

# CASS COUNTY MICHIGAN

## Water Resources Commissioner



*New Cass County Drain - Glenwood Drain*

## 2010 Annual Report

# *Table of Contents*

	Beginning Page Number
Forward .....	1
I. County Drains .....	2
II. Intercounty Drains .....	3
III. Lake Level Controls .....	4
IV. Soil Erosion Program .....	4
V. Financials .....	5
VI. Other Issues .....	6
VII. Water Resources Commissioner Office .	6
VIII. Professional .....	7
IX. Other .....	7
X. Acknowledgements .....	7
Appendix .....	8
Photos .....	9

*“ Both residents and visitors of Cass County enjoy the beauty of over 250 lakes and ponds, along with numerous streams, creeks, and wetlands that offer some of the best boating, fishing, swimming, wildlife habitat, and other recreational opportunities in Southwest Michigan. Maintaining county drains for agricultural, commercial, industrial, and residential use is critical to our economy and our quality of life. Managing established lake levels and protecting the waters of our county through a strong Soil Erosion Control Program will ensure the protection of these waters as one of our county’s most valuable resources for our current and future generations.”*

– Bruce Campbell, Cass County Water Resources  
Commissioner

### ***Forward***

The fiscal year 2010 found the Drain Office both busy and productive. In the Fall of 2009 the outlet channel for Garver Lake was dredged. This project was first petitioned in the early 2000’s and the dredging greatly improved the control of the lake level. In November 2009 a Board of Determination Hearing was held in Porter Township and an “Order of Necessity” was procured. Construction of the new Birch Williamsville Drain is scheduled for October of 2010. In the Spring of 2010 construction of the new Glenwood Drain commenced and restoration continued throughout the summer. This drain solved a flooding problem that has periodically occurred in Glenwood for over 50 years. From March to May, 2010 DNRE Hearings were held in Lansing concerning the Crooked Lake Augmentation Project. A decision from the Administrative Judge has not been made at the time of this report. Maintenance projects were done on both the McMillan and Priest Lake dams (control structures). These timely repairs avoided potential costly repairs in the future. The Drain Office finished the new Storm Water Standards that were last updated over 20 years ago. The County Board of Commissioners will be presented these important development standards for approval in October of 2010. The water table in the county was slightly lower in comparison to 2009 but was still at a high level. The county is still in a wet water cycle, which began around 2006-07.

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE**

# CASS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER

October 1, 2010  
By Bruce Campbell

## I. COUNTY DRAINS

### Inspection of County Drains

Since October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 30 inspections have occurred on 23 different drains.

### New Drainage Districts

Petitions received and district formed: Two

Subdivision plats, with new drainage districts are: None

And being contemplated for: Hilltop Road Extension Drain, Leigh Avenue on Diamond Lake

### Cleaning, Maintenance and Repair

Petitions were received for cleaning, maintenance or repair of drains for: None

Drains cleaned or maintained from drain fund accounts or revolving drain funds:

Lilly Lake Drain – Newberg Township  
Twin Lakes Channel – Wayne Township

Drains needing cleaning or maintenance include: Most.

### Status Report

Glenwood Drain

Wayne Township

The new county drain has been constructed and restoration continues as of September, 2010.

MEANDERS

Pokagon Township

A new description and easement needs to be written and recorded. The Army Corps of Engineers are looking to fund some projects in the MEANDERS. A September 2010 project reestablished floodplains with three dike cuts.

Breezy Beach Drain

Howard Township

A drainage district was established and the transfer of the drain from Howard Township to the Drain Office is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2011.

Birch Williamsville Drain

Porter Township

The Cass County Road Commission petitioned the Drain Office for a watershed issue in the Williamsville area from Birch to Shavehead Lakes. Surveying and engineering have been completed. Easements acquisitions are procured and construction is scheduled for October, 2010 after the Computation of Costs are finalized and filed.

Happy Homes Drain

Lagrange Township

Lagrange Township petitioned the Drain Office and preliminary surveying and engineering has been completed. The Board of Determination Hearing issued an "Order of Necessity" and a new county drain will be constructed. The Drain Office is working on obtaining a Hazard Mitigation Grant from the State of Michigan's Emergency Management Division. This is a federal pass through grant under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Mud Lake Consolidated Drain

Mason Township

After hearing concerns of flooding issues on Mud Lake the Drain Office conducted inspection and survey of the drain. The results are being reviewed.

Beaver Dam State Line Drain

Ontwa Township

After hearing concerns of flooding issues on Mud Lake the Drain Office conducted inspection and survey of the drain. The results are being reviewed.

## II. INTERCOUNTY DRAINS

The Department of Agriculture Intercounty Drain program was funded for the Fiscal Year of 2009 with two agents and one administrative staff.

### New Drainage Districts

None

### Cleaning, Maintenance and Repair

Smith Lake

### Drains need cleaning

Four County – Marcellus Township

### Status Report

Smith Lake

Pokagon Township

In the Spring of 2010 a farm crossing was put in to the east of Indian Lake Road. A more defined channel was also dug in the east end of the farm field that increased the agricultural yield and the efficiency and effectiveness of the drain.

### III. LAKE LEVEL CONTROLS

Water levels were high throughout the Spring and Summer of 2010. A number of lakes did not require a control board .

Lilly Lake

Penn Township

A turn down extension pipe was placed on the outlet of Hutchens Lake, which solved the beaver dam problems. Dredging was done from the outlet of Lilly Lake to M-60.

Barron Lake

Howard Township

The pump experienced two electrical problems that were fixed in the Summer of 2010.

Garver Lake

Ontwa Township

The petitioned dredging project was completed in November of 2009. Lawn restoration was completed in the Spring of 2010.

Magician Lake

Silver Creek

The lake stayed above the court ordered decreed level of 753' throughout the summer and the control board did not have to be put in.

### IV. SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PROGRAM

The Board of Commissioners transferred the authority of the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program to the Water Resources Commissioner as the enforcing agency on July 3, 2008 by Resolution R-93-08.

#### Statistics

Permits Issued	-	108
Total Site Inspections	-	165
Final Site Inspections	-	100
Complaints	-	8

Major Sites Permitted

Lakes Area Sewer Authority	-	Marcellus Township
North Shore Cottages	-	Penn Township
Aggregate Industries	-	Ontwa Township
Diamond Lake Water System	-	Penn, LaGrange, Calvin, Jefferson Townships
Donnell Lake Water System	-	Penn Township
Sam Adams School	-	Village of Cassopolis
Enbridge Pipeline	-	Calvin, Jefferson, Penn Townships
Pokagon Band Potowatomi	-	LaGrange Twp

Future Major Permits

None pending

**V. FINANCIAL**

Assessments

The following special assessments have been approved for 2010:

<u>Drain / Lake Level</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Amounts</u>
Dowagiac River IC	Wayne/Volinia	13,936.53
Glenwood	Wayne	10,863.80 (2 <sup>nd</sup> of 3 years)
Smith Lake Intercounty	Pokagon	18,693.11
Twin Lakes Level	Wayne	7,920.00
Barron Lake	Howard	27,750.00
Birch Williamsville	Porter	40,000.00 (1 <sup>st</sup> of 2 years)
Crooked Lake	Silver Creek	11,464.33
Corey Lake level	Newberg	1,043.56

Drain Funds

On September 21, 2010, the cash balances in the various accounts were:

	<u>Amounts</u>
801 Drain	\$ 46.79
841 Lake Level	19,820.45
802 Revolving Drain	29,146.03

Notes Payable

Barron Lake Note: \$395,000 - installment five of five was paid on July 1, 2009.

#### Delinquent Tax Fund Loans

\$ 214,000 was paid back to the Delinquent Tax Fund with interest.

### **VI. OTHER ISSUES**

#### Lake Augmentation Projects

Barron Lake is functioning at an optimal level.

Twin Lakes is functioning at a satisfactory level.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) permit was obtained for Crooked Lake. Construction of the system has been completed.

#### MS4 of NPDES

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber along with Southwest Michigan Commission have administered and submitted a public awareness campaign. Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber applied for Cass County's new permit which has been obtained.

#### Cass County Road Commission

The Water Resource Commissioner and the Cass County Road Commission continue to work together in several areas.

### **VII. WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**

1. Developing drain and lake level districts into county GIS System continues.
2. Drawing route and courses of drains into GIS System continues.
3. Developing electronic spreadsheet for assessment rolls continues.
4. Storm Water Standards to be presented to Board of Commissioners in October 2010.
5. Web page development for the Drain Office is completed and updated on a regular basis.

### **VIII. PROFESSIONAL**

The drain commissioner attended the following professional meetings:

MACDC – Fall District Meeting	10.23.09 - Kalamazoo
MACDC – Winter Conference	02.17.10 - Traverse City
Concrete Pipe Symposium	04.15.10 - Lawrence
Earth Day Activities	04.22.10 - T.K. Lawless Park
Intergovernmental Forum	04.22.10 - SMC
Green Infrastructure Workshop	04.26.10 - Western Michigan University
MACDC – Spring District Meeting	04.25.10 - Marshall
MACDC – Summer Conference	07.14.10 - Boyne, MI

## **IX. OTHER**

Besides regular office hours and field inspections, the Water Resources Commissioner attended:  
 Board of Public Works – Member  
 Parks Board – Member  
 Road Commission monthly meetings  
 Numerous County, Township, Village and City meetings

## **X. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Water Resources Commissioner is appreciative of the assistance of many individuals over the past year, but wants to give special recognition to:

Jackie Taylor and Tara Myer for their secretarial and administrative assistance.

CPA Becky Moore and Treasurer Linda Irwin for their assistance on the accounting of the drain and lake level funds and ledgers.

Clerk Barb Runyon and her staff for assistance with deeds, plats, and easement information.

Information Systems Director Kerry Collins and his staff for mapping and other GIS support.

County Administrator’s Terry Proctor & Chuck Clarke for administrative support.

## **APPENDIX A**

Brandwywine  
Dowagiac IC  
Garver Lake Drain  
Hilltop Road  
Twin Lakes  
Patrick Hamilton  
Goose & Mud Lake  
Bame & Huntley  
Dodd & Doanne  
Birch Williamsville  
Round Lake  
Miller Robinson

Smith Lake Intercounty  
Pleasant Lake  
Pitcher Lake  
Northwoods  
Whitaker NE Extension  
Nottingham Jones  
Red Run  
Stock Farm  
Happy Homes  
Glenwood  
Clifford Court

**LAKE LEVEL CONTROL STRUCTURES INSPECTED BY WATER REOSURCES  
COMMISSIONER**

*(note – all lake level structures were inspected on the mandatory 3 year cycle by Merritt Engineering in October of 2008)*

Barron Lake  
Garver Lake\*  
Magician Lake  
Twin Lakes\*  
Lilly Lake \*  
Diamond Lake  
Shavehead Lake  
Pleasant Lake  
Priest Lake\*  
Corey Lake  
Eagle Lake \*  
McMillan Dam\*  
\* - work was performed

**OTHER INSPECTIONS (complaints)**

Numerous throughout the year.

**DRAIN CROSSING PERMITS**

None



*Glenwood Drainage District*



*Birch Williamsville Project Area*

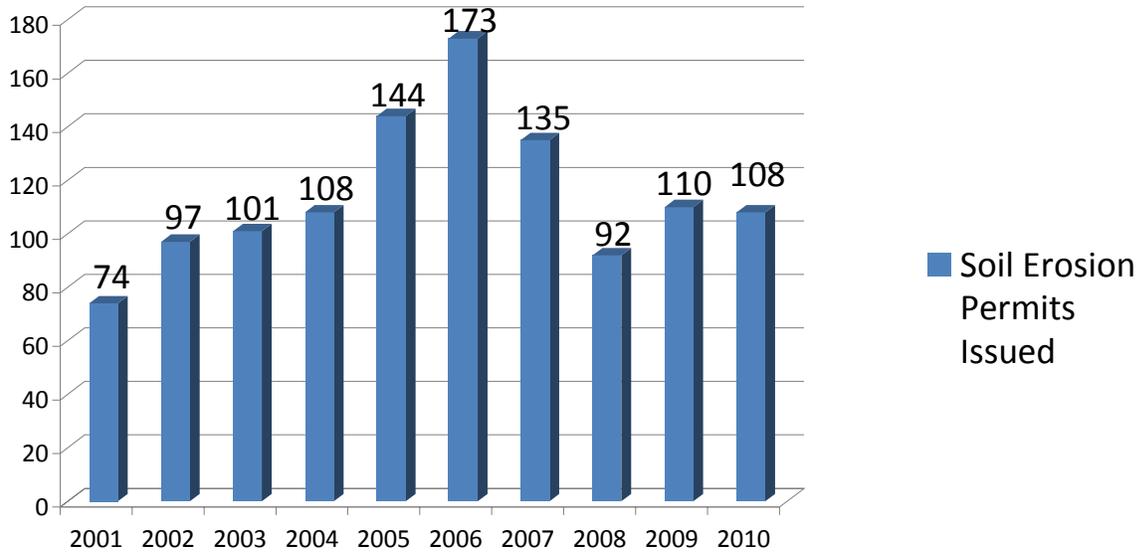


*Garver Lake Dredging Project*



*Happy Homes Proposed Retention Pond Area*

## Soil Erosion Permits Issued



Soil Erosion Statistics – FY 2010

**CASSCOUNTYMI.ORG**  
Gateway to Resources

Friday, September 25, 2009

Departments and Courts > Water Resource Commissioner

**Welcome to the Office of Clerk Register**

Bruce A. Campbell  
Water Resources Commissioner  
120 N. Broadway, Ste. 124  
Cassopolis, MI 49031  
Tel: 269.445.4428  
Fax: 269.445.4495  
brucec@cassco.org  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm

**Water Resources Commissioner**

The Water Resources Commissioner is a statutory officer elected on a partisan basis every four years. He is responsible for the administration of the Drain Code of 1956, as amended. The duties of the Water Resources Commissioner include the construction and maintenance of drains, determining drainage districts, apportioning costs of drains among property owners, and receiving bids and awarding contracts for drain construction. The Water Resources Commissioner also approves drainage in new developments, subdivisions and maintains court decreed lake levels. The office also is the administrator for the Cass County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program along with the Cass County Survey & Remonumentation Program.

Both residents and visitors of Cass County enjoy the beauty of over 250 lakes and ponds, along with numerous streams, creeks, and wetlands that offer some of the best boating, fishing, swimming, wildlife habitat, and other recreational opportunities in Southwest Michigan.

**Links**

- Water Resource Commissioner Home
- County Drains
- County Drain Permit Process
- Court Ordered Lake Levels
- Fees and Charges
- Frequently Asked Questions
- History of Storm Drainage
- Links of Interest
- Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control
- Statutes & Regulations
- Survey and Remonumentation Program

Water Resources Commissioner WebPages