

Franklin County Drainage Engineer Hott Ditch



Plan for Today & Future

- ▶ Explain the Drainage Engineer, petition ditches and the petition process
- ▶ Explain Hott Ditch and the current problems
- ▶ Gather information from residents regarding existing conditions
- ▶ Use information to investigate further
- ▶ Determine path to implement solution

The County Engineer vs The Drainage Engineer



- ▶ The Franklin County Engineer is an elected official.
- ▶ The County Engineer is funded through Motor Vehicle Registration and Gas User Fees.
- ▶ The Franklin County Engineer maintains bridges, roads and road drainage systems.
- ▶ Neither agency has authority to improve private property or resolve landowner disputes.
- ▶ The Franklin County Board of Commissioners appoints the Franklin County Drainage Engineer.
- ▶ The Drainage Engineer is funded through the Board of Commissioners' General Fund.
- ▶ The Drainage Engineer coordinates Franklin County's environmental compliance.
- ▶ The Drainage Engineer primarily focuses on maintaining, repairing and replacing regional drainage systems previously constructed through County Ditch Petitions.

Current Status of Petition Ditches

- ▶ 279 Pre-1950s Petitions
 - 94 miles of open ditches
 - 147 miles closed (tiled) ditches
 - Nearly all designed for agriculture
- ▶ Post 2003
 - 1 Re-Petition
 - 1 New Petition
 - 2 Re-Petitions currently in process
 - 2 New Petitions currently in process
 - 1 New Petition currently pending




ORC 6131: Single County Drainage Improvements

- ▶ Commonly known as County Ditch Petition Law
- ▶ Provides a means to facilitate planning, **acquisition of property rights**, construction and financing of drainage improvements when the needed improvement traverses multiple properties
- ▶ Intended for multi-property, watershed scale drainage improvements
- ▶ Any property owner may file a petition

Ditch Petition Process

O.R.C. 6131, 6133, 6137

- ▶ Petition filed
- ▶ View
 - Preliminary Cost Benefit Analysis
- ▶ First Hearing
 - Survey, plan development, estimate and assessment distribution
- ▶ Final Hearing
- ▶ Appeal Period
- ▶ Bidding
- ▶ Construction
- ▶ Levying of Construction Assessments
- ▶ Ongoing Maintenance and Assessments

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Ohio Revised Code

Section 6131.01 Single county drainage improvement definitions.

Effective: [March 24, 2021](#)
Legislation: [House Bill 340 - 133rd General Assembly](#)

As used in sections 6131.01 to 6131.64 of the Revised Code:

(A) "Owner" means any owner of any right, title, estate, or interest in or to any real property and includes persons, partnerships, associations, private corporations, public corporations, boards of township trustees, boards of education of school districts, the mayor or legislative authority of a municipal corporation, the director of any department, office, or institution of the state, and the trustees of any state, county, or municipal public institution. "Owner" also includes any public corporation and the director of any department, office, or institution of the state affected by an improvement but not owning any right, title, estate, or interest in or to any real property.

Hott Ditch History

- ▶ 1911: Established by C. Hott, M. Hanway, F. Miller, and J. Powell
- ▶ Cost: \$2,223.00
 - 3 Year assessments at 5% annual interest
- ▶ Ultimate length: 9,700 feet of tile and unknown feet of open ditch

Current Problems



Portman
and
Baynard



Sundale
South



What's Next?

- ▶ Use gathered information to investigate further
- ▶ Answer questions
 - Petition?
 - County project?
- ▶ Determine path for solution and implement

How to Help

- ▶ Send information to Ben Muether at bmuether@franklincountyengineer.org
 - ❑ Owner or Renter
 - ❑ Address
 - ❑ Phone
 - ❑ Email
 - ❑ Information about drainage problems and flooding
 - ❑ Pictures

Questions?



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