SHIAWASSEE COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER
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FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about the Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries and Review of Apportionments

What is a Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries?

The Michigan Legislature passed a law in 2013 to allow Drain Commissioners to make revisions to historical drainage district boundaries when recommended by a licensed professional surveyor or engineer and after holding a day of review for affected property owners and municipalities to review the proposed revisions.

Property owners and municipalities can review the proposed revisions with the Drain Office staff during the Day of Review. The proposed boundary revisions can be found on the map on the reverse side of the notice and on the Shiawassee County Drain Commissioner's website at: www.shiawassee.net/Drain-Commissioner/.

What is a Drainage District?

A drainage district is the land area, or watershed, that contributes water to a drain. The drainage district also outlines which properties and municipalities are responsible for paying special assessments for the maintenance and improvement of a drain.

Why are the boundaries being revised?

Revisions are recommended because the historic drainage district boundaries do not accurately reflect the current watershed of the drain.

What is a Day of Review of Apportionments?

A Day of Review of Apportionments provides an opportunity for property owners and municipalities to review the percent of benefit of the drain assigned to their property. The apportionments are based on acreage, land use, and other factors. The apportionments determine the assessment amount for each property for costs of construction or maintenance of the drain.

Why are the apportionments being revised?

Apportionments are being revised to more accurately reflect the percentage of benefit that each property or municipality receives from the drain. As apportionments are largely based on a parcel's acreage against the acreage of the entire drainage district, any revisions made to the boundaries will affect each parcel's apportionment.

If a parcel is on the outer boundary of a drainage district, it is possible that only a portion of the parcel will be included in the drainage district and only that portion will be assessed.

Why am I receiving this notice?

You are receiving this notice because you may own lands within the boundaries of the current or the proposed revised Drainage District. All property owners within these boundaries are receiving this notice.

When do I receive my drain assessment?

Drain assessments are included on your Winter Tax bill, and are only levied when costs are incurred for the drain. Assessment amounts vary from year to year.

What is my assessment amount?

Estimated assessment amounts are included in your notice, and are also available at the Day of Review.

Do I have to attend the Day of Review?

No. You are not required to attend the Day of Review.

How can I get more information?

Please call the Shiawassee County Drain Commissioner's Office at (989) 743-2398, e-mail drains@shiawassee.net, or visit the Shiawassee County Drain Commissioner's website at www.shiawassee.net/Drain-Commissioner/.