



**LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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## Memorandum

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners

From: Ken Recker, Chief Deputy Drain Commissioner

Date: August 6, 2024

Re: Resolution Authorizing Construction of the Winans Lake Drain and  
Distribution of Vision Tour (ARPA) Funding  
Resolution Authorizing Improvements to the Handy No. 15 Drain and  
Distribution of Vision Tour (ARPA) Funding

Resolution 2022-12-192 outlined a plan for the strategic use and distribution of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The Winans Lake project was identified in this resolution. The Handy No. 15 drain is an existing drain that was not identified as part of the initial ARPA resolution but is being proposed due to its small district size and the amount of repair needed, in lieu of several other projects that are no longer being pursued that were included in the original ARPA resolution. These projects include:

- Cohoctah Village
- Cohoctah No. 2
- Conway No. 4
- Conway No. 22
- Gregory Village
- Hall Drain
- Hanes Drain
- Gregory Village
- Hartland Country Club No. 3
- Jewett
- Lang & Morelock
- Livingston No. 11
- Marion No. 2
- Smith and Smith

Attached to each resolution is a map of the special assessment district for each Drain, and a summary of pertinent/available data pertaining to each project. A brief summary of each project follows:

### Winans Lake Drain

This drain is petitioned by residents that are part of the Winans Lake Association, to provide stormwater drainage improvements. The hilly topography on the north side of Winans Lake, combined with the gravel roads (Cowell & Teahen) make management of erosion and sedimentation a significant issue, in terms of effects on Winans Lake water quality. The project, which is estimated to cost in the range of three to four million dollars, proposes stormwater drainage improvements to enhance filtration of

stormwater, protect properties that have experienced basement flooding, and reduce inputs of sediment and associated nutrients into Winans Lake.

A previous effort to address this issue in the 1990's, in part by relocating Cowell Road, was not successful. The possibility of paving portions of Teahen Road was explored over the last year, however highway safety and engineering standards make paving of area roads costly. The Livingston County Road Commission has stated their willingness to partner with the Drainage District in terms of implementing the project, despite low traffic counts on Teahen and Cowell Roads preventing them from making the project a funding priority. We are currently in the process of obtaining easements and obtaining environmental permits for the project, which we anticipate bidding and construction in late 2025 or 2026. A preliminary set of plans for the project is attached for your information. The original ARPA delegating resolution budgeted \$1,000,000 for this project, which we are formally requesting from Vision Tour funds at this time.

#### Handy No. 15 Drain

This drain was established in 1899 and cleaned out twice prior to World War I. A small part of the drain was retiled in the mid-1990's to remedy a home that had been built over the drain prior to 1994. Approximately \$11,000 has been expended in efforts to keep this drain marginally operational in this 21 parcel, 149 acre district, since 2022. We are requesting \$40,000 to enable comprehensive maintenance on the system. This will enable a restoration of drain capacity sufficient to provide a minimal level of drainage service to district properties in light of changes from farming to rural residential land uses.

Thank you for your consideration of the aforementioned resolutions. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me.