

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Construction Underway on Tonkin Drain Improvement Project

Construction is currently in progress on the Tonkin Drain. The project was divided into two separate construction contracts to address different segments of the work. “We obtained very good bids for the project, and we are working with two excellent contractors” reported Karla Miller, Mecosta County Drain Commissioner.

Division One covers all construction activities occurring in the Tonkin Drain, excluding work on any state (MDOT) roadways. This portion of the project was awarded to **Jackson Dirt Works**, based in Lake Odessa. Drain Commissioner Miller is pleased to work with this contractor again: “Jackson Dirt Works was the main contractor on the Ives Drain, and that project won an Innovation and Excellence Award from the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners.” The initial phase of construction began in **September 2025** and includes clearing along and within the drain, starting at the downstream end located east of 190th Avenue and 13-Mile Road. The clearing of trees, brush, and obstructions will continue upstream through the Fall of 2025.

Division Two includes the construction activity taking place on **Northland Drive** and the **storm sewer along Gilbert Drive**. This contract was awarded to **Dean’s Landscaping and Excavating**, based in Sand Lake. Work on this segment is scheduled to begin in **Spring 2026**, with completion anticipated by **October 2026**. “Dean’s Landscaping and Excavating is the same contractor that is performing work on Northland Drive for MDOT’s project. Using the same contractor will ensure a smooth transition in collaboration with MDOT” says Miller.

Throughout the duration of the project, regular updates—including traffic impacts, detours, and maps of current construction areas—will be available at:

<https://www.tonkindrainmaintenanceandimprovementproject.com/>

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