

Office of the Lucas County Engineer

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PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE ENGINEER

August 3, 2021

LONE OAK DITCH PETITION #1048

Background

On February 19, 2020, the Board of Lucas County Commissioners were given notice of the filing a petition by the Village of Whitehouse for an improvement to Lone Oak Ditch using a combination of methods provided in the Ohio Revised Code Section 6131.01 (C) 1 through 5 necessary for the disposal of surplus water on the course hereinafter set forth:

***Commencing** at the South $\frac{1}{4}$ post of Section 34, Town 7 North, Range 9 East in Waterville Township, Lucas County, Ohio; Thence west approximately 220 feet to the centerline of Oak Crossing Lane, thence north about 1156 feet to intersection with Lone Oak Ditch at Station 84, as per the 1969 Ditch Improvement Plan for Lone Oak Ditch, on file at the Lucas County Engineer's Office, and being the Point of Beginning of the Petition;*

***Thence** from this point southwesterly (upstream) to Station 179+42 of the above referenced Ditch Improvement Plan and there terminate at the intersection of Berridge Road, approximately 31' North of the South $\frac{1}{4}$ Corner of Section 4, Town 6 North, Range 9 East;*

A total distance of approximately 9,542 feet, being about 1,500 feet in Section 34, T. 7 N., R. 9 E. in the Village of Whitehouse and Waterville Township, Ohio, about 4,897 feet in Section 3, T. 6 N., R. 9 E, and about 3,145 feet in Section 4, T. 6 N., R. 9 E, in Providence Township, Lucas County, Ohio.

On September 15, 2020, the Board of Lucas County Engineers passed Resolution 2020-657, to set the dates of the view and the first hearing and to order the Clerk of the Board to provide due and legal notice to the owners of land affected by the proposed improvement.

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On October 27, 2020, the Board of Lucas County Commissioners held the View and First Hearing where the petition was publicly read, together with all applications for or against the improvement and has heard either at the view or at the First Hearing, either personally or through counsel, all evidence offered by any owner of land for or against the granting of the proposed improvement, or for or against the granting of any laterals, branches, spurs, or change of route, course, termini, or manner of construction described in the petition, or any application therefore.

On February 2, 2021, the Board of Lucas County Commissioners and the Lucas County Engineer have been given notice of the filing an amended petition by the Village of Whitehouse for an expansion of the future improvement and maintenance area of Lone Oak Ditch. The amended description of the watercourse is hereinafter set forth and includes the entirety of Lone Oak Ditch, from its origin to its Confluence with Swan Creek:

Lone Oak Ditch: Commencing along Berridge Road, in the southwestern corner of Tax Parcel ID 5214197 and continuing northeasterly for approximately 2.4 miles to its confluence with Von Au Ditch, thence continuing northeasterly 0.9 miles to its confluence with Swan Creek, for a total distance of approximately 3.3 miles.

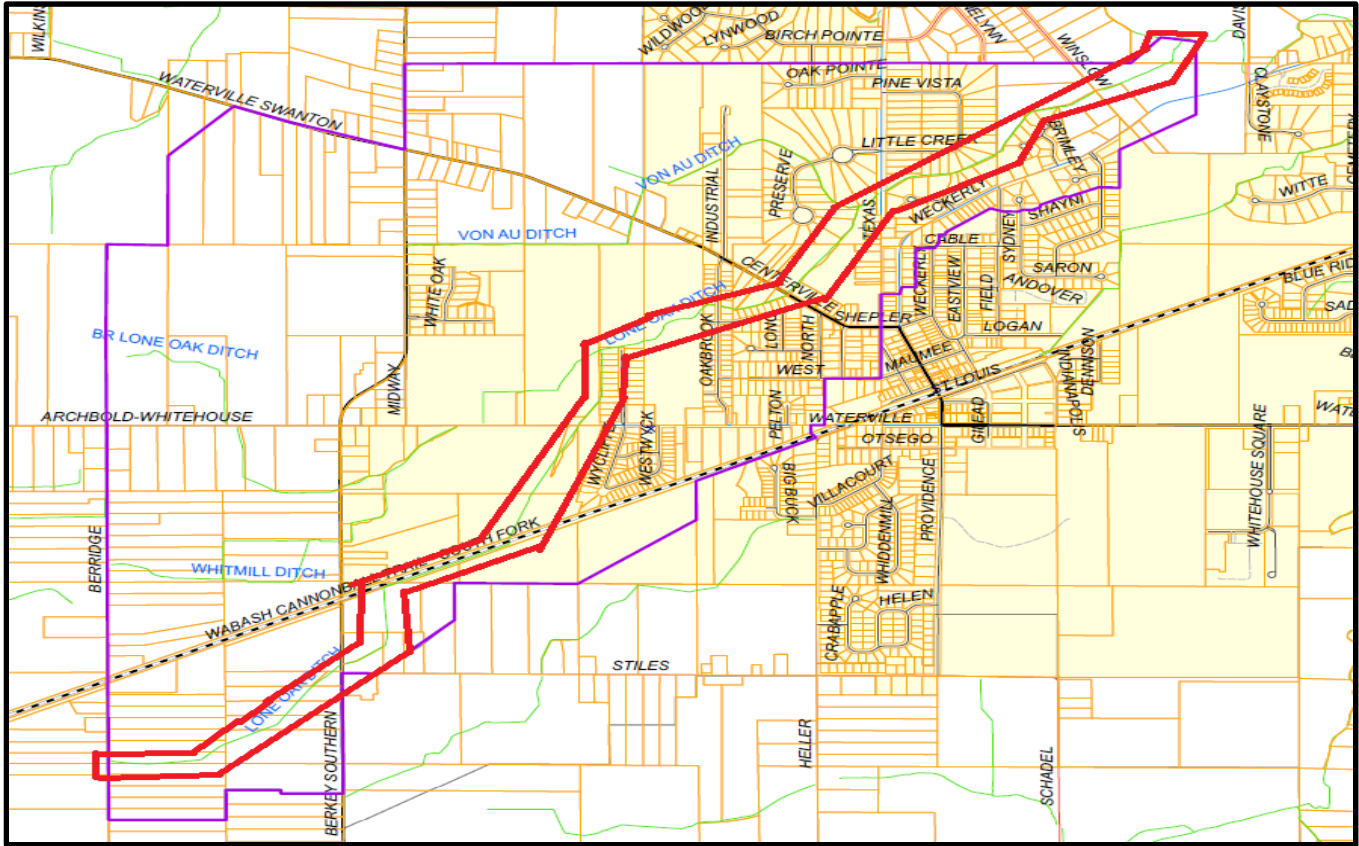
Upon receipt of an amendment which is submitted after completion of the First Hearing, the Ohio Revised Code Section 6131 requires viewing and a first hearing on the amendments to the

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petition.



The View including the portions of the ditch to be placed under the petition by the amendment was held via electronic means as authorized by act of the General Assembly on June 8, 2021.

Report

At this time, portions of the ditch have been maintained relatively well and is currently disposing of surplus water. However, portions of the ditch downstream of the Oak Crossing subdivision. Regardless, without proper maintenance the entirety of the ditch will have issues disposing of surplus water due to brush on the banks and siltation of the channel which inhibits flow.

It is the opinion of the Engineer that portions of the channel upstream of the Oak Crossings subdivision is currently adequate to dispose of surplus water at this time. Portions of the channel between its confluence with Swan Creek and the Oak Crossings subdivision require minor brushing and sediment removal to allow adequate flow. In any case, the ditch will have difficulty maintaining flow in the future without maintenance. With future maintenance, benefits will include maintaining the capacity of the channel to relieve standing water in residential lots and agricultural fields, as well as providing an adequate outlet for the watershed.

Without maintenance along Lone Oak Ditch over the past several decades, homeowners on and along the ditch have contacted local government officials regarding the accumulation of debris and poor drainage. Without the proper maintenance of adjacent homeowners on the ditch, there

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is no mechanism in place for the county to remedy the neglected conditions of the ditch. The petition of this ditch would enable the county to conduct needed maintenance in perpetuity, and evaluate the ditch's condition in the future to ensure proper function and disposal of surplus water in to Swan Creek which will improve the functionality of the ditch and lower the risk of surface and basement flooding in the area.

It is the opinion of the Engineers that Lone Oak Ditch should be brushed between the Oak Crossing Subdivision and the confluence with Swan Creek and the entire channel should be placed under permanent maintenance. We anticipate the cost of the brushing to be approximately \$20,000.

The benefits and drawbacks of the proposed project in the opinion of the Engineers are as follows:

Benefits: Improved drainage, Lower risk of surface and basement flooding, Maintenance of Investment

Drawbacks: Need for future access of property

It is the opinion of the Engineers that the proposed project is feasible, that it is conducive to the public welfare, that there is a sufficient outlet for the improvement, and that the benefits exceed the cost.

Mike Pniewski, P.E., P.S.

Lucas County Engineer