



EVAN N. PRATT, P.E.

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER
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MEGHAN BONFIGLIO
Chief Deputy Water Resources Commissioner

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Deputy Water Resources Commissioner

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February 22, 2017

Jackie Beaudry, Clerk
Ann Arbor City
Larcom City Hall, 301 E. Huron St
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-8647

Subject: 2016-2017 Increased inspection activity in and around county drains

Dear Jackie;

Continuing through the fall of 2017, the Water Resources Office will be conducting assessments of county drains and stormwater basins throughout Washtenaw County. Our crews may be accompanied by a truck equipped to conduct video inspection of our critical pipe systems. Staff and/or contract employees will have proper identification and will be wearing high-visibility safety vests.

During this time, we may be more visible to residents or be noticed at locations that typically don't see much activity.

While we've collected a great deal of information over the years, we don't have consistent, comprehensive data on every mile of our 533 county drains. Information collected will allow for more efficient response to service requests, a more strategic approach to periodic maintenance and an increased reliance on proactive maintenance to prevent costly repairs. The goal is to identify and address small problems before they become big ones, and limit or delay reactive projects that result in higher drain assessments.

This effort will also improve customer communication and decision making. It will allow our front office and field staff more immediate access to GIS maps, photos, condition ratings, and work activity. Our ability to quickly and accurately respond to our customer queries should be greatly enhanced. Much of this information will be made available for public and municipal use via the County's publicly available GIS system at MapWashtenaw.

We are currently in data collection mode. Once the condition assessments are more complete, we'll be better capable of identifying options and working with you to prioritize projects in a manner consistent with your community's cost expectations. Once complete, we will be ready to review our findings and discuss options for improving cost effectiveness relative to a 5-year history of past assessments. This overall effort is being funded largely by a grant from the Department of Environmental Quality, therefore, the impact to assessments will be minimal.

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If you have any question or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at (734) 222-6860 or email pratte@ewashtenaw.org.

Lastly, if you would like content for a newsletter or website posting, please let me know and I will provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evan Pratt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the end of the word "Pratt".

Evan Pratt

cc: Christopher Taylor, Mayor