

# Fairchild Creek and Extension Drain Board of Determination

Albee Township Hall

10645 East Road, Burt Michigan

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

6:00 PM



**Brian J. Wendling**

**Saginaw County Public Works Commissioner**

# Meeting Agenda

- I. Introduction
- II. Opening of Board of Determination Meeting
- III. Outline of the Board of Determination Procedure
- IV. Inspection Report
- V. Public Testimony - (3 minutes per person.)
- VI. Vote of Board of Determination
- VII. Appeal Procedures and Closing Comments
- VIII. Adjournment

# Role of the B.O.D.

- The Board of Determination's role is to make one decision:
  1. Whether the project is necessary based on public health, convenience or welfare
  
- The Board of Determination DOES NOT decide:
  - The scope of the project
  - The cost of the project
  - How much property owners and municipalities are assessed for the project

# Public Comment

- The speaking order will be on a first come, first served basis. Petitioner will have a chance to speak first.
- State your full name and address. Spell your last name for the court reporter.
- Limit comments to 3 minutes.

# Public Comment (cont.)

- Briefly state your position on the petition for the Fairchild Creek and Extension Drain. For example: “I support the petition for the Fairchild Creek and Extension Drain because . . .” or “I oppose the petition for the Fairchild Creek and Extension Drain because . . .”
- Remember to stay on topic! Comments for tonight’s meeting are limited to the current petition for the Fairchild Creek and Extension Drain only.
- The Public Works Commissioner’s staff will gladly speak with you on other topics after the conclusion of tonight’s meeting.

# Drain Facts

- Fairchild Creek and Extension Drain was established as a county drain in 1902.
- Multiple maintenance improvement projects were constructed via petitions since it was established including: 1936, 1938, 1943-45, 1953, 1956 (branch), 1961-63, 1973-1974.
- The last maintenance improvement petition was found NOT NECESSARY on January 12, 2000.
- The current petition was filed on September 15, 2020. It was circulated by Jonathon Oakes and David Kunik and was signed by 17 freeholders.

# Drain Facts Continued

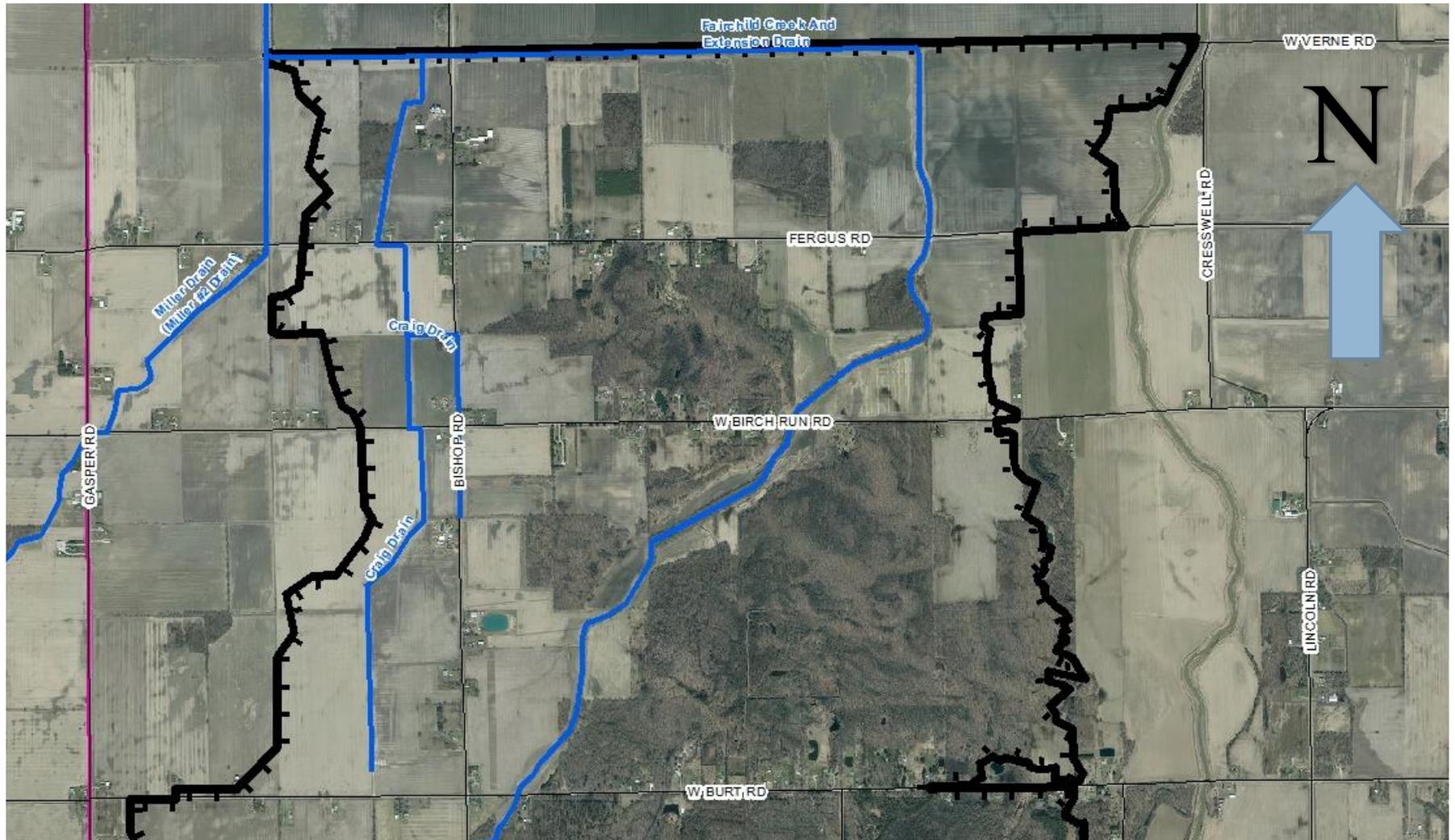
- Location of Fairchild Creek and Extension Drain (including the Branch)
  - ▣ Approximately 55,690 feet long ( 10.5 miles)
  - ▣ Watershed area: Approx. 16,463 acres (25.7 square miles)
- What is the drainage district?
  - ▣ Lands that contributes storm water to drain
  - ▣ Drainage District serves as the special assessment district
  - ▣ Fairchild Creek and Extension Drain Drainage District includes:
    - Albee Township
    - Chesaning Township
    - Maple Grove Township
    - St. Charles Township
    - Michigan Department of Transportation
    - Saginaw County
    - Landowners – Approximately 876 parcels



# Drain Inspection

- On September 14, 2021 a field review of the Drain (inspection from the road crossings only) was completed as a result of the petition filed with the Public Works Commissioner. We concentrated on the downstream stretch of drain from Burt Road north and west to the outlet at the Miller Drain. The following was observed:
  - It appears that most of the drain has trees along it. There appeared to be areas where the banks had dikes/berms, possibly from old spoils. The drain is very wide, similar to a natural river. There appeared to be decent flow in the drain, however there is continuous backwater due to current high water levels.

# Drain Inspection Continued



# Looking Downstream (West) from Bishop Road

Trees & brush  
along drain,  
good water flow



# Looking Upstream (East) from Bishop Road



Dikes along  
Drain. Decent  
water flow

## Looking Downstream (North) from Fergus Road

Trees \ brush along  
drain; dikes both  
sides of drain,  
decent water flow



## Looking Upstream (South) from Fergus Road

Trees \ brush along  
drain; dikes both  
sides of drain,  
decent water flow



# Looking Downstream (North) from Birch Run Road

Trees \ brush along drain; some dikes along drain, okay water flow



# Looking Upstream (South) from Birch Run Road

Trees \ brush along  
drain; dikes both  
sides of drain



**Approx. 1,600 feet north of Burt Road (Picture from 12/2019)**



**Trees \ brush in  
and along drain**

# Looking Downstream (North) from Burt Road

Trees \ brush  
along drain



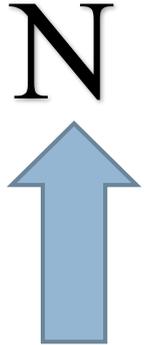
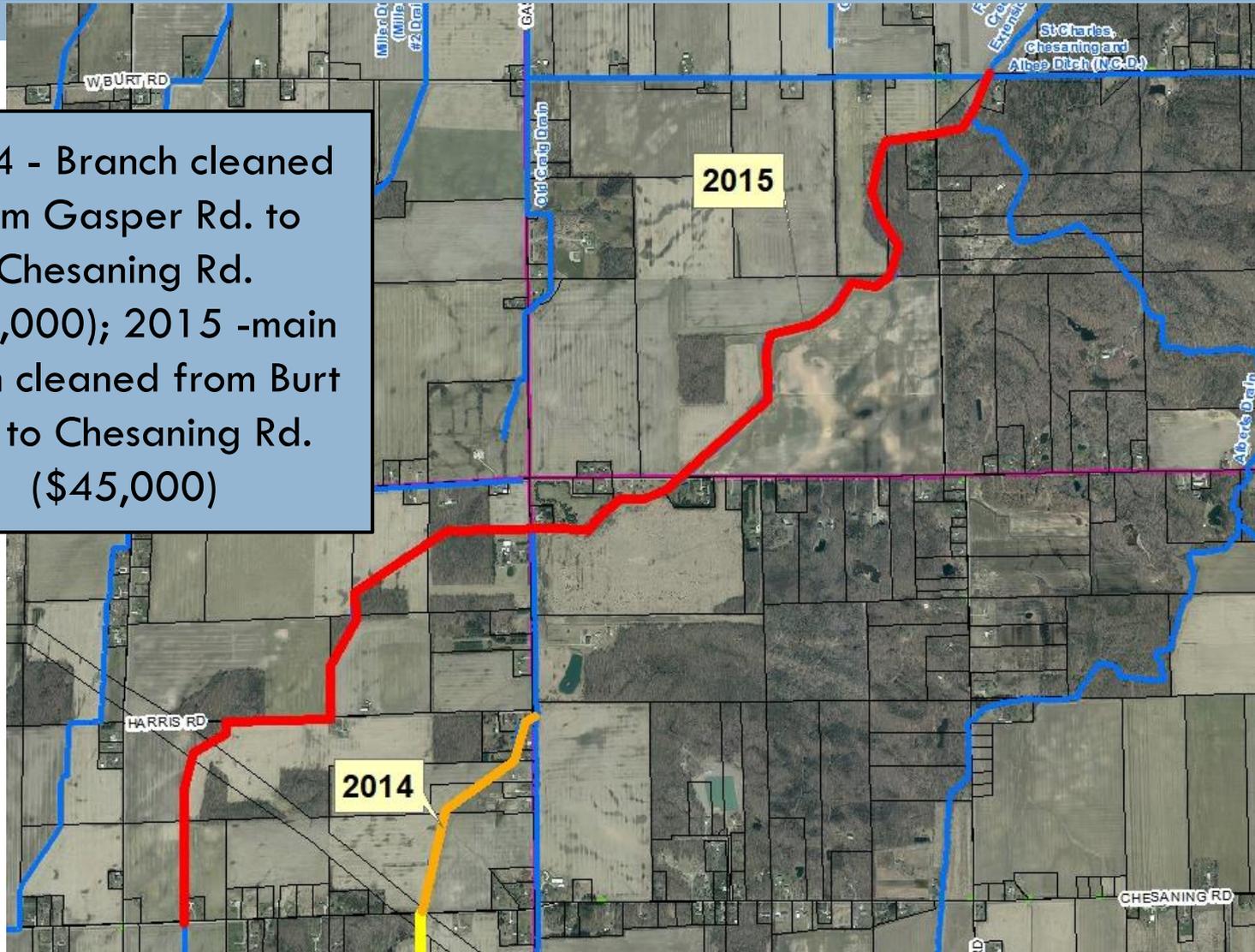
# Looking Upstream (South) from Burt Road

Drain cleaned  
2015



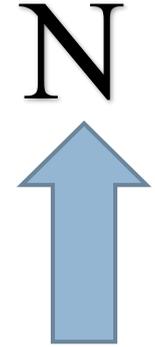
# Drain Maintenance

2014 - Branch cleaned from Gasper Rd. to Chesaning Rd. (\$16,000); 2015 - main drain cleaned from Burt Rd. to Chesaning Rd. (\$45,000)



# Drain Maintenance Continued

2018 - Branch cleaned  
from Chesaning Rd. to  
Ferden Rd. (\$43,500)



# Drain Complaints

According to Saginaw County Road Commission, Birch Run Road over the Fairchild Creek & Extension Drain floods during high water events.

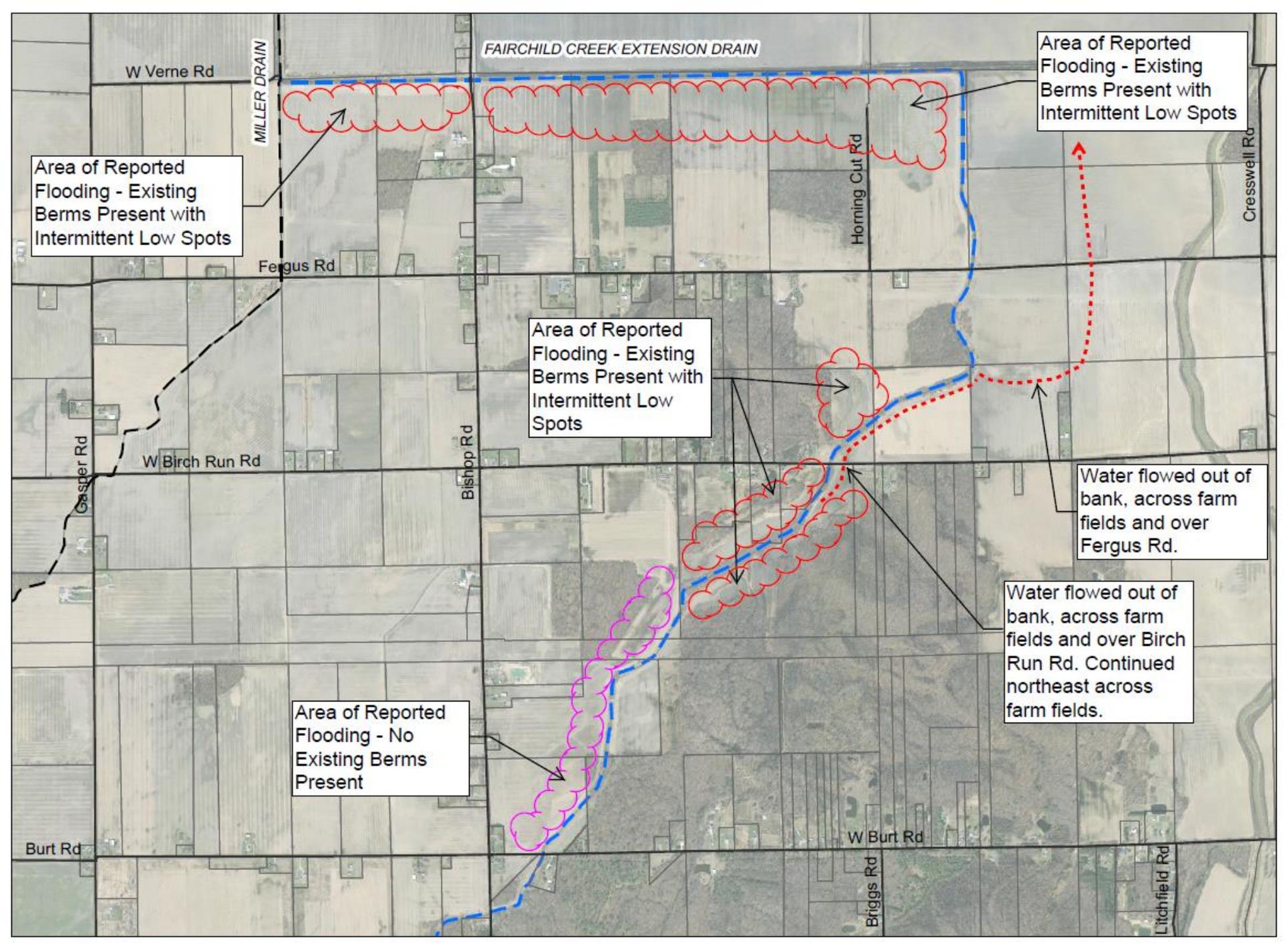


# Summary of Drain Finances

- Various maintenance projects have been completed on the drain over the years as follows:
  - ▣ 2014 - Spent approx. \$16,000 to work on branch drain from Gasper Road south to Chesaning Road
  - ▣ 2015 - Spent approx. \$45,000 to work on main drain from Burt Road south to Chesaning Road
  - ▣ 2018 – Spent approx. \$43,500 to work on branch drain from Chesaning Road south to Ferden Road.
- The main drain maintenance account has approximately \$5,000 in it.
- The branch drain maintenance account is approximately -\$2,000.

# LiDAR Elevation Review

- Reviewed elevations of existing dikes/berms
  - ▣ Based on *May 2020* flood event
  - ▣ Initial rains resulted in water jumping out of bank near Birch Run Road
  - ▣ Backwater flooding from Shiawassee flats resulted in water flowing upstream
    - Measured Flood Elevation: 590-591



FAIRCHILD CREEK EXTENSION DRAIN

Area of Reported Flooding - Existing Berms Present with Intermittent Low Spots

Area of Reported Flooding - Existing Berms Present with Intermittent Low Spots

Area of Reported Flooding - Existing Berms Present with Intermittent Low Spots

Water flowed out of bank, across farm fields and over Fergus Rd.

Water flowed out of bank, across farm fields and over Birch Run Rd. Continued northeast across farm fields.

Area of Reported Flooding - No Existing Berms Present

W Verne Rd

MILLER DRAIN

Fergus Rd

Horning Cut Rd

Cresswell Rd

Casper Rd

W Birch Run Rd

Bishop Rd

Burt Rd

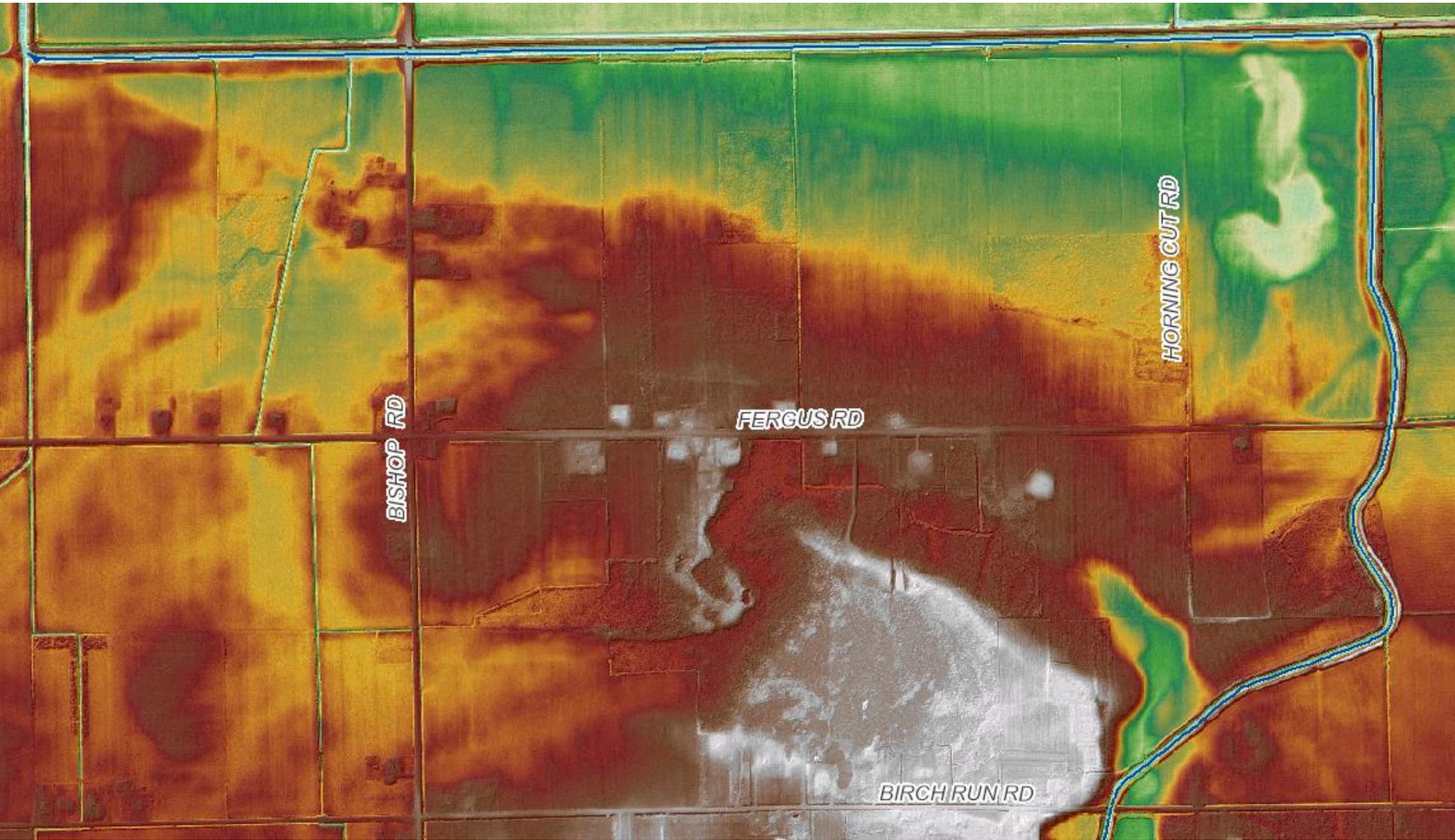
W Burt Rd

Briggs Rd

Litchfield Rd

# LiDAR Elevation Review

- Outlet to Fergus Road
  - ▣ Target Elevation of 592 selected for flood protection
  - ▣ Prairie Farm dike on north side is at or above EL. 592
  - ▣ Deficiencies exist in berms on the South/West side of the drain between outlet and Fergus Road
- Fergus Road to Burt Road
  - ▣ Low spots/no berms or dikes in several areas

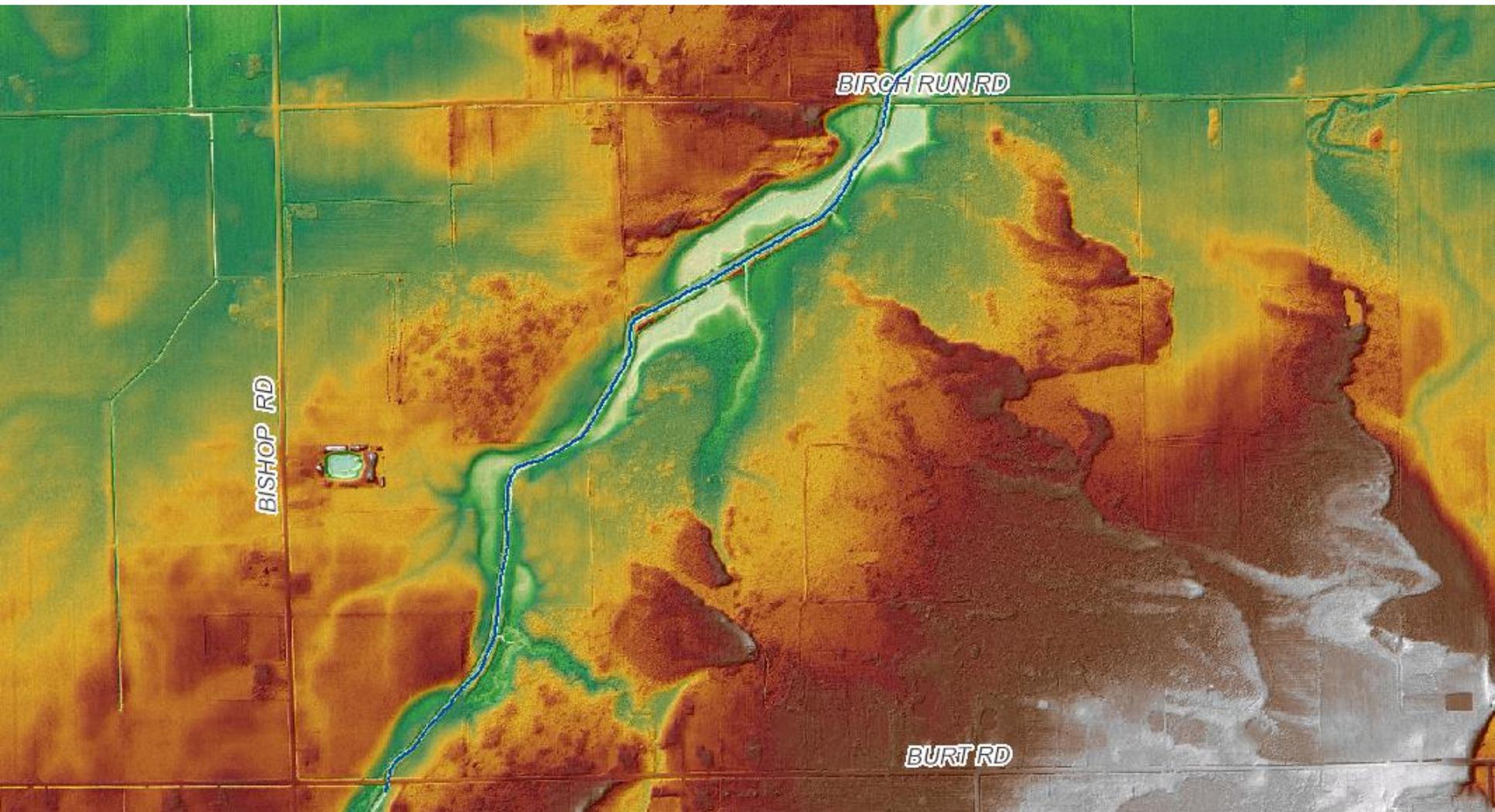


BISHOP RD

FERGUS RD

HORNING OUT RD

BIRCH RUN RD



BISHOP RD

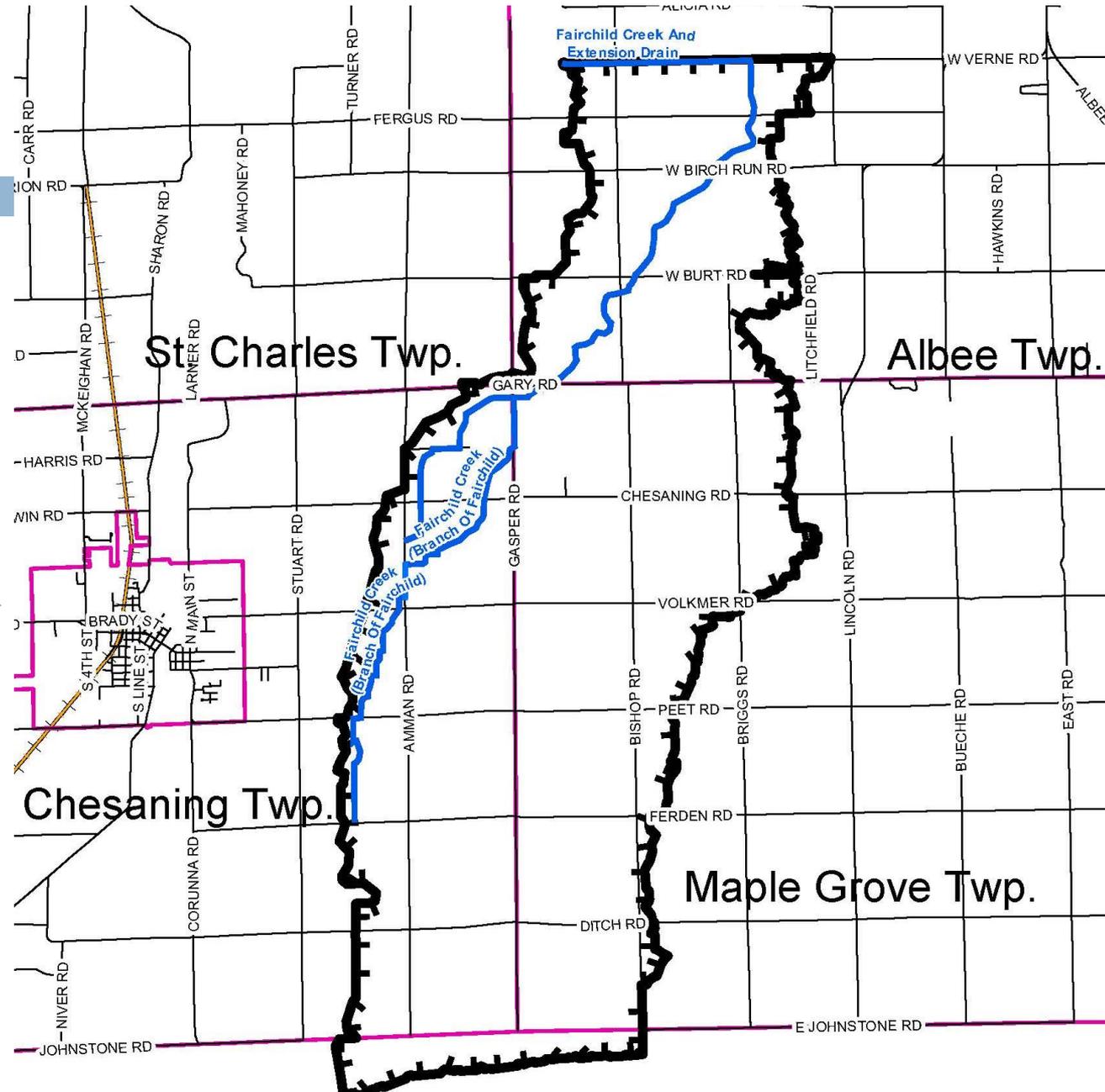
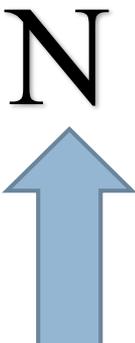
BIRCH RUN RD

BURT RD

# LiDAR Elevation Review

- In order to achieve backwater and flash flood protection from the outlet at Miller Drain upstream to Burt Road, the following items would need to be addressed:
  - ▣ Construct approximately 1.5 miles of new dike
  - ▣ Reconstruct approximately 4.25 miles of existing dike/berm
  - ▣ Enhance approximately 1.25 miles of existing dike/berm
  - ▣ Install flapgates on tributary county drains/ditches
  - ▣ Dike work would also be necessary downstream of Fairchild Creek and Extension Drain for full backwater flood protection

# Location Of Drain



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# Appeal Procedures – Section 280.72a

Whenever the board of determination finds by majority vote of the whole number of members that the drain is or is not necessary, any person feeling aggrieved by the determination may institute an action in the circuit court for the county in which the real property is located for a determination of necessity. The action shall be filed by the person aggrieved within 10 days after the determination of necessity or no necessity by the board of determination.