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Ada Township, Kent County Drain Commission Settle Lawsuit Related to Proposed Stormwater Dumping into Grand River

Ada had to take legal action to demand public meeting before County's controversial plan moves forward

ADA TOWNSHIP, Mich. – (May 2, 2025) – Ada Township has reached a legal settlement with the Kent County Drain Commissioners office (KCDC) following a lawsuit over the KCDC's controversial plan to redirect stormwater runoff from the area of Knapp St NE & E Beltline Ave NE in the City of Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Township into the Cook Drain, before discharging into the Grand River in Ada Township.

The lawsuit, filed in 2024 by Ada Township, stated that KCDC failed to properly notify the township or its residents of the proposed plan. The settlement was reached without the necessity of going to court and will require KCDC to hold a public meeting to allow Ada Township and its residents to be heard and ask questions about the proposed plan. That public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 1 p.m., with no location set as of today.

"We are concerned about the change in Ada residents' home water quality, in addition to the environmental impact on the Grand River and future of property values," said Tom Korth, Ada Township Supervisor. "We are aware that some Grand Rapids Township residents already required Kent County to pay for home hook up to City of Grand Rapids water, because of the well damage associated with high levels of salt from this same stormwater runoff situation. ", Ada Township has ensured that our residents are given the opportunity to voice their concerns," said Tom Korth, Ada Township Supervisor. Additionally, Ada Township had asked if a public meeting could be held after working hours, but that was not granted.

"We are pleased that we reached an agreement allowing Ada Township residents to be made aware of a significant infrastructure project that could negatively impact their properties and Ada Township as a whole. It is concerning that for years, there was a plan that would not have involved piping the water into the Grand River" said Julius Suchy, Ada Township Manager. "Ada Township's priority is transparency and ensuring that residents are fully informed, as well as making sure that the long-term impacts of this new plan are appropriately reviewed and considered."

Following rain events, the KCDC is currently transporting stormwater runoff by tanker trucks and dumping it directly into the Grand River at Knapp Street

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