

Important Notice: Winans Lake Drain Board of Determination Meeting.

As most of you have been notified, the Board of Determination (BOD) meeting for the proposed Winans Lake Drainage district will be held Monday, December 13th, 7 pm. at the Hamburg Township Hall, 10405 Merrill Rd.

All members who value the water quality of Winans Lake and the quality of surrounding roads are urged to attend and show support for the Winans Lake Drain!

At this meeting, a board of 3 people appointed by the Livingston County Drain Commissioner will hear testimony and decide whether the proposed drain project is necessary. If the BOD agrees with the necessity of the drain, the WLA will have finally succeeded in addressing the storm water induced sediment and pollution entering our lake—the most significant threat to our water quality since we moved from septic systems to sewers. In addition, this drain project will also address other long-standing problems, such as the erosion, flooding, and maintenance of surrounding roads and the flooding of yards and basements.

This drain project is necessary to protect the lake from the tons of sediment and other contaminants that have been washing into the lake with every significant rainfall for decades. According to lake experts, erosion of sediment is the most common cause of pollution in Michigan lakes. The runoff of sediment is a threat to water quality because it transports nutrients, bacteria and other contaminants into the lake. Lake experts advise that if these issues are not addressed they will continue to accelerate the aging of our lake by promoting excessive vegetation and muck and will eventually cause swimming closures due to excessive bacteria levels and toxic algae blooms—issues that are routinely encountered in other lakes. Moreover, as lake experts further advise, once water quality degrades past a certain point it becomes practically impossible to recover.

As with any investment, this solution comes at a price. Although we won't know the actual cost of this project for some time, we do have some rough estimates that can help put this investment into some perspective. With a total project cost of \$2 million (an estimate believed to be worst case), 40% of which to be paid by the 400 parcels in the district over a 20 year period, the average assessment would be \$100 per year. The costs will be assessed based on benefits, so those of us who live on the lake and benefit from both water quality and road improvements will pay more. For almost all WLA residents, however, this investment will represent less than 0.05% of property value per year, or less than 1% over 20 years! Everyone needs to consider what the effect on property values and quality of life will be if we start having issues with high bacteria levels or toxic algae blooms that lead to poor water quality and swimming closures. This drain project is clearly a logical and necessary investment in our future!

The WLA SSRC committee has worked diligently on this drainage district solution for 3 years, and we are now closer than ever in the last 40 years to finally realizing a comprehensive solution to this largest threat to our lake. The drain process gets around past roadblocks and, thus, is **our only practical alternative for a comprehensive and effective solution**. If the BOD does not determine the drain to be necessary, then Winans Lake water quality will continue to degrade for the foreseeable future and, along with it, our property values and quality of life!

So please plan to attend the BOD meeting to show your support for Winans Lake on December 13th, and help ensure that this date becomes a milestone in the health and future quality of our lake. We owe it to future generations!

For further info and FAQs regarding the drainage district please see the following link:
<http://winanslake.org/news/2021/05/28/winans-lake-drainage-district-qas/>

WLA Board

