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SUMMER CONFERENCE PREVIEW

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

EVAN PRATT, PE

Washtenaw County

Water Resources Commissioner



As I look out my window, I see spring has sprung. Long way of saying it's raining again, a reminder that no matter what we do, we're not able to control a big part of our jobs!

That said, I'm always impressed at how much each of you and your staff do to provide the best service you can with limited resources. For some it's a pro-active ditch dip or deadwood removal. For others it's asking the right questions and motivating the team to make sure to look up and downstream as they are responding to a service call. More about asking questions later.

Many of you have also found the energy to lead your team to try something new or different to your County. I hear about that from offices of all sizes, whether there are only two of you or twenty. An old saying is "Change is the only constant." Like the rain, we are continually faced with new circumstances, changing situations, or a new problem area – and our teams, no matter how big or small, look to us for direction, guidance, and inspiration.

We may not hear those words when staff, consultants, contractors, or even landowners ask for our time or when things heat up. For Commissioners, as a countywide elected leader our main job is to make sure we hear through the words to figure out what's going on, whether it's ours to handle and whether "the way we always do it" is the right path. Many times it is, but it's our job to sense when it's time to ask a few more questions. Either way, making sure we welcome a call or knock on the door from anyone who helps us solve problems is at the center of what Commissioners do.

And this goes for all of us. Anyone who has management responsibility is only as successful as their team members – making appropriate time for the team needs to be the top priority. Waiting for people to come to me may not be

the best way to stay in tune with how things are going, any more than waiting until it rains to send out the crew. Do we need to help our team help define the challenge? Do we need to help our team define success? Do we need to let our team know we succeeded?

Likewise, for those of us earlier in a career it is important to make best use of time with a supervisor. Are the goals clear? Are you seeing a problem? Do you have a new idea to improve the results your team is measured on? Would you benefit from asking your supervisor "how can I be more helpful?" or "What could I work on?"

All of you are part of a team, whether it is big or small – and I believe all of you have been on other teams before? I've been fortunate to learn from many different leaders, and one thing I believe is we're all works in progress. On the theme above, one thing I've noticed, whether a team is high-functioning or a work in progress, whenever the full team is asked where there is room for improvement, "Communication" is always in the top 3, and often #1. While there isn't time to tell everyone everything that's going on, team success depends on putting more effort than we think is needed into a health culture of communication between team members.

Funny thing is, being heard is usually more important for most folks than being told.

You may have heard the saying, "God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason." If you want to see improvement in your team, yourself, and the ability to minimize surprises, keep asking questions and listening carefully, regardless of your role.

~Evan

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2023 MACDC

123RD SUMMER CONFERENCE PREVIEW

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, July 25

- 1:30 pm Legislative Meeting
- 3:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, July 26

- 10:00 am Registration Begins
- 1:00 pm Call to Order and Welcome
- 1:15 pm Managing Conflict and Coping with Difficult People
- 2:00 pm Low Hanging Fruit
- 2:30 pm YPC Hosts: District Games
- 3:00 pm Break
- 3:15 pm EGLE Updates
- 3:45 pm Legislative Update
- 4:15 pm Intercounty Drain Program 100th year Recognition
- 6:00 pm Reception
- 7:00 pm Dinner
- 9:00 pm Entertainment (off-site)

Thursday, July 27

- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Dam it! What to do when you're on the brink of a dam emergency
- 9:30 am Private Drainage: Rights, Responsibilities & Reviews
- 10:00 am MSU Stormwater Permit: A Decade of Experience with an Alternative Approach
- 10:30 am Break
- 10:45 am Solar Farm Update
- 11:30 am Tittabawassee River Bottomlands
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Networking Activities
- 6:00 pm Reception
- 7:00 pm Dinner

Friday, July 28

- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 9:15 am Associate Member Meeting
- 9:30 am MACDC District Meetings
- 10:00 am Associate Meeting
- 10:30 am Adjourn



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CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Wednesday, July 26

1:15—2:00 pm

Managing Conflict and Coping with Difficult People

John M. Collins, Executive Trust Coach, Author—Critical Victories, LLC

Attendees will have a better understanding of the “conflict spectrum” and the “ADAPT” method for turning difficult conflicts into opportunities for collaboration. John will also share what he describes as the “secret” that most difficult personalities keep from us when they seem to be making our lives miserable. By knowing this secret, you can better neutralize even the most offensive behavior.

2:00—2:30 pm

Low Hanging Fruit

Gary Nigro, P.E., Manager—Oakland County Water Resources

Mark Dubay—Michigan Dept. of Transportation (MDOT)

The Michigan Dept of Transportation approached Oakland County a few years ago to coordinate on a 25-million-gallon, storm water detention and conveyance tunnel that they were designing beneath I-75. Oakland County recognized an opportunity to partially separate the storm water from the proposed tunnel and pump station and allow the discharge to be directed into a separated storm system and away from the combined sanitary system. This modification to MDOT’s proposed pump station will reduce the total volume of combined sewage that needs to be treated and detained during storm events, thereby potentially reducing the frequency and volume of RTB discharges to the environment.



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CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Wednesday, July 26 cont.

2:30—3:00 pm

YPC Hosts: District Games

MACDC Young Professionals Committee

Join us to witness the YPC host the District Games! Participate with your district to win the title of victor at 2023 Summer Conference. There will be opportunities to volunteer as tribute for your district.

3:15—3:45 pm

EGLE Updates

EGLE Staff

EGLE staff will give updates on various happenings within the department.

3:45—4:15 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.

4:15—5:00 pm

Intercounty Drain Program 100th year Recognition

Michael R. Gregg, Manager—MDARD Intercounty Drain Program

The evolution of the State's intercounty drainage administration will be outlined with highlights and anecdotes from the files of MDARD. References to statutory changes, technology and relationship with MACDC will be discussed.



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Thursday, July 27

9:00—9:30 am

Dam it!

What to do when you're on the brink of a dam emergency

Joel Morgan, Senior Engineer—Kent County Drain Commissioner's Office

Paul Forton, Principal—Spicer Group, Inc.

We are well aware of the numerous large-scale dam failures in the last 5-10 years. Many of us are responsible for dams or lake level structures that haven't failed but seem to be right on the edge and ready to blow. In listening to this session, you will learn from the examples of your contemporaries on what steps to take when you think your dam is about to fail.

9:30—10:00 am

Private Drainage: Rights, Responsibilities, & Reviews

Cole Hedrick, Attorney—Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC

Flooding and other drainage disputes between neighbors can quickly turn friends to enemies and potentially opponents in a court room. This presentation will provide a review of drainage rights and responsibilities, as well as suggestions to help prevent future drainage conflicts.

10:00—10:30 am

MSU Stormwater Permit: A Decade of Experience with an Alternative Approach

John LeFevre, P.E., Director of Planning Design and Construction—MSU Infrastructure, Planning and Facilities

MSU was granted an alternative approach approval to implement a post-construction control offset program by EGLE in September 2010. Since that time, MSU has implemented several construction projects under their MS-4 permit. The presentation will focus on current requirements of their MS-4 permit and strategies on how stormwater management is governed at MSU – particularly post-construction controls.



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CONFERENCE SESSIONS.

10:45—11:30 am

Solar Farms Update

MACDC Solar Committee

The solar committee will host a panel discussion on how drain commissioners meet the demands of solar companies. The solar companies are coming to Michigan quickly and the panel will discuss engineering, testing, and legal considerations. This committee will hand out a checklist of areas of concerns for drain/water resources commissioners to use when approached by solar companies.

11:30 am—12:00 pm

Tittabawassee River Bottomlands

*Paul Hausler, Water Resources Practice Leader—
Progressive AE*

The catastrophic dam failures on the Tittabawassee and Tobacco rivers in May of 2020 resulted in the exposure of the moist and fertile bottomlands of the Wixom and Sanford lakes. These lake beds were quickly populated by millions of young trees including cottonwood, willow, and aspen. It quickly became evident that the immature trees, if left untouched, would severely alter the post-flooding conditions once the dams are rebuilt in a few years.

The Four Lakes Task Force realized that their jurisdictional role in the re-construction project could not address this situation and subsequently worked with the Improvement Boards for Wixom and Sanford lakes to develop a two-pronged approach involving treatment and mowing. The development and implementation of the plan, including required permitting and the preservation of some areas to provide rough woody structure fish habitat, will be discussed.



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NEW DRAIN COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED



Faber

WILLIAM FABER, CLARE COUNTY

William (Bill) Faber is the newly appointed Clare County Drain Commissioner to fill the remaining four-year term of former County Drain Commissioner Carl Parks. His appointment will run through January 1, 2025. Bill has served as an assistant to the Drain Office for almost four years. A Harrison resident and former Clare graduate, he has been a lifelong resident of Clare County. For more than 40 years Bill has been the owner of local small business, Faber's Barber Shop in Harrison, operating in the same location for the past 27 years. He is a 30-year member of the Harrison Sportsman's Club, on the Board of Directors for 20 years and a past vice president. He is also the current vice president of the Clare County Fair Board and Agricultural Society.



Bale

PAMELA BALE, ROSCOMMON COUNTY

I'm retired from the Monroe County Drain Commissioner's office after working for the County for over 25 years, 17 years in the Finance department and 9 years as the Drain Assessment Specialist. When I started at the drain office they were using their own software program for drain assessments so we started looking at other counties and how they were doing assessments. We found out that only a few counties were trying out a new software program from BS&A. It took almost two years to get the Drain Assessment Program, Drain Accounting Program and Drain Receipting programs all in place.

Working for a public office you need to understand that service to the public is the key, even when that one frustrating member of the public calls and talks nonstop about their ditch being plugged. I hope to put my skills and abilities to work for helping out the County of Roscommon in any way that I can.

Since I have been appointed I have been getting familiar with the drainage districts and getting the files of each drainage district assessments organized.

I'm also looking forward to attending my first Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners Conference in July for the learning opportunities and the chance to meet and talk with other Drain Commissioners.

When not working, my husband, Tom and I enjoy traveling and spending time with family and friends.

WILLIAM RAMSBY, CHEBOYGAN COUNTY

William Ramsby was appointed in January 2023 as the Cheboygan County Drain Commissioner. He fills the position vacated by Cam Cavitt per his election to the State House of Representatives. He could not be reached in time for this publication and his bio will be included in a future issue.

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MONTAGUE WATER

How "Going Back to the Beginning" Solved D

By: Chad Mencarelli, PE, Land & Resource Engineering (LRE)

"If you don't know where to start, go back to the beginning". These words kick off the cult classic movie, *Esca*naba in da Moonlight, but they also perfectly capture the philosophy behind the Montague Drain project in Michigan. For years, residents of the City of Montague had been dealing with devastating floods, property loss, and ecological damage caused by changes in land use that altered watershed hydrology. But by "going back to the beginning," and working together as a team, the Montague Drain project proves that we can provide better drainage, protect property and restore ecological resources by bringing together regulators, government agencies, and property owners to achieve shared goals.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Montague Drain (Drain) is a tributary of White Lake, located in section 20 of Montague Township (Township) and the City of Montague,

Muskegon County. The Drain was legally established in 1946 and consisted of a concrete storm sewer enclosure of Buttermilk Creek through the City of Montague (City). The Drain transitions back to open channel near the outlet to the White River. The total length of the historic Drain was approximately 3,320 linear feet and included two branches within the City of Montague. For this project, the Drain was extended upstream, along Buttermilk Creek, to the headwaters of the watershed.

Buttermilk Creek is a natural watercourse that flows primarily north to south through Sections 17 and 20 of Montague Township into the City. Characteristics of Buttermilk Creek vary considerably from the upper watershed to the downstream convergence with the established Drain. The upper watershed consists of agricultural lands with steep topography and heavy soils, which produce flashy flows capable



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of causing flooding and erosion during storm events. The lower watershed consists of a spring fed, natural stream with a steep gradient through a forested ravine, which flows through neighborhoods into the City's downtown.

Many of the natural drainage-ways in the upper watershed are actively farmed, which resulted in gully erosion and the transport of sediment and attached nutrients downstream. The steep gradient, combined with "flashy" flows from the upper watershed, produced massive amounts of erosion and sediment transport in the areas downstream of Eilers Road. Storm events turn the normally clear water of the creek into torrents of pale yellow, which inspired the name Buttermilk Creek.

Historically a private dam, constructed just downstream of Eilers Road, helped attenuate the flow through Buttermilk Creek. However, during a massive flood in the mid-1980s, the dam was

breached and ultimately failed. The unleashing of the impoundment and sediment loss resulted in catastrophic flooding in downtown Montague. In 2013, floodwaters caused the Eilers Road culvert to washout along with the road. Another large storm event in 2020 left downtown Montague under several feet of water. Ultimately, the frequent flooding led the City of Montague to petition the Muskegon County Water Resources Commissioner (WRC) in January 2017 to improve the Montague Drain.

LRE was retained by the WRC in November 2017 to conduct an engineering study to assess the condition of the Drain and evaluate potential solutions. The resulting project required extensive coordination with the city, Consumer's Power, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Muskegon County Conservation District, WRC, construction contractors and private property owners.

MONTAGUE CONT.



Buttermilk Creek, Pre-Construction

PROJECT APPROACH

The primary objective of the project was to provide drainage relief to the Drainage District (District), specifically, the impacted areas in downtown Montague. Throughout the beginning stages of the project, it became clear that this objective could not be met without drastically reducing the flashiness in the upper watershed and the sediment load from Buttermilk Creek. This required a holistic approach to both manage the watershed and prevent erosion by creating a stable channel dimension, pattern and profile. Thus, the approach was “go back to the beginning”, meaning to attenuate peak flows from the upper watershed by reducing them to pre-development conditions. As a result, the Drain was extended to the upper limits of Buttermilk Creek pursuant to Chapter 8 of the Michigan Drain Code.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND MUTUAL EDUCATION

Since the breach of the dam in the 1980s several proposals were considered to help reduce flooding and the amount of sediment being transported down Buttermilk Creek. One of the obstacles to finding a long-term solution was

the fact that the upper watershed was under the Township’s jurisdiction while the lower watershed was under the City’s jurisdiction. Problems originating in the Township were impacting the City, but there was no “umbrella” entity to cross jurisdictional boundaries. LRE and the WRC spent a great deal of time gathering historic information from the City and property owners along Buttermilk Creek regarding the severity of flooding and in-stream erosion. It was determined that the best course of action was to reduce flows in Buttermilk Creek to pre-development levels and restore the downstream channel to create a stable dimension, pattern and profile. Although the vision was in place, its transformation to a “plan” and its eventual execution required creativity and high-level coordination. Given the ravine-like nature of the Buttermilk Creek corridor, it was critical to design access for future maintenance of the Drain in a manner that was palatable to property owners. In addition, the Drain outlet was relocated away from flood-prone commercial properties and into a wetland complex near the White River.



Buttermilk Creek (Failed Dam), Pre-Construction

PROJECT SCOPE

Project team members developed solutions that addressed the multi-faceted issues plaguing the watershed, including:

- Easements for construction of approximately 5,000 linear feet of grassed waterways in the upper (agricultural) portions of the watershed. The waterways were restored with a conservation seed mix including fescues, oats, and rye and augmented with deep-rooted native prairie species.

- Construction of two detention areas in the upper portions of the watershed. The detention areas were constructed to reduce flows during high frequency, channel-forming events back to predevelopment levels. Specific target flows included the bankfull (1.5-year storm) event.
- Removal of the Buttermilk Creek Dam. Portions of the dam not containing steel were pulverized and mixed with riprap to construct grade control structures.
- Restoration of approximately 4,050 linear feet of open channel waterway utilizing natural channel design principles. The majority of the restoration took place near the failed dam to construct a stable drain profile. Spoil material was hauled and utilized to construct two stage channels providing additional floodplain storage and access for future maintenance.
- Installation of 13 rock riffle structures to provide grade control and prevent historic head-cuts from advancing upstream.
- Construction of two step-pool structures to stabilize an 8-foot and a 5-foot head-cut and protect the crossing at Eilers Road.
- Utilization of native material to stabilize channel banks, including the installation of approximately 730 linear feet of toe wood revetment and 245 linear feet of brush bundle placement.
- Restoration of sandy banks with dune grass; installed by the Conservation District.
- Placing stabilized riprap side inlets for surface water to enter the Drain.
- Restoring all disturbed areas with topsoil, seed and biodegradable jute mulch blanket.
- Woody debris management along approximately 4,600 linear feet of open channel. Private property owners required that much of the clearing activities within the City be limited to hand clearing only. Large woody materials were stacked and secured at the edge of the Drain easement and formed into wildlife habitat structures with help from the Conservation District. Tree tops were utilized for brush bundle installations along eroded banks.
- Cleanout and repair of the City's existing impoundment structure near downtown. Additional excavation was completed



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MONTAGUE CONT.

upstream of the impoundment structure to restore sediment capacity of the impoundment. A maintenance road was also constructed to more readily access the structure.

- Removal of approximately 5 tons of highly invasive Japanese Knotweed within the project area. The removal was conducted by the Conservation District, which is a member of the state network to control invasive species. Rules for Japanese Knotweed include washing and inspecting contractor vehicles before leaving the construction site, bagging and landfilling the plant material in a Type II landfill, and having a 10-year treatment plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER QUALITY BENEFITS

Approximately 12 acres of active farmland in the upper portions of the watershed were converted to grassed waterway, detention areas, or wet meadow providing vital storm water detention, natural filtration of sediment and attached nutrients/pollutants, and settlement of fine sediments. The restoration of the eroding channel, which included stabilization of several head-cuts, significantly reduced the sediment load to White Lake. Reducing flows to predevelopment conditions also allowed a stable, low flow channel to develop.

This project provided a means for the management of Japanese Knotweed present along Buttermilk Creek to be removed and treated, protecting the unique wooded ravine riparian corridor and preventing invasive migration downstream to White Lake. Additionally, all erosion and stormwater control measures created new terrestrial and aquatic habitat.

As a result, the final product proves that providing drainage relief does not have to come at the expense of habitat, but rather can enhance the ecological value of the system, and that by looking into the past, a more sustainable and lasting solution can be achieved for the future.

USE OF NEW MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Several innovative materials and technologies were utilized during the project. Selective clearing activities along the Drain generated a significant amount of woody debris. Rather



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Buttermilk Creek, Pre-Construction



Buttermilk Creek, During Construction

than wasting this material, it was used in lieu of more traditional hard-armoring techniques (such as rock riprap) to stabilize the toe of sensitive channel banks. Two different types of structures were installed: toe wood revetment, which utilized the larger diameter woody materials, and brush bundles which utilized the treetops and small branches. These two practices did a tremendous job of stabilizing the toe of bank, provided a natural aesthetic appearance, and more importantly saved the project tens of thousands of dollars compared to the riprap alternative. In addition, the brush bundles were installed by hand, dramatically reducing the construction impact on the wooded ravine area—a stipulation in the easement negotiations for many of the local property owners.

Biodegradable jute erosion control blankets were installed along all disturbed channel banks and grassed waterway bottoms. The jute blankets dramatically improved the establishment of vegetation and unlike plastic netting do not entangle amphibians and birds. Existing topsoil was stripped and stockpiled before the open channel was excavated to the design grade. The topsoil was re-spread along channel banks, which were seeded and covered with mulch blanket. It is noteworthy that several heavy rainfalls occurred during construction and there was very little damage to freshly constructed areas.

INNOVATION

An innovative and holistic design approach was employed to alleviate flooding within the District while reducing the sediment load of the Drain to White Lake. These efforts were focused primarily in the upper areas of the watershed. Grassed waterways were constructed to reduce runoff velocities from the heavy clay agricultural lands. They also reduce sediment and nutrient/pollutant loading to the downstream receiving waters. In addition, two regional detention areas were constructed to reduce flows for the bankfull event (1.5-year storm) to pre-development conditions. The basins also act as stilling basins to catch fine sediments, nutrients and pollutants. Areas ravaged by the failure of the Buttermilk Creek Dam were restored using natural channel design principles with elements such as step-pools, rock riffles, and stabilized side inlets to provide grade control along steeper reaches.

COMPLEXITY

Extensive coordination with EGLE, USACE, Consumers Power, the Conservation District, the City, the WRC office, multiple contractors, and private property owners increased the complexity of this project. Addressing a super aggressive invasive species with property owners and the contractors, obtaining 55 private and public property easements, negotiating two land purchases and obtaining state and

MONTAGUE CONT.



Constructed Grass Waterway



Constructed Grass Waterways



Regional Detention Basin

federal permits took over 2 years to complete. Numerous special public and one-on-one meetings were held with impacted property owners to review the project scope, listen to their concerns, and negotiate acceptable agreements. In addition, a permit from EGLE pursuant to Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams was required and a USACE permit had to be secured pursuant to Nationwide Permit 27, which took approximately 6 months. NREPA Part 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, was coordinated through the WRC as they are an Authorized Public Agency (APA) under Part 91.

The watershed had a history of being extremely flashy, resulting in much damage to property and the environment that included infrastructure failures and downtown flooding of Montague. Because of this, the project team, including our two contractors, Quantum Excavating of Douglas (Quantum) and Stein Construction of Ravenna (Stein) had to put together a plan and schedule, which mitigated as much risk as possible. By focusing on the regional detention areas in the upper reaches of the Drain first, the project team was able to successfully mitigate the risks due to the flashiness of the watershed and restore downstream portions of the project. This added another layer of complexity to the project as the contractors were basically “hop-scotching” across the project. Additionally, each time the contractors left a location, their equipment had to be cleaned then inspected by Conservation District or WRC staff to prevent offsite transport of the Japanese Knotweed.

COST EFFECTIVENESS


The total project cost including construction, engineering, easement acquisition, financing and contingency was just under \$1.8M. The project team wanted to be prudent when spending taxpayers hard-earned dollars. Limiting the project scope to primarily areas in the upper watershed, which was the root cause of many of the issues within the system, helped give the District the “biggest bang for the buck”. In addition, repurposing existing resource materials including concrete, riprap, woody debris (toe wood revetments and brush bundles) and spoil material (maintenance / floodplain benches) also helped to significantly reduce the project cost.

Benefits realized from the project greatly outweighed the cost. The Drain has experienced several severe rainfall events within the past



Rock Riffle

year without any reports of flooding, significant erosion, or excessive sediment deposition in Buttermilk Creek. During several follow-up inspections, all BMPs are holding up very well. By completing this project, public and private assets including roads, buildings, utilities, and navigable waters in White River / White Lake are protected from damage due to excessive flows, sedimentation, nutrient / pollutant loading, and the spread of Japanese Knotweed; all of which will prevent massive costs and environmental damage in the future. Finally, this project created accessibility to the Drain for equipment and personnel that had not previously existed; meaning that the system can be regularly maintained, reducing the need for large scale and costly projects in the future.




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CLOSING REMARKS

The Montague Drain project is a shining example that by going back to the beginning we can provide the solutions for today and tomorrow, especially in terms of how we evaluate and manage our watersheds. The success of this project was due in part to the project team's ability to find creative, constructive solutions to reduce stream flows and create a stable stream channel. However, this project would not have been possible without extensive coordination and collaboration among the project team consisting of the WRC's office, engineers, the City of Montague, Conservation District and insightful and caring property owners. The efforts of the project team helped to reduce localized flooding, restore eroded areas, reduce sediment loading, protect downstream receiving waters from pollutants, create habitat, and provide an adequate drainage outlet for the District.



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ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS

SPICER GROUP, INC. ANNOUNCES NEW PRINCIPALS IN 2023

Spicer Group is proud to announce four new principals.

Rick E. Born

Spicer Group is proud to announce the recent promotion of Rick E. Born to Principal. After completing his associate's degree in Construction Engineering Technology at Ferris State University, Mr. Born was hired by Spicer Group as an Inspector in 1997. In 2000, he was promoted to Construction Administrator, a Construction Manager in 2009, and a Senior Construction Manager in 2021. He became an Associate at Spicer Group in 2012, a Senior Associate in 2015 and a Shareholder in 2019. Now, he serves as the Construction Services Group Director company-wide.

Nicholas D. Czerwinski, P.E.

Spicer Group is proud to announce the recent promotion of Nicholas D. Czerwinski, P.E., as a new Principal. Nick began working for Spicer Group while still in high school in 2001. While attending college, he continued to work for us part-time. In 2007, he was hired full-time as a Design Engineer in Spicer Group's Water Resources Group at our Saginaw office. Nick is currently a Senior Project Manager and oversees the Water Resources Group in Saginaw. He holds a bachelor's degree from Michigan Technological University in Civil Engineering and became a registered Professional Engineer in Michigan in 2011. Nick became an associate at Spicer Group in 2015, a Senior Associate in 2017, and a Shareholder in 2019.

Paul L. Forton., P.E.

Spicer Group is proud to announce the recent promotion of Paul L. Forton, P.E. to Principal. He was hired by Spicer Group to work in the St. Johns office in 2003 as an engineering intern. After earning his bachelor's degree in Biosystems Engineering from Michigan State

University in 2004, he was hired on full-time as a Design Engineer in 2005. He received his Professional Engineer license and became a Project Engineer in 2009 and was promoted as an Associate in 2012. He became a Senior Associate in 2014 and a Shareholder in 2016. He is currently a Project Manager and leads our Water Resources Service Group in Byron Center.

Nathan G. Shepherd, P.S.

Spicer Group is proud to announce the recent promotion of Nathan G. Shepherd, P.S., as a new Principal. Nate joined Spicer's Survey Group in our Saginaw office in 2008 as an intern surveyor. In January 2012, he was rehired as a full-time Survey Crew Chief and has since been a Staff Surveyor, Project Surveyor, and Survey Project Manager. Nate was promoted to Associate in 2015, a Senior Associate in 2018, and became a Shareholder in 2019. He heads our Atlanta, Georgia, office. He graduated from Ferris State University with a bachelor's degree, specializing in Land Surveying, in 2011. He became a licensed professional surveyor in Michigan in 2015, a licensed surveyor in Georgia in 2020, and a licensed surveyor in Kentucky in 2021.



Born



Czerwinski



Forton



Shepherd



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James "Jay" J. Fleming
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Douglas R. Kelly
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Public Infrastructure

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Public Finance

In coordination with the Public Infrastructure team, Clark Hill's Public Finance Group has comprehensive knowledge of federal and state laws that govern the issuance of tax-exempt debt as well as state and local election laws. Clark Hill has a wealth of experience in drafting all legal documents relating to the issuance of tax-exempt debt for drain and water resources commissioners.

Environmental & Natural Resources Law

Clark Hill's Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Group provides counseling and litigation experience with deep substantive knowledge in all areas of state and federal environmental laws and regulations. Our services include regulator counseling and defending environmental remediation and enforcement actions.

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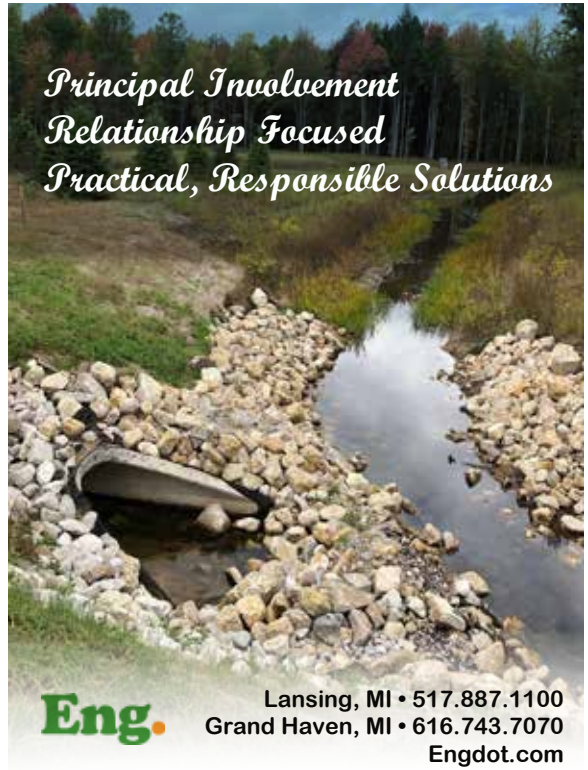
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Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville

FEBRUARY 14-16, 2024

MACDC Annual Winter Conference
Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo

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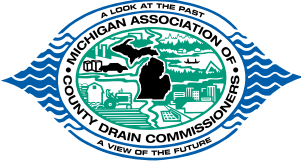
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