc., a 20-year-old company that focused on land surveying.

Summit Surveying co-founders Todd Bronson, PS and Rob Hammond, PS joined Grand Rapids-based Prein&Newhof and plan to continue working to meet its clients' needs. Prein&Newhof also hired Summit Surveying's employees, Rachel Lehman and Darren Rogers.

Bronson explains this business transition saying, "Summit Surveying had an opportunity to join forces with Prein&Newhof, and it made sense for where Rob and I are in our respective careers. We can now focus all of our energies on surveying rather than on managing the daily responsibilities of running a business. We are excited to bring our experience in residential surveying, ALTA/NSPS surveys, and commercial construction layout to the Prein&Newhof team. The many professional services that Prein&Newhof offers will also strengthen our offerings to our clients."

Prein&Newhof President Thomas J. Newhof shares his perspective, "Todd and Rob built their company from nothing and grew it into a successful survey firm that is well-respected in West Michigan. We are honored that Summit Surveying trusts Prein&Newhof to take care of its clients and its employees moving forward. By combining our collective survey experience and staff, we are now very well-suited to serve West Michigan's land and construction surveying needs. We are thrilled that they are joining our survey professionals to enhance our capabilities in this essential part of our business."

## PREIN&NEWHOF ENGINEER JIM HERMAN EARNS PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER (PE) LICENSE

In February, the State of Michigan licensed Prein&Newhof Engineer Jim Herman, PE as a Professional Engineer (PE). To earn a PE License in Michigan, one must earn a four-year college degree, pass the Fundamentals of Engineering

exam, work under a Professional Engineer for at least four years, and pass the Principals and Practice of Engineering Exam. This extensive process ensures competency in the profession.

Herman joined Prein&Newhof in 2018 as an Engineer-in-Training. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Michigan Technological University. At Prein&Newhof, Herman's experience includes design engineering, permitting, and construction observation for MDOT Local Agency Program projects—water main, sanitary sewer, storm water, and non-motorized paths. Herman also has experience working in AutoCAD Civil 3D design and modeling.



Herman

## PREIN&NEWHOF ENGINEER JULIE FERIA EARNS GISP CERTIFICATION

Prein&Newhof Engineer Julie Feria, PE, GISP recently became a certified Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP). To receive this certification, Feria had to complete four years of full-time geospatial experience, meet the Portfolio Requirements (minimum point requirements in Education, Experience, and Contributions), pass the GISCI Geospatial Core Technical Knowledge Exam, and complete all requirements within six years from date of Portfolio approval or passing the Exam.



Feria

Feria is only the third professional at Prein&Newhof to hold the GISP certification. She joined Prein&Newhof in 2015, after graduating from Calvin University with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Civil & Environmental Concentration). In 2019 she earned her Professional Engineer (PE) License in the State of Michigan. At Prein&Newhof, Feria has used her background in engineering and GIS to build and analyze hydraulic models of storm, sanitary, and drinking water systems for communities throughout Michigan. She has been involved in hydraulic analyses and GIS development



for communities under the SAW (Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater) Grants and continues to provide GIS and hydraulic system analysis support for several Michigan municipalities.

## F&V ADDS 10 NEW STAFF, INCLUDING HR DIRECTOR

Fleis & VandenBrink (F&V) has added 10 new staff, including a new director of human resources.

Paul David, who brings 20 years of human resources experience in the service and manufacturing industries, will oversee the company's benefit plans, recruiting and training of staff.

"Paul has a proven history of leading an innovative, employee centric human resources department," said John DeVol, a principal and president of F&V. "We believe Paul will be a great fit for us."

David, who has served as HR director in Grand Rapids and HR manager in Battle Creek, has a business and communications bachelor's degree from Calvin University.



David

Other new staff include: Joel O'Connell, CAD manager; John Ensley, senior CAD designer; Bob Elliott, senior project manager; Conner Hinson, environmental technician; Nate Sculley, engineering technician; Lynne Blondell, assistant construction manager; Katie Vetter, payroll administrator; Kathy White, accounting assistant; and Taylor Kratochvil, engineering technician. All employees, except Elliott and Kratochvil, are based at the company's headquarters in Grand Rapids.

"Our ability to recruit high quality staff in this economic and hybrid in-office/remote work environment has been amazing," DeVol added. "I have a huge appreciation for HR and all of our managers who have made finding talented professionals a priority."



O'Connell

O'Connell, who has over 20 years of experience in

the survey and civil engineering profession, will coordinate companywide drafting services across nine F&V offices on various drafting software platforms. His other duties in the Municipal Services Group include training, quality control and trouble shooting.

Ensley joins the Process Services Group with over 35 years of experience in planning, design and layout for construction engineering, process and civil design. He will lead the Plant 3-D CAD production for water and wastewater treatment system designs.



Ensley

Elliott, who has 27 years of experience as an environmental consultant and senior project manager for sites in many states including Michigan and Indiana, will provide leadership the Environmental Services Group out of the Farmington Hills office.



Elliott

His expertise will help clients with land development and acquisition and remediation cleanup goals. Elliott has a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University in environmental technology with geology.

Hinson, a recent graduate of Central Michigan with a bachelor's degree in environmental science, also joins the Environmental Group. He will provide field geology and technical skills assisting in remedial investigations, leaking underground storage tank closures, PFAS-related projects and associated compliance sampling.



Hinson

Sculley joins the Process Group after earning his master's degree in environmental engineering at the University of Michigan. He will assist with creating asset management plans, feasibility studies



Sculley

# ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS CONT.

and project plans. His duties include performing design calculations, preparing design drawings and specifications, and providing engineering assistance on operations projects.



Blondell

Blondell joins the design-build team with a decade of experience in the construction industry as a project manager. She will be directing the construction administration team, interfacing with accounting and assisting in the management of projects.



Vetter

Vetter comes to F&V with several years of experience in accounting and payroll. Her diverse experience will enable her to streamline the payroll process and assist with various

accounting special projects.

White will assist with daily accounting tasks from units to accounts payable to billing. She has more than a decade of experience accounting and office administration.



White

Kratochvil joins the Traverse City staff and will be working in the field and office on construction projects. His previous MDOT experience in procedures and testing will be utilized during construction inspections. Kratochvil has a bachelor's degree in Science Horticulture from Michigan State University with a concentration in landscape design, construction and management.



Kratochvil






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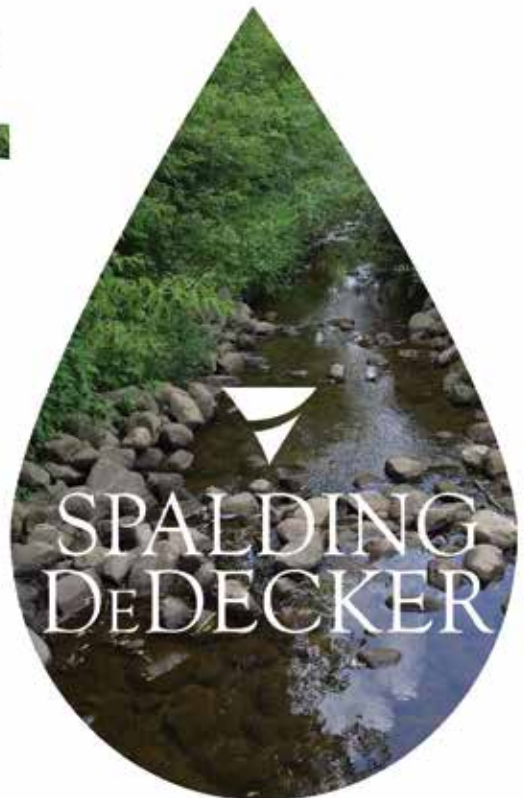
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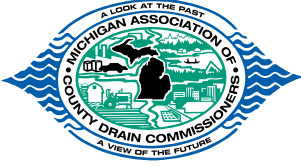


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