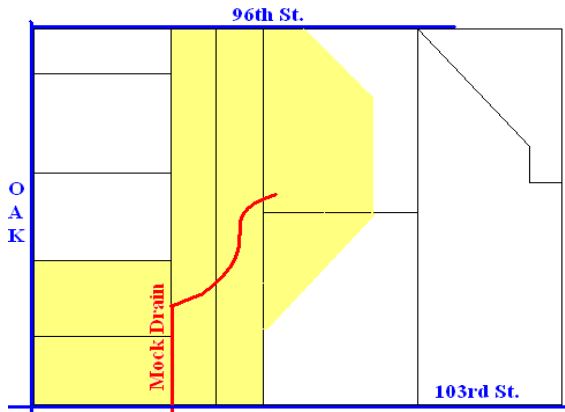


**Q. What is a Drainage District?**

**A.** A drainage district is a legally established area of lands that receive benefits from the drain.

**Q. What is a Drain Special Ass**

**A.** County drainage districts are special public entities with their own final assessment. Each district is supported by a drain assessment that covers the cost of maintaining the drainage system.

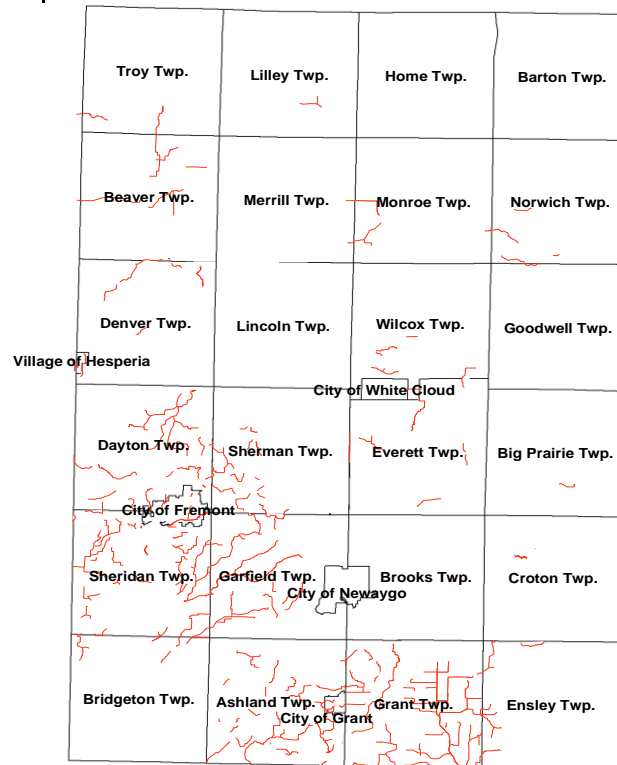
**Q. I have standing water in my yard under the Drain Commissioner's jurisdiction?**

**A.** No. The Drain Commissioner only maintains established county drains. Generally, it is the landowner's responsibility to drain his/her water to a public outlet.

**Q. I have a problem with my roadside ditch. Is it under the Drain Commissioner's jurisdiction?**

**A.** The Drain Commissioner only has the right to maintain established county drains, which rarely run along the road. Stop by, call, or email us and we will work with the Road Commission to address your concerns.

315 County Drains  
 Totaling 320 +/- Miles.  
 Draining 177,222 +/- Acres.  
 Oldest-Peck Lake Drain Established in 1877.

**Other Drain Commissioner Responsibilities**

By statute, the Drain Commissioner is a member of the following:  
 Newaygo County Board of Public Works  
 Newaygo County Parks Board  
 and any Lake Improvement Boards within the county. Current Lakes with an established Board include: Brooks, Diamond, Englewright, Hess, Pickerel/Kimball, and Ryerson Lakes.



**Commissioner**  
**Earle E. Twing**

Monday-Friday  
 9-12pm & 1pm-4pm  
 100 S. North Street  
 White Cloud, MI 49349  
 Phone: (231) 689-7213  
 Fax: (231) 689-7266  
 E-mail:

[DaleT@co.newaygo.mi.us](mailto:DaleT@co.newaygo.mi.us)

On the Web:

[www.countyofnewaygo.com/draincommissioner.aspx](http://www.countyofnewaygo.com/draincommissioner.aspx)

**Drain Commissioner Staff**

John Borgman - Deputy Drain Commissioner  
 Carolyn Haik - Secretary  
 Earle Hable - Maintenance Supervisor  
 Kenny Hall - Maintenance Tech

The Drain Commissioner is elected to office every four years in counties with a population over 12,000. It is the only elected office in Michigan that can directly levy taxes. The Drain Commissioner is responsible for planning, developing, and maintaining surface water drainage systems under the Michigan Drain Code, PA 40 of 1956. This includes the construction and maintenance of drains, determining drainage districts, apportioning cost of drains among property owners, and receiving bids and awarding contracts for drain construction. He or she also approves drainage in new developments, subdivisions, and has the authority to maintain lake levels.

### Soil Erosion

In addition the Drain Commissioner is the County Enforcing Agent for the **Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program** enforcing [Part 91 of Act 451](#) of 1994, formally P.A. 347 of 1972, and the [Administrative Rules](#) for **all earth disturbance's within 500 feet of a lake, river, stream, or the earth disturbance of over an acre of land.**



Primary duties of our maintenance crew are keeping the drains flowing & Right-of-Way's accessible. By: Spraying brush with EPA & MDA registered herbicides. Removing trees, brush, deadfall, beaver dams & debris by hand or use of mechanical equipment.



Repairing or maintaining washouts, tile blowouts, & in-stream control structures such as rock check dams, weirs (dams), & drain crossings.



The Drain Maintenance crew is responsible for the maintenance and repair of all the lake level control structures. (**per court orders**)



Lake Level structures are also required by law to have a Tri-annual Inspection, completed by an engineer.



Newaygo County has 7 Established Lake Levels: Brooks, Fremont, Hess, Newaygo Chain of Lakes, Robinson, Ryerson, and Sand.

The drain Maintenance crew also work closely with other departments such as the Road Commission, Building & Grounds, WCSU, COLA, Parks, and the Oceana Co. Drain Commissioner Among others.



