

November 20, 2018

The Board of Commissioners of Lorain County, Ohio met this day in a regular meeting, in the J. Grant Keys Administration Building, 226 Middle Avenue, Elyria, Ohio, at 9:34 a.m. with the following members present: Commissioner Ted Kalo, President, Commissioner Matt Lundy, Vice President and Commissioner Lori Kokoski, Member and Theresa L. Upton, Clerk.

JOURNAL ENTRY

Commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following business was transacted

COMMISSIONERS

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING

Clerk Upton stated this is the day duly advertised for the Public Hearing on the Mapleview Ditch, Brownhelm Township.

Said public hearing was continued until today after testimony was given by Resolution No. 18-591 on September 18, 2018 to allow County Engineers Office to review other options on the petition to clean ditch.

Said petition was submitted by Brownhelm Township Trustees on July 10, 2018 and Stormwater District approved a community grant in 2016 in amount of \$21,840 for said ditch; and

Said request was to remove silt material and vegetation from the ditch profile from a grade congruent to the efficient flow of water from the newly constructed culvert beneath Mapleview Drive north to West River Road to a grade, as determined necessary by the Lorain County Engineer.

Engineer total construction costs \$87,500 with 44.37 acres of total watershed and annual maintenance fee of \$1,000 with 1,200 lf.

The construction of the improvement is necessary and will be conducive to the public welfare.

September 18, 2018, Tom Rini called to thank the Commissioners, but there was a group at the hearing that was not heard. There are many residents that are affected, not just him and everyone should be heard. He will go to the Trustees meeting and see if they can do something with the pipe; it needs to be cleaned on both sides

October 9, Tom Rini sent various emails;

- 18-591, page 2 – august 28. Auditor Snodgrass map is incorrect as shown. Control flooding to neighbors the Baptist Church excavated land to rear property and then after inspection from county, Tom Mangum, were forced to install catch basin to allow for drainage to west river rod. Map is totally incorrect. Township then, in approximately 2013, increased the culvert pipe under Mapleview dr at west river rd and cleaned ditch on west river rd form Mapleview to rolling meadows dr. process helped drain church property that was being diverted on neighbors property
- 18-591, page 3 & 4 – he supports resolution of Brownhelm Township Trustees
- 18-591, page 8– he supports the engineer proposal
- 18-591, page 10 – Commissioner Kokoski asks how long flooding has been going on. He stated flooded significantly twice in 2008. Street was flooded previous to that
- 18-591, page 10 – he strongly disagrees with engineer Zwick. Amount of water spilling into streets and basements through storm drains and footer tiles cannot be handled by normal sump pumps. Picture of flooded Mapleview dr which happened days after most recent Commissioners hearing demonstrates the enormous amount of water that would need to be pumped. Streets are flooding and does not protect the infrastructure. Engineer Zwick states literally it does not flow downhill today, bottom of the ditch is slightly uphill
- please make these petitions and all the signatures a part of the record for those who want the ditch cleaned and maintenance as initially proposed by the storm water committee Big Oaks Subdivision (10/23/17 petition and March 13, 2018

October 10, 2018 Tom Rini sent email on previous emails sent June 4 “who is responsible currently for cleaning of, the in and outside of culvert pipe that crosses Mapleview at Rolling Meadows and Mapleview at west river road? Is there a utility easement for the property that border the ditch in the city along Rolling Meadows?.

On October 9, 2018 for previous email sent, Neighbors were at the hearing for the Mapleview ditch and were not able to speak. Neighbor’s homes and property are being destroyed. Please clean the right of way at Mapleview Drive of the sediment and debris.

A response from Mayor Forthofer email October 10 to Tom stating Orrin Leimbach sent him a photo of the debris blocking the culvert under Mapleview. Their Service Director is going to talk with the counterpart in the Township and someone will do something to clear the flow

October 23, 2018, Tom Rini called 440-785-7340 said he would like the Commissioners to resolve this issue on November 20. The neighborhood is being divided and Ms. Stone is passing out literature, info is not accurate. He stated 1st Baptist Church on West River road, is having a party the 2nd Saturday in November and asking for this flooding to be resolved, there were funds approved. 3 residents have stated loss gave to township, 1 Mapleview, 2 Linda Lane both flooded last year, loss is excess of \$10,000. There has been 4 petitions submitted and keeps getting continued or resubmitted, it has been going on long enough. Stone walked around and divided neighbors and complained and a lot are looking to sue, some resident wants \$70,000+. He stated the township clean out the pipe.

October 25, Ann Bros, 6716 Candy Lane 440-967-1470 said she has received a letter from Stone and Hardwick and does not remember receiving any previous information. I told her that it was sent to John Lynch at the address, she stated that was her husband and he was very ill and she was taken care of him. This ditch is not by her property. I explained the process to her. She asked about Cassel property if they received notice. I explained that there were 107 notices sent out. She said she cannot afford this, it’s a crock.

October 30, 107 notices were sent to property owners.

October 30, James Hinton, 4491 Mapleview Drive 440-452-0193 called about the notices he received but he is in Florida for the winter. I explained the process to him. He stated there was another letter being passed around and it stated that they would be assessed, what happens with the money they already pay. I explained that process of money is put into the stormwater and then the townships submit project which are they reviewed and submitted for approval. He said he should not have to pay again for a project that he is already paying for, he is against this project.

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November 5, 2018 Tom Rini sent email picture of Mapleview Dr., Candy Lane. Insurance statement of loss for Rosas property on Rolling Meadows submitted to Orin Leimbach on November 5 at Township trustees meeting corresponds with photo

November 6 & 13, 2018 notice was published in Chronicle Telegram on continued hearing date

November 6, 2018 received email from Brownhelm Fiscal Officer Marsha Funk from William Rosa, 1501 Rolling Meadows Dr., Vermilion relating to claims and pictures

November 13, 2018 Sue Stone, asked for a copy of the wetlands environmental assessment by Coldwater consulting LLC, as identified in Engineer's cover letter dated October 30, 2017. Sent to her by email on November 14, 2018

November 18, 2018 William & Brandy Rosa, 1501 Rolling Meadows Dr., Vermilion sent an email with photos stating they have lived there for 4 ½ years and did not have flooding the first 3 ½ years, their basement has a sump pump and professionally waterproofed. In November 2017 after the Mapleview bridge repair, they flooded horribly causing more damage than flood insurance covered, insurance only paying \$5,000. Every since the first flood last year their basement constantly floods with every heavy rain causing constant expensive mitigation upkeep as well as their increase insurance fees. The ditch behind their residence overflows with water, and if you go down the road to where Rolling Meadows meets West River Road little to no water flows through. There is clearly a blockage stopping the water from flowing where it should and they do not have time to wait for a magical solution, they need action soon. Recently a branch from an overgrown tree on edge of ditch, not their side fell and destroyed their fence. This could have been avoided if ditch was maintained and now there is a large part of that tree in the ditch blocking even more water flow. Please help in getting some relief. Pictures of their insurance claim, basement damage and fence damage are attached.

November 18, 2018 Lynda & Ryan Adkins, 4560 Linda Dr., Vermilion sent an email stating they have flooded numerous times over the years, last time being past spring/summer. Up until recently they thought this was their personal problem to bear. Had sump pump tested and it is bringing same water back in over and over again. Camera test revealed blockage somewhere but does not seem to be on their property. The ditches are in deplorable conditions. They have removed large oak trees and ground out roots and stumps, placed drain tile, water proofed foundation, replaced windows to more secure block windows, replaced numerous sump pumps, added dirt to build up low spots, list goes on and they still flood. They have suffered all of this not being aware that there is a ditch problem. Fixing this problem is going to help property values and makes homes in the area more sellable. How would one go about selling a home without disclosing that the county has a ditch problem which cannot be resolved. They are in favor of getting this problem fixed as soon as possible

November 18, 2018 Tom Rini, submitted several emails;

- 19 pictures of Mapleview Ditch, days after the viewing in May. Homes on Mapleview, Linda and Rolling Meadows flooded as a result of poor drainage from the ditch.
- 18-591, page 11, strongly disagree with Mayor Forthofer stating he accept totally what engineer Zwick says, it needs to be done but does not know if it needs done right of way. Mr. Rini said the problem has never been worse, it's not going away. The homes are being flooded. Mapleview is being undermined and will wash away. If it was your house being destroyed, how long would you like to wait
- 18-591, page 13, totally disagree with Atty Hauser. Mr. Rini's property slopes away from his home and storm water effectively drains during storms

November 19, 2018 Tom & Donna Rini submitted an email with pictures and stated that the Mapleview ditch problem is growing larger as time passes. Many residents have effectively built up their property, however some have experienced erosion problem. Rolling Meadow properties have utility easement for drainage, that easement is not a hardship. Those easements represent a blueprint for drainage as submitted by Mr. Cassell to the county as developed.

Submitted for the record were 19 pictures of Rolling Meadows and Mapleview from May 23, 2018. It shows water forced into the streets and flowing the entire way down Rolling Meadows to West River Rd. A tremendous amount of water and debris. The depth of water exceeded 1 ft in the street. A picture was taken from the front yard of 4669 Mapleview. This home was devastated. Another home on Linda also was negatively impacted. Submitted for the record, a picture of the November 2017 storm @ Candy and Mapleview also shows the same depth of water. A home on Rolling Meadows received a significant amount of water in their basement during that storm. A proof of loss was submitted to the Brownhelm township trustees at the November meeting.

THIS IS A SAFETY PROBLEM, AND ALSO A POOR QUALITY OF LIFE.

The residents of Rolling Meadows can now expect to be impacted. Water is now being diverted towards their property and onto their street.

The Stone property has completely ignored any type of maintenance for stormwater and overgrowth. The trees and over growth of bushes, includes silt, leaves and trash that fill the ditch and right of ways. Every edge of the property exhibits overgrowth, over mature trees, undermanaged and ignored brush that fills the ditch and right of way. The ditch RUNS UPHILL on their property.

Stone and Hardwick continue to ignore the fact that township residents are being impacted. They have negatively impacted our neighborhood by dividing our neighbors for or against the petition. Passing out non factual information to residents door to door. Intimidating a resident who came to speak at the previous commissioners hearing in favor of cleaning the ditch stating "you better not speak".

Stone and Hardwick do not live in the neighborhood, do not experience or see the problem.

Stone and Hardwick have considered cleaning the ditch themselves at a township trustees meeting. Then changed their mind.

Stone and Hardwick exhibit signs on West River Rd that want to save the lake reduce algae. Their property, and the fertilizer applied to the soy bean field contribute to the algae problem.

Mold, not algae are problems residents deal with when their basements flood.

The petition and application for grant originated in 2015. The water problems long preceded 2015. The grant was funded for 2016. This petition is the FOURTH attempt to move the petition process forward. Each attempt has been thwarted because of the threat of Stone and Hardwick through a legal technicality.

The residents of The Big Oaks subdivision have twice submitted petitions for improvement for drainage. The county received and stamped a petition October 23, 2017, it has 7 residents who asked for stormwater help.

The March 13, 2018 petition received and stamped by the county, has 18 Brownhelm township residents who signed a petition asking for stormwater help.

How do Stone, Hardwick, and Hauser contend Rini is the only person with a problem?

The county and the stormwater district need to recognize those signatures and help identify an immediate resolution to the problem.

I am asking for an immediate reasonable resolution. Asking for the engineer and commissioners to come to an immediate consensus and move forward.

I have been affected by high waters. **IT IS NOT MY FAULT. IT IS NOT ONLY MY PROBLEM.**

Collectively we are neighbors, residents and hopefully friends. We are Vermilion 44089. This is a reasonable problem that needs to be fully understood managed, not ignored or leveraged. Happy Thanksgiving.

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Attorney Hauser sent a letter dated November 15, 2018:

“Following the September 18, 2018, First Hearing as to the Mapleview Ditch (the “Ditch”) construction work (the “Project”), there are a few other matters that my clients; Susan Stone and Lois Hartwick, would like to bring to your attending. As you know, Ms. Stone and Ms. Hartwick are the owners of the certain parcel of real property located at 6551 West River Road, Vermilion, Ohio 44089, Parcel #01-00-017-000-168 (“the Parcel”). As I already spoke at the First hearing and knowing that there are other affected property owners who plan to speak at the next phase of the First Hearing, I thought it would most efficient to craft this letter in case there are other people at the November 20, 2018 hearing who would like to present to the Board of Commissioners.

There have been a number of inconsistencies presented by the County Engineer’s office and others in advocating for a ditch cleaning project that may not be necessary. First, my clients- and so many others who’s property abuts the Mapleview Ditch – keep asking the question of why the ditch has not been maintained for decades, and yet know there is a six-figure project cost of “clean” the ditch. There is nothing preventing ditch maintenance to be done now, even if done manually to clear the branches and debris that Mr. Zwick claims to be impeding flow in the ditch. Manual clearing of the debris is relatively low costs and seemingly a non-invasive first step that may prove to resolve the ditch issues. There is nothing prohibit the County from first doing regular ditch maintenance before embarking in a Project that will destroy property abutting the ditch and, as a result, cost the County considerable funds not only for the construction work itself, but also to compensate the affected property owners those property, trees and other landscaping may be disturbed. It is our understanding that the congregation from the Church close to the ditch are willing to organize manual labor to do an extensive cleaning, including with equipment if necessary like a bobcat-type extruder).

We also wish to point out that the “flooding” shown in Mr. Zwick’s PowerPoint was actually located a street or two away from the Mapleview Ditch, and there is literally no evidence – scientific, empirical or otherwise- that the condition of the ditch caused the flooding shown in Mr. Zwick’s photographs.

Second, there are a number of issues with the reports from the county engineer’s office that show that the report does not comport with the standard of care required for that office and the office holder. These issues including the following:

- There are no calculations to determine whether the West River Road culvert is sufficient to handle any additional flow that may result if the Engineers project proceeds under its current design. The Engineer’s report is devoid of any calculations and merely states: “Good outlet at West River Road at north end of ditch cleaning project, and no reports of road flooding there.”
- The Engineer’s report comments that there are “no potential wetlands present” per assessment by Coldwater Consulting LLC. Has that been verified with the EPA and/or OEPA? There is a belief that the entire area had been declared a wetlands such that the Ditch project as contemplated by the Engineer would violate the attendant regulations.

Third, it seems that the major impetus of the project is the repeated and very vocal claim of Tom Rini, whose property is several blocks away from the Mapleview Ditch and that already suffers from grading and foundation defects. Mr. Rini’s water infiltration issues are not caused by the Mapleview Ditch – he bought a low-lying property that already grades towards his house. Mr. Rini recently claimed that at least three other residents have suffered from basement flooding that he attributes to the Mapleview Ditch. Yet, he only provided documents showing that water damage may have occurred to one other resident – damage that is not identified as having been caused by the Mapleview Ditch. Further, Mr. Rini has recently told my clients that he has not suffered from water infiltration or basement flooding in his home for years and, in his words, “but I might”. Despite his loud and strident claims at the First Hearing that the Mapleview Ditch caused his basement to flood, he now admits that this is not a current condition, and his supposition that the might theoretically incur water damage in the future – albeit from his poorly grade backyard – does not justify this project. Further, Mr. Rini’s “sworn testimony” at the last hearing session is now suspect, at best.

Finally, my clients –along with area residents – have prepared a list of potential remedies that, deserve consideration before the Commissioners assess residents amounts that will cost five figures for some of the property owners – condign the Church! These suggestions include the following:

- Re-route storm sewer drain water from Candy Lane to West River Road Ditch. Easements already exist.
- Follow up on Commissioner Lundy’s suggestion about adding a retention pond to accept storm water until sewers can accommodate flow. There is undeveloped land off the “Rolling Meadow Extension” that could be utilized
- Review maintenance of storm sewers since some of them (Candy Lane) feed into the Ditch. At least one of the “floods” occurred when storm water came out of the drains and flooded the streets. This occurred BEFORE the ditch overflowed
- Before new property is developed, confirm that adequate and appropriate water flow is included in plans. Can low lying property be “adjusted” before development so that water will not collection the property? If necessary, route new storm sewers to the retention pond that Commissioner Lundy suggested. There is quite a bit of undeveloped property in the Mapleview Ditch Phase 2 area. The developer could/should donate property for the pond. It is our understanding that the major developer in the Oak Hills/Rolling Meadows developments was/is Ken Cassell, who is the current owner of much of the undeveloped property in Phase 2 of the ditch project.
- Manually clean ditch removing obstructions. (We believe Pastor Jones suggested this after the Hearing Par 1.)
- Some residents who had previous basement water issues told us they contracted to have gravel put next to their outer foundation walls. At the same time, a water proof sealant was applied to the wall. Maybe the 2-4 people that seem to have water problems could join together to get a better project sot. This may be necessary since even the engineer confesses in his report that the invasive Ditch cleaning project will not solve basement issues; he says in the report only that “it will feasibly reduce flooding in house basements”.
- To keep the ditch clean, the Township should consider creating a yard waste disposal are, similar to Amherst Townships site, Currently, Township residents don’t have a method of easily getting rid of yard waste/leaves. (No Township yard waste pick up, no burring.) as a result, some of the waste ends up in the ditch, either because Mother Nature puts them there, or because they get dumped. At the 9/1/15 Brownhelm Township Trustee meeting, the pastor from the Vermilion Baptist Church advised he’d walked the perimeter of the church property and found that neighbors were dumping yard waste over the fence onto the church property. How does Vermilion handle yard waste remove? If it’s the same way, they should consider a yard waste disposal area, too.
- There are several new programs in Ohio dedicated to finding ways to keep Lake Erie free of algae blooms. New programs usually mean new money. Perhaps have a grant writer look for State funds to finance the ditch cleaning. That way, if it’s more expensive, the Watershed will not be funding the project.

Thank you, in advance, to your careful attention to this matter that is of utmost importance to my clients and many other residents who would be impacted by the Project designed by the County Engineer.

Commissioner Kalo asked Assistant County Prosecutor Innes to swear in those wishing to give testimony, Mr. Innes did.

Commissioner Kalo asked if Township Trustees had any comments.

Orin Leimbach, Trustee he said there need has been established, photos exist of flooding street. The culvert was full of water not going out, basements have been flooded. He said there are 7 signatures on a petition and insurance claims have been submitted and given to the Clerk. When the development was established it extended an easement of 20 feet on the west side of the ditch and Skaladen's are on the east side and no part of an easement and there is some infringement on their part. The ditch is 10-15 feet from their house and he would like to propose a tile extend up further to the house to protect erosion and probably would increase cost. The Trustee voted to apply for \$60,000 in stormwater district funds; applications are due December 16 and have a meeting 1st of December to work out any details. Mr. Leimbach stated he is not a lawyer but there are laws regards to the impediments of water. There is a responsibility of homeowners to clean it out and grant would reduce the cost, or otherwise they would have to do it on their own and could be liable to do that. In regards to leaching into the lake, that whole area is clay soils

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and he has had a lot of training on soils and sediments and clay soils will not leach as much as sandy soils. As to the yard waste, idea for a long term solution, but not a short term solution.

Assistant Prosecutor Innes said this is the 1st step, Commissioners view the site, and 2nd step is to have the 1st hearing. Engineer submitted preliminary reports, estimate cost, benefits, and necessity. Evidence will be heard today and Commissioner will then decide to direct Engineer to finalize the reports and schedule a final hearing which will be evidentially hearing.

Commissioner Kalo said final hearing is preliminary set for February 5.

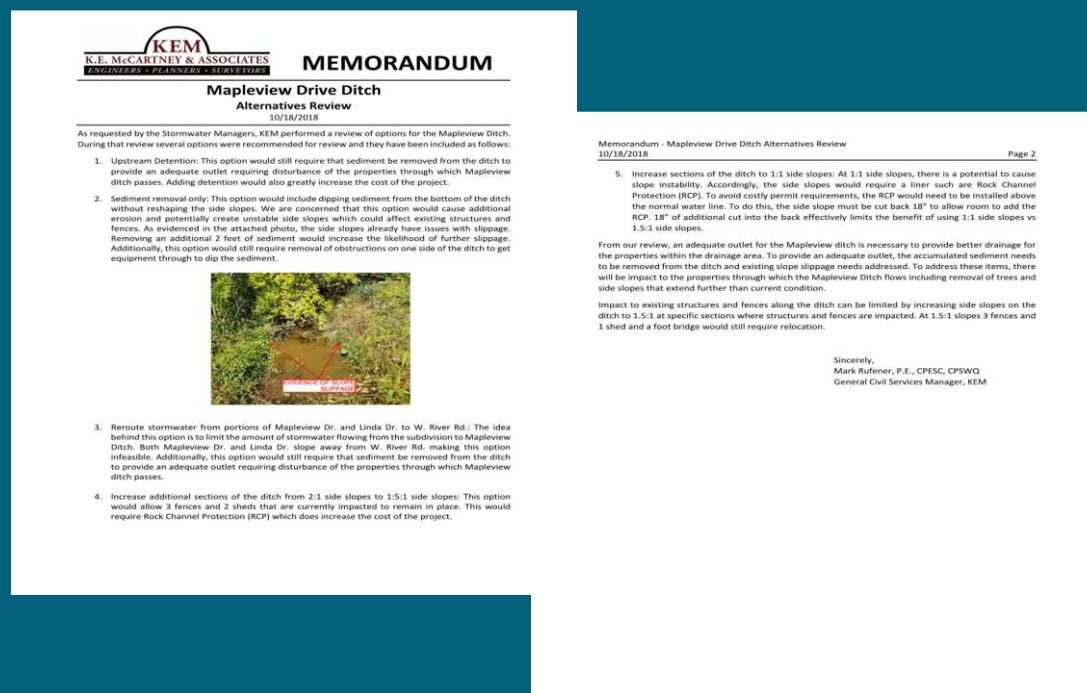
Commissioner Kalo asked City of Vermilion Mayor if he had any comments.

Mayor Forthofer stated he is here to learn more about how the process works and would hope that there are less invasive solutions but something is necessary. The City of Vermilion is partially responsible to maintain the ditch and working on schedules to maintain and needs to be restored than have a maintenance program. We learn as we go but do with less invasive process.

Commissioner Kalo asked Engineers' Office for comments.

Peter Zwick said at the September hearing it was requested to continue to investigate ALTERNATIVES to proposed ditch restoration and less invasive ways. He stated the Stormwater District hired K.E. McCartney to look at solutions, but they did not find anything or recommend any other alternatives. He believes good drainage is needed and the work to be done should be considered.

Consulting Engineer's Report:



Alternatives investigated

- Upstream Detention Basin
- New storm sewer re-routed to W. River Rd.
- Remove sediment only/do not re-shape the ditch
- Different side slopes of ditch
 - a. No change
 - b. Steeper side slopes
 - c. Add more rock on slopes
- Upstream Detention: INADEQUATE OUTLET
- New storm sewer to W. River Rd. INFEASIBLE
- Remove sediment only SLIPPAGE
- Different side slopes of ditch UNSTABLE,

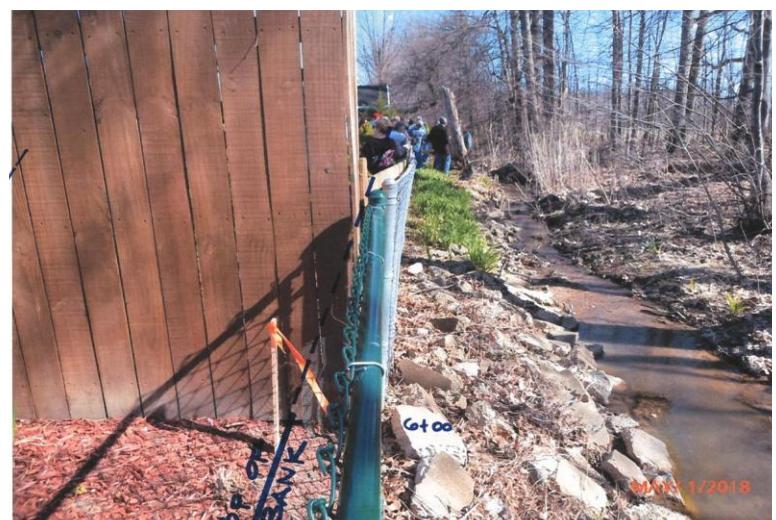
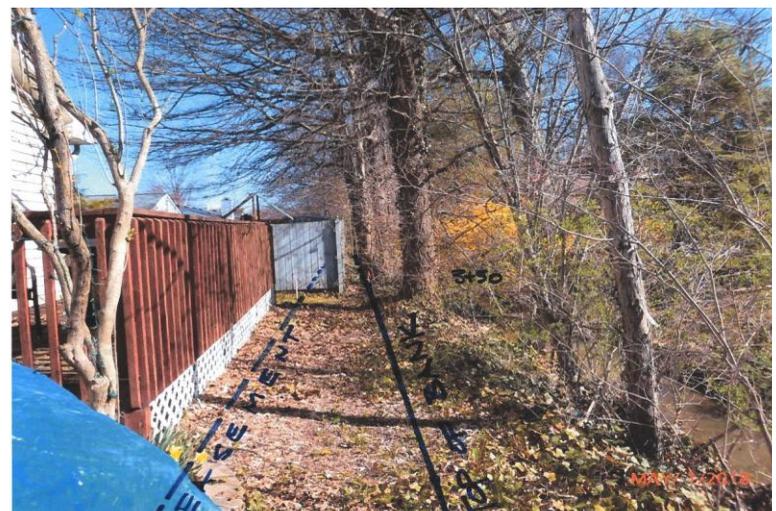
MORE COST

KE McCartney Conclusion; "From our review, an adequate outlet for the Mapleview ditch is necessary in order to provide better drainage for the properties within the drainage area. To provide an adequate outlet, the accumulated sediment needs to be removed from the ditch and existing slope slippage needs addressed. To address these items, there will be impact to the properties through which the Mapleview Ditch flows including removal of trees and side slopes that extend further than current condition."

Original proposal

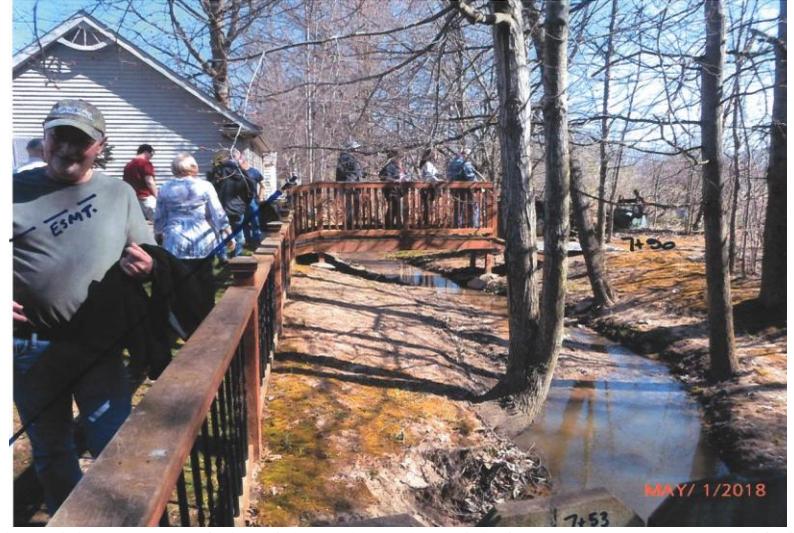
- New ditch is carefully engineered to gently meander through the existing yards so as to minimize impacts to all the properties. The following pictures show examples of impacts (or lack thereof).





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Commissioner Kokoski asked about the top of the bank on the other side. Mr. Zwick said on the other side is Stone property and it is about 20 feet from the edge. Commissioner Kokoski said another easement on the other side. Mr. Zwick said yes for access 25 feet.



Mr. Zwick said the proposal today is not really revised from what was presented in September; there are a few minor adjustments to side slopes possible. Tree removal is still required and some fences, sheds, etc. would still need to be relocated, representing the minimum impact necessary for proper drainage.

Mr. Zwick showed other ditch projects that were done. He stated the cost of construction is \$88,809 and Lorain County Engineer expects drainage benefits to outweigh costs.

Commissioner will whether to proceed, fix time of the final hearing so the County Engineer can prepare final surveys, plans, and specifications.

Commissioner Lundy said it has been looked at to minimize the impact of sheds, homes and garages that could be affected, and trees being removed. Mr. Zwick said yes they looked at every impact possible.

County Administrator said ongoing maintenance from easement, if not cleaned, how it would continue to provide proper maintenance. Mr. Zwick said maintenance on the Vermilion side. Mr. Cordes what about the equipment. Mr. Zwick said maintenance down Brownhelm side and that is the reason for cleaning the extra 25 feet on Stone property. Also the Skladan property, there are 2 lots and it has a significant pinch point and that would be very channeling in construction but once get in to do permanent maintenance geological soil condition will continue to fill but it has been 3-4 decades with siltation. Homes were built 30-40 years ago and on day 1 the pipes flowed free and today it has over 2 feet of sediment and will do all maintenance on township side with easement except Skladen it would be challenging. The District has sent in guys weed whackers because 20% of the ditch is more vertical.

Mr. Cordes asked about dipping the ditch. Mr. Zwick said just like construction you have to haul away spoils and that goes into the construction adjustment and would increase cost.

Commissioner Kalo said there is more fill/sediment in this ditch than other ditches. Mr. Zwick said this is an urban ditch; there are roads, 100 plus house drain and back than no silt. Further south Mapleview and behind Linda Drive there is a different channel with erosion sediment down the stream and farm on west side of RT2, lots of farms on south side and source of sediment, and it is flat and you still clean it out it will be flat.

Mr. Cordes said the closer you get to the lake, it is flat. Mr. Zwick said there is a picture that shows someone tried to clean it out and the slope is unstable and this will continue to erode. Mr. Cordes said digging deeper is not always the answer, only if concrete channel, but this is natural flow and need to stop that erosion. Mr. Zwick said they have taken everything into consideration to correct the ditch flow.

Commissioner Kokoski asked how many linear feet. Mr. Zwick said 1,450 feet and all good, no sediment at north of West River Road.

Commissioner Kalo asked residents if they had any comments.

Vivian Skaladen, 4500 Mapleview said her Attorney mailed her a letter that she would like to read; "the township and county decided to proceed with discussion of this project without having establishing true costs or the basis of having easements in place. Without having this they cannot develop true project and appropriation of your real property requires the necessary permits and easements and this would add to the project construction costs. The engineers encouragedin order to maintain true total cost project costs, they must be assessed borne by landowners. At some point the county must take..... either voluntarily or file a mandamus action to simply force the county to bring appropriation action to have the residents pay for this improvements that is not theshould the county move forward. Mr. Innes, the County Attorney has indicated at the November 12, 2018 meeting.....there were questions were asked, but refused to answer and were just simply asked by someone at the hearing,...the cost of the land...and what the government is suppose to do, and not doing it. It looks like you want the land and destroying real property and want us to pay for it. She has lived on this property since 1979, last house before the ditch and there is no problem, we called it a creek, kids pulled toads and turtles out of it and over the time it has eroded and when they were younger crawled in there. They are not young anymore, they can't do that. She has to say, every since you put that rock pile at the end of their driveway, cannot access all the junk and debris that floats to the large tile that you now put under the street. There were umbrellas there, never clean..chugging on down. On her side you have created more of mess and you don't have an easement....."

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Assistant County Prosecutor Innes said there was cross correspondence with Mr. Gargus and chapter 6131, provision ditch has due process procedures incorporated into it and after hearing, there is an appeal process and everyone is afforded an opportunity. He asked Mr. Gargus to provide case law on 163, appropriation process relating to his title because he has not been able to find a signal case note. He stated if this is appealed it would go to court, jury trial, 2nd jury trial for due process and Mr. Gargaz has the right to due process and if there is case law is there than would have to do different.

Larry Suscha, 4567 Linda Drive has been to 2 meetings and walked the ditch, has lived in Brownhelm Township for 33 years. He has seen houses on his side of the street, north side of street, 1000 feet off his backyard being 3 feet deep. There have been flooded basements 3, 4, 5 feet of water at different times. There have been homes bought and sold off the market. The issue he has with the drains is loss of property and nothing is being done to resolve the problem. He thinks if the ditch moves forward it needs to be large enough to handle more water than just heavy rainThe problem is back when Army Corp of Engineer did SR2. The water that comes of SR2 goes into black river, then our backyard through all the trees. The church had a gravel drive parking lot for years, now its asphalt, water just runs off. The township over the last 10 years has not cleaned debris down Linda/Candy Lane...there are trees and rocks down....they get a new truck \$250,000....sediment. This last week township put blacktop chip and tar down and 1st time snow plow comes down through it will clear it out and run into the ditch. There is more water that runs off SR2 into our backyards and going forward cleaning this ditch needs to handle the water but when you have low line the water will still be there, something needs done.

Frank Laudonia, 4568 Linda Drive (did not speak into the microphone so not picked up)...he had a general question as to solving the problem taking the people on Linda Drive rather than Linda/Candy to ditch, being all connected.

Peter Zwick said he believes the short answer to his question has to be it has to be directed the way it is today because of the natural land fall towards the ditch.... This project is restoration, it's terrible now and maintenance has not been done, original was built over 40 years. .projects are engineered to certain standards.....its much more costly to rebuild all the streets with drainage structures.....we will continue to get the extreme storms and could flood, but this ditch needs a lot of help.

Frank said divert water before Candy Lane to prevent Mr. Rini problem. Mr. Zwick said it is physically impossible to divert water, because you have the grade down Candy Lane , then connects even higher part of the ditch....Frank said water runs down West River down Linda towards west and his house is higher than ditch....would that solve the problem of water on Linda Drive going further south. Mr. Zwick said you would just be moving the problem. Frank said could cause.....more house south of Mapleview...Peter said he is not sure that this would be physical, Frank said water drains south to north, Peter said yes. Frank said there is water on the church property, Peter said this is not permanent water, and there is alot when it rains. He stated that it is natural rain pattern from the church, yes goes into the backyards. Frank said do ditch, this is the only thing to do. Peter said he is not aware of anything else.....

Commissioner Kokoski asked if there are also storm sewers in the neighborhood and are they all functioning property. Mr. Zwick said we had a cost estimate to jet out Mapleview and there was sediment from Skaladen to Candy Lane and do that today but the water slit go back to the pipe there, pipe has no outlet.

Mr. Cordes said no outlet. Peter said the sediment in the water continues to build up. Mr. Cordes said where is the outlet. Pete said it is in the ditch but there is no flow for this outlet to go. Commissioner Kokoski said under the road. Peter said

Larry Suscha, told Mr. Zwick last summer June/September, Candy Lane was restored/rebuilt why not clean out then. Mr. Zwick said this was a brand new street project with concrete and the funds were received from OPWC. If jet pipes out the sediment there is no place for it to go, uphill over the ditch and then filters back out. This compete project would jet out and remove all sediment at outlet for it to flow property. Commissioner Kalo said fall from West River to the west.

Mark Jones, Pastor - 1st Baptist Church, Vermilion. He said gutter backs up and overflows and he cleans them, so just think about this ditch not being cleaned for 30-40 years. What if it was just cleaned to see if it flows before this invasive project is done. He can get the mission groups and with the residents permission to clean out. The cost to the residents and church is an awful cost and looked at the pictures today and we could dig the ditch they do work with disaster teams. He would like for the county to give them the opportunity to clean it out and see how it flows and then do an annual ditch cleaning. Now there is just stuff dumped in there, need to clean out before the invasive method is done Commissioner Kokoski appreciates the Pastors suggestion.

Ken Cassell, 5425 Liberty Ave., Vermilion thanked the Commissioners for allowing the residents to speak. He owns over 10 acres south of Mapleview Drive it's on all wooded area. He received notice to assess his property he owns but not receiving benefit of property Mapleview north, since his land lies south and why if assess including the land. Like the Pastor suggested clean immediate relief and neighbor allow and suggest this before the commissioners do this project. Clean Mapleview ditch north and provide good flow and ongoing to be done in spring. Objection is he does not receive benefit.. Commissioner Kalo said your property drains north to the ditch you are in the watershed. Mr. Cassel said in watershed, why watershed not by itself, it stops south of SR2, the big culvert is the majority of the water that comes north. Water comes south and is flooded with sediments and fertilizer from golf course to south and highway with tremendous open area, flood at culverts after rain. Maybe then the whole thing should be taken care of

William Rosa, 1501 Rolling Meadow Drive (did not speak into the microphone so not picked up) said not exact solution expanding ditch, yes there is flooding in the ditch and has affected his basement and insurance was capped, this is not make believe, it happens. There is a problem recent blockage. A solution needs to be found.....he shares his concern to have a simpler solution. He stated Zwick is very courtesy and polite handles this well and thanked the Commissioners for listening. He did feel intimidation, they stood by the door and don't speak, low level intimidation goes on with the anti ditch side.

Brandy Rosa, 1501 Rolling Meadow Drive (did not speak into the microphone so not picked up) not always expressed concerns but there is misconceptions and misfacts and engineer permit.....structure of the houses,asked to move.....and theirs is not the case. The damage to their house is more than one fifth overall project costs and that is just them. She stated Tom Rini has been a loud voice but there are more people affected. She has heard, turn ditch into river, if you come behind the houses during a rain, it's not a ditch, it's an over flown river that turns into a lake. It is a very different scene on our side of Rolling Meadows to the bridge. There is not a lot of water that goes through. She does feel frustration, money coming from residents, obviously, no one wants to pay more taxes, and no one wants to pay more taxes. She stated Vermilion has done nothing heard they are not suppose too, but nothing has been done in the last 3 decades. The township blames that part of the ditch is the cities responsibility, so they are touching it. She feels that there is a chock hole between the Township and City which effects the residents more and no one does anything.....She said this is a long term thing, ditch clean out....and short term....just can't keep doing this with it being no ones responsibility. Advantage \$88,000 is a lot of money but they are already but they are already a 5th there..... She also stated that yes they were told at the last meeting not to talk, they did not appreciate that, and encouraged them more to speak up and it was asked to reserve to speak...and just ask that a solution is found whatever it is.....

Louise Hardwick, co owner of Farm, Stone Harbor Farm, acres on Rolling Meadows (did not speak into the microphone so not picked up). Couple things, on the topic of intimidation, it was never intended. She had a piece of with questions....and the 4 questions were; 1) name; 2) how long live there 3) project is not necessary...never had flooding 4) there is no benefit to me.. She said some people are afraid to speak, so she gave examples of what they might say to move for or against it and apologize to the Rosa's and it was not her intention to not have people speak. A couple things....restore ditch, she had the farm 100 years and the ditch never looked like...so restoring the ditch is a concern.. At the last hearing we had our attorney give binders and in section 8 is a huge section on the importance of trees. Talks about the foliage of the trees let

them grown.....to ...search for water. The roots are good for the tree to keep nitrates, phosphors from running into the stream. So it is for trees, and they are talking about taking down all the trees, but it is important to keep these trees..... She said the Cassel assessment...there was a time that not being assessed and August 28 they were told they would all get assessed and a lot of people did not realize they were even charged for this project. They are being charged \$10,000 and plus they are taking over \$21,000 easement of their land and that does not sit well with her.. She likes the idea of Finding a less invasive way and you have volunteers and people that are willing to do and don't understand why we can't do that first before we choose a \$100,000 project of which there is no where take about compensation of their land or trees that are really important to her and how important trees really are, she did not realize this and mind blowing and she also want to apologize again for thinking she was intimidating that was not her intent.

Commissioner Kokoski said how many gallons of water a day does a tree need to survive and does not take some of the water issues, problems away from the ditch. Mr. Zwick said he does not know exact how many gallons of water a tree needs, trees take up water in their roots and is evaporated and expires from their leaves...Unfortunately it is not possible to construct this project with neglected and overgrownthere is a lot of things to take out, brush, leaves, pricker bushes...trees and frankly it is your job, the commissioners.....

Louise Hardwick said in Section 8 on the first page, a maple oak tree requires over 40,000 gallons of water per year. Commissioner Kokoski asked if these trees were oak. Ms. Hardwick said she is sure they are oak, they are huge. County Administrator Cordes said the problem with that is there is not 40,000 gallons of water flowing in that ditch, that's really a poor analogy. Yes, trees are necessary...for the land but they do not take enough water quickly enough..Commissioner Kokoski said not flowing ditch...Stone said she understands...Mr. Cordes said the flow in the ditch is the problem, not how much water a tree takes up in course of a year. Ms. Stone said she would think that the rain that is coming down its absorbing the water, Mr. Cordes said not absorbing that much, it's a misrepresentation...Ms. Stone said spreading the water too...Mr. Cordes said the soil will only accept so much water than it will flow off the property, so we have a lot of problems with that...tile of the property..of where it is suppose to go. He wants to be honest with you, a lot has to with farmland tile, because water reshapes with maximum water retention on the property and causes a lot of flooding in other places. He likes what people said earlier...but it would just move the problem. We have seen a lot of moving of problems as long as it is not on someone else's, or on my property, then don't care whose properties it is on. To say that we have to save the trees to mitigate this problem would not be an accurate reflection of what is going on.

Brandy Rosa, said on the trees issue, there was a tree that was half way on the ditch, halfway in the ditch, half way on the current temporary easement and it is dying off since there is so much flooding there and it is actually killing the tree. It actually started and fell and broke the fences and also feel that the trees that are on the easement are eroded and the erosion and dying and causing more damage.....an actually tree branch fell in their yard and is causing more back up in their ditch. They cleaned up what they could but they do not have to move a 1000 pound tree branch that is now also causing problems...and she thinks it is also more important to the problem than saving all these trees.

Commissioner Kalo said to Attorney Hauser, you spoke at the first hearing because you said you were not going to make it. Clerk stated she was not sworn in. Attorney Hauser said you are going to deny a person the opportunity. Commissioner Kalo said you will be given 60 seconds, attorney Hauser said you know how lawyers are. Assistant County Prosecutor Innes sworn in Attorney Hauser.

Attorney Laura Hauser said as she sits here and listens and represents Stone and Hartwick, she has listened to what everyone has said and there are a whole bunch of things that we actually can agree on that informs the commissioners what we do now..... This is what we can agree on with folks who are on different side of the issues. There is an issue with flooding in some of these homes. We can also agree that the engineers report there is no guarantee that this project will resolve. That is one thing we can agree on. Another thing we can agree on, is that the Rosa's questions, there was an event after which the condition on the property.....and that was the construction of the Mapleview culvert. There was an event.... The other thing that we can agree on is that the ditch has not been cleaned and heard that it has been 4-5 decades. WE can probably also agree on that cleaning the ditch , is the 1st step less invasive than the clear cutting on the large project the engineer office is proposing. We can also agree that there were initial costs over a year that the restoration project would not be cost to the landowners and now that has changed to a significant cost to her clients...and cost to the other landowners, we can all agree on that. That cost can be reduced if there was a less invasive project first before expend what she thinks right now, is an unknown cost because what is not part of the plan, is the cost of compensate every single owner...for their property, an easement that does not exist today. There is going to be a cost and know that you are trying to avoid...but there will be an additional costs above and beyond what the project estimate already includes, for which.....compensate folks.....and rather than embark on this invasive.....offer to manage the other proposal that was proposed this would be a good step.

Commissioner Kalo said board has options, do nothing or continue to have engineer's office move forward. Mr. Innes said yes.

Commissioner Lundy said there have been discussions on volunteer groups and give credit to the folks, there is flooding in the area and these volunteers would do as needed but it is legal on private property, county property. Mr. Innes said if people clean their own property, can't do under authority of the commissioners but they are free to get together and make arranges the clean out. In the past trustee were allowed to do work, can't prevent. Mr. Cordes said who's responsible for ditch maintenance on property. Mr. Zwick said the property owners. Mr. Cordes said yes, until the Commissioners are petitioned. He said it is always the responsibility of the owner to maintain and it has not been done for decades, some owners do and other don't do anything. He said unfortunately you have to do it all because doing nothing lessens the impact of people that do something.

Commissioner Kalo said live in Martins Run, Lorain and some do here and some don't and he has experienced flooding.

Mr. Cordes said some folks do, some don't and some others impede and if all get together to make some improvements that is good, but this will not take care of taking the trees down and soil withdrawn, but tress do hang over and lot in the ditch, some are even dying in the ditch and there was even a time on other ditch that there was pressure don't cut down the dying tree in the ditch because an owl lived in it.

Commissioner Kokoski said unique Township, City and Church and residents working together so it is not just a county or city project so if we can do something, like Mayor Forthofer said, he would like to see something less intrusive, less invasive. We have people that are willing to do some of this work; we don't know that this project done at its completion will solve the problem. She has flooding right now in her sump pump runs 24/7 and re-circulates the same water over and over again. So we have a storm sewer problem, we have a ditch problem. Mr. Cordes said Mr. Zwick indicated that there was at least 2 feet of silt in the ditch, how hard is this to remove silt by hand for a private homeowner, can this be done by hand. Commissioner Kokoski said well maybe not, but the whole entire ditch, along the whole entire ditch the whole thing is a pinch point, it is so tight throughout that area, all the way down. If we can do it less invasive anyway, shape or form, she thinks we should try that first. She understands it is silted up and Rosa's said this blockage has only been happening a year and you are saying it has been built up for 40 years, they have only been flooding for a year, so something happened. Something has changed the dynamics and changed the route of the water to make them start flooding all of a sudden. She said Mr. Rini might have another problem, maybe the church because the church parking lot was paved from gravel; something changed the flow of the water.

Mr. Cordes said just like logs falling they cause log jams, Commissioner Kokoski said yes that stops it, it does not take much. Commissioner Kokoski said trees falling, branches falling and knows there is a tree right in the middle that needs to come out, start with little things first.

Mr. Cassell asked if there is grant money available now. Mr. Cordes said the grant money has already been applied to this project, how much was the grant. Clerk stated there was \$21,840. Mr. Romancak said they have applied to SWAC for additional funds for this project.

Mr. Cassell said can the \$21,840 be used to apply for the cleaning of the ditch. Mr. Cordes said the application that was approved through SWAC was for this original project. When and if the Township applies it has to go through the SWAC and it is put through factors for qualifications. Mr. Cassell said can we use the money to clean the ditch now. Mr. Cordes said no, this was not what the application was

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approved for and he is Chair of SWAC for 7 years and Don Romancak has been Assistant Chair. Mr. Romancak said yes, the project original considered we had a certain amount of funds and since this time, there was additional funds needed to do this project right once it was walked and viewed. Mr. Cordes said not his understanding not just the consideration of the cost but the intrusive of the property and normally there is very limited objection to work on ditches but mostly the cost issue is wrestles with. Like Commissioner Kokoski said this is an interested process here beaus we are wrestling with multiple objections that are....attention so we correct one, maybe we could get more money but this does not correct the approach of reshaping the bank, whatever is done will not make the majority of the people happy.

Commissioner Kalo said we do know that residents can go on to the property and clean the ditches and no one else did their jobs, it is there responsibility or it then gets to the Commissioners to make the decision in accordance.

Mr. Cordes said the subcommittee is made up of Mr. Zwick, several Township Trustees and SWAC don't look at application until the subcommittee has reviewed and ranked and then SWAC will then send to Stormwater District board to either adopt or not adopt and can say they really have never not adopted the SWAC recommendations.

Commissioner Lundy said there is \$3-400,000 every year in grants, there are 18 townships that vie for these grants and there are several projects that are not gotten too. Some projects are phased, to spread more around and they are all ranked in order to maximize the funds. Mr. Cordes said we also have ditches outside stormwater district, which is complicated and believe we can use money for these projects but cautious with work outside the county

Commissioner Kalo said there are multiple things. Mr. Cassel said what can be done to alleviate the problem now. Commissioner Kalo said we have spoke with the Engineer and no way...Mr. Cordes said after the last hearing, Commissioners were requested to bring outside firm for less intrusive on the ditch and hired KE McCartney and their report was supported of what Mr. Zwick said and we could move the problem, we could mitigate for a little while but still Mr. Zwick solution was still the correct way.

Mr. Cassel thanked the Commissioners for listening and said a resolution needs to be found.

Commissioner Kalo said we can continue, instruct Engineer to move forward to 2/5

He suggests to have Peter move forward with final cost and if residents want to clean ditch, go ahead.

Commissioner Lundy said we need to figure out what role Vermilion has. Commissioner Kalo said he does not know what their discussion have been with the Township.

Orrin Leimbach, Brownhelm Township Trustee said in terms of ongoing maintenance of the ditch, they have not done anything or discussed anything with Vermilion. It is his understanding that SWAC pretty much take care of maintenance of Brownhelm Township side of the ditch and the City is responsible for their side of the ditch, whether or not they choose to do this as a city or borne the cost onto their residents. Commissioner Kalo said or contracted with Engineer to do. Mr. Leimbach said correct.

Mr. Cordes the Stormwater District not SWAC would be responsible for the maintenance and we hire the county engineer to do maintenance if there is a project if no project then we have no responsibility to do. Mr. Leimbach said that's where it comes into the benefit to, because along that ditch, in that by doing project.... and he has personally responding to the trees, he has 80 acres of conservation easement because he has trees but if you have a tree that big growing in the middle of the ditch, you will have sediment. To slow the water down, there will be sediments because grass to water carries that sediment that is in there and carries it eventually to the lake. But if you slow the water down and keep hearing that something happened recently and think what happened recently, the more clogged up the ditch gets the slower the water moves. Mr. Cordes said what goes up into the bank stays very wet lose anchor properly and trees will collapse. To clarify if this project is complete through the stormwater district the board of commissioners approve there would be assessment for maintenance and then is usually suspended.

Commissioner Kalo he would suggest the engineer move forward

Commissioner Kokoski said you are making a motion to move forward, Commissioner Kalo said go forward with all the costs and bring back on February 5. Commissioner Kokoski said this will not give time for the residents, township and city an opportunity to do something on their own. Mr. Cordes said self help in the middle of winter could be somewhat challenging.

Commissioner Lundy said continuation since we have multiple parties involved and continue to figure out what roles these parties will play and try to get it resolved. Commissioner Kalo said do you want to continue the hearing again and asked the Clerk if it would be same date. Clerk Upton stated the date she gave was since the time Peter submitted was within eh 90 days. We could have a hearing anytime you would like. Commissioner Lundy said we will be looking at prices, because we have to figure out what role Vermilion is doing and cost could be adjusted.

Mr. Cordes suggested if we have Peter doing the work we would have a better cost to see if the Stormwater District will accept and approve the additional funds and that meeting of Stormwater is January 15.

Commissioner Kalo said continue this hearing until 2/5 and submit updated final cost and then do a final hearing sometime within 90 days. Commissioner Kokoski said this will give the residents the opportunity to get together and figure out a plan to get this taken care of so we don't have to come in there. Commissioner Kokoski said if there are trees down, big branch in the ditch, is it the responsibility of the homeowner or could the township ask for help. Mr. Cordes said if it constitutes a log jam, there are resources, if it is a log in the ditch, it is the homeowner responsibility.

Clerk said her understanding is to continue this hearing until 2/5 at which time, Commissioners could then decide within 90 days; April 30 would be the 84th day for final hearing. Clerk said Engineer will submit the plans on February 5

Mr. Leimbach said the final price could be determined because the township will put in application for swac grant. Mr. Cordes said it won't be journalized. Mr. Zwick said not really his problem; Clerk stated that is why she asked the questions.

Commissioner Kalo said instruct Engineers office to get the final plans together for the 2/5 meeting and then within 90 days; 84th day April 30 will be the determination to go or not go further.

Jerry Innes said we need to do a finding, Commissioner Kokoski said we are just continuing

Clerk said then we are continuing this until February 5. Then on that day the commissioners will determine to order the final hearing. Mr. Innes said procedure require to find order. Commissioner Kalo said we are just asking Peter to get closer to final cost on 2/5. Then on 2/5 then we can possible order final on or around April 30.

Mr. Cordes said we are going to do findings in order to maybe finalize the engineer costs. At that point than you have to schedule a date to hear about the final engineering. Clerk said April 30. Mr. Cordes said could be but you don't have to make a final decision, you just have to make a report and then have 90 days from that point, so maybe sometime in the summer. He would say for the board's consideration and going to do a project making a decision in July or August will not get the project done in fall. Mr. Cordes said it will be challenging if you make a decision until late spring to get it done in late fall, so the time frames will be adjusted to actual work
Commissioner Kokoski said she hopes something will be done by the residents.

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Mr. Leimbach as we talk about completing up with a final price, the issue will be with timing. If they put in this application for a grant through SWAC and application is for \$69,900/\$70,000 and come up with entire amount then we have a problem with township putting anything budget not allowed. Mr. Cordes said this began as a petition with assessment with grant monies and if there is some shortfall this could be made up with assessment of the project. Mr. Cordes said the project don't stop, grant money just defrays cost, say there is a \$10,000 difference then it would go between owners.

Commissioner Kalo moved to continue the hearing until February 5, 2019 at 9:30 a.m., seconded by Lundy following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 18-745

In the matter of continuing the hearing on the Mapleview) Ditch, Brownhelm Township to February 5, 2019) November 20, 2018

WHEREAS, today was a continued hearing from the testimony that was received on September 18, 2018, in order for the County Engineer to review other options on the petition to clean ditch; and

WHEREAS, during testimony today; there are residents that are for and against the project. Some would like to see a less intrusive, invasive way to do the project and there are some residents willing to work on getting volunteers to clean the ditch; and

WHEREAS, Brownhelm Township Trustees will be submitting a grant to SWAC for additional funds for said project and a determination is to be made by SWAC in January 2019; and

WHEREAS, this will give the Engineer a further cost determination for said project.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Lorain County Board of Commissioners do hereby continue this hearing of the Mapleview Ditch, Brownhelm Township until 9:30 a.m., on February 5, 2019.

Motion by Kalo, seconded by Lundy to adopt Resolution. Upon roll call the vote taken thereon, resulted as: Ayes: Kalo, Lundy & Kokoski / Nays: None
Motion carried. _____(discussion was held on the above)

B **Other Business**

Mr. Cordes requested an executive session to discuss pending litigation issues.

C. **Clerk's Report:**

#1. Clerk said we will not be meeting tomorrow, Happy Thanksgiving, next meeting is Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 9:30 a.m., Commissioners meeting

D **Public Comment: (Please limit comments to 3 minutes Thank-you)**

There were no additional comments.

JOURNAL ENTRY

Commissioner Kalo moved, seconded by Lundy to recess into an executive session at 11 am to discuss pending litigation issue. Upon roll call the vote taken resulted as; Ayes: Kalo, Lundy & Kokoski / Nays: None
Motion carried.

With no further business before the Board, Motion by Kalo seconded by Lundy to adjourn at 2:00 p.m. Upon roll call the vote taken thereon, resulted as: Ayes: Kalo, Lundy & Kokoski / Nays: None
Motion carried.

The meeting then adjourned.

_____)Commissioners
Ted Kalo, President)
)
)of
_____)
Matt Lundy, Vice-president)
)
)
_____)Lorain County
Lori Kokoski, Member)Ohio

Attest: _____, Clerk

Please note that the Commissioners' meetings are open to the public. **The scheduled air times for the meetings will be shown on Saturday at 12:00 Noon and Monday at 11:00 p.m.** subject to change at the discretion of the Lorain County Community College. The meetings might be also broadcasted in additional time periods as scheduling permits. If anyone wants to purchase a copy of the Commissioners Meeting Tapes, please call Lorain County Records Center at 440-326-4866\

**COUNTY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22 AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

