



No one other than the MCRC is permitted to work in, add to or change a county roadside drainage system without obtaining a permit from the MCRC. This includes other units of government. Should the MCRC be made aware of non-permitted right-of-way activity, the MCRC will make contact with the violator to cease all work until a permit is obtained. If the violator refuses to obtain a permit, the MCRC may remove the non-permitted infrastructure per the guidelines set in the *MCRC Roadside Drainage Policy 2016-1*.

Roadside ditching is often initiated through service requests from citizens and/or township officials who contact our offices. However, ditch work may occur in your area to correct existing drainage problems or as a part of normal road maintenance or construction. Please note that the MCRC does not have jurisdiction over county drains. These are ditches that cut through fields or yards; some of which actually flow along the roadside. The MCRC is only responsible for road drainage and ditches under MCRC jurisdiction.



Things to think about:

◆ Problems of water flow that are upstream may require cleaning the entire flow area even though there has been no standing water visible at your site.

◆ Drainage problems caused by property owners (i.e. discharging water from sump pumps, etc to the roadside ditch) are not the responsibility of the MCRC. These kinds of discharges to the roadside ditch may be permitted per the *MCRC Discharge of Drainage into Road Right-Way Policy 2015-08*.

SERVICE REQUESTS

The MCRC handles requests for investigation and/or attention to drain issues through the service request process. Problems with clogged culverts, ditches that are not emptying, water that is not draining from the road, or any other road related issue may be addressed by phone a Customer Service Representative at 734-240-5102 or online at www.mcrc-mi.org.

If you wish to file a Service Request, please call us at the number listed above with the following mandatory information:

- Name**
- Address, City and Zip Code**
- Phone Number**
- Township**
- Location of Concern**
- Concern (identify specific problem)**
- Cross Roads for that concern**

This information is necessary in order to file a service request which will then be forwarded to a District Supervisor for review.



Please be aware that it may take a considerable amount of time to process your request, as it is estimated there are in excess of 2,000 miles of ditches in Monroe County. Requests are processed on a first come, first serve basis, however roadway flooding and construction activities will always take precedence.

Drainage and Roadside Ditching



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 Monroe, MI 48161
 Phone: (734) 240-5102
 Fax: (734) 240-5101
 Web: www.mcrc-mi.org
 Email: mcrc@mcrc-mi.org

~Road Commission Leadership~

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Drainage

Drainage can be as simple as creating a slope for water to run downhill or as complicated as an engineered underground storm system with catch basins and underground tile. Whether simple or complex, proper drainage for roadways is extremely important. Water can be the single most detrimental factor affecting the long-term conditions of asphalt roads. For this reason, the Monroe County Road Commission (MCRC) takes extra measures to provide ways for water to get off county roadways. Ditch construction and maintenance of the current ditch system is one of the most important activities preformed by the MCRC.

Monroe County is relatively flat in nature; add to that soils that are not the best for extracting water, and you have a serious problem when it comes to drainage. Swales and ditches are engineered along a road to take the rainwater off and away from the pavement. The fact that there is very little slope to the land can cause the water to stand in the ditches as it slowly drains to nearby outlets. Each year seasonal rains result in flooding and excess water concerns. Drainage ditches and enclosed



drains may hold standing water or overflow because of heavy rainstorms. Natural occurrences causing excess water do not have a high priority

for the MCRC unless the excess water interferes with the safety of the traveling public (i.e. water over the road).



MCRC Drainage Crew

Over time ditches fill in with sediment, debris, and vegetation. This can cause a well-constructed ditch to fail to drain properly. MCRC has a Drainage Crew assigned strictly to handle roadside drainage problems. This crew operates primarily upon calls from residents or township officials to notify the MCRC that a ditch has standing water or does not seem to be draining. The crews also will clean out driveway culverts that are clogged and prevent water from properly flowing off the road or through the ditch.



The MCRC is only responsible for the road drainage and does not have jurisdiction over county drains. The Monroe County Drain Commission maintains the flow of water to tributaries and eventually to the Lake Erie. If water is not able to move naturally across the land, a county drain can be established to a nearby outlet. Instructions for establishing a county drain can be obtained through the Drain Office.

The following is understood for MCRC drainage work in the county:

- Generally, the road right of way is 33 feet from the center of the road and may include an area that is maintained by the resident. Digging, grading or another disturbance of this area may be required to drain roads or to open the flow of storm water drainage. MCRC crews will restore disturbances to the property after drainage work. However, the need to improve drainage may change the appearance and/or grade of the area in front of the property.
- At times the need to improve water flow upstream may require cleaning of the entire flow area even though there seems to be no visible problem (standing water) at a particular site.
- Excess dirt acquired from cleaning a drain will be retained by the MCRC if it can be used. If the MCRC cannot use the dirt, property owners

nearest to the site may be offered the excavated material and placed onto their property in an accessible area off the road right-of-way, as indicated by the property owner. The MCRC will not level the material.

Another technique to get standing water away from the roadway is called pulling the shoulders. Often on country roads or in developments where there are no curbs or ditches the vegetation will grow right up to the pavement. This is damaging to the road because it prevents water from flowing away from the roadbed as well as the edge of the road. Water that puddles at the edge of the road and remains close to the surface just under the edge of the road makes the roadbed soft and the weight of vehicles breaks down the edge of the road causing potholes and eroding of the width of the road. Running an under-blade along the edge uproots the vegetation and allows water to drain.

Roadside Drainage/Ditching

First of all, it is important to understand that roadside drainage under the jurisdiction of the MCRC is constructed solely for the purpose of draining the road. There is no obligation for the MCRC to provide drainage to private property. In fact, Act 51 Michigan Transportation Funds (MTF) can only be used for public road purpose, and not for private purposes.

The MCRC will maintain the roadside drainage under its jurisdiction in accordance with the resources it has available and will establish priorities entirely based on the needs of the road system. If the work that the MCRC does to benefit the roads indirectly benefits private property that is okay, but not guaranteed. If the property owner has private flooding issues, they must not rely on the MCRC to correct the problem. Ditches that overflow due to blockages will be resolved in priority order based upon needs of the road system.