

**Perry Township Board of Trustees
Work Session
March 15, 2022, 6:00 pm**

The press has been provided appropriate notice of the work session per ORC requirements

Call Meeting to Order

Trustee Nelligan welcomed guests in the audience and those joining remotely. The Board of Trustees convened in an advertised work session concerning road drainage and off-road drainage issues. The Board discussed this topic in an open format.

Road Drainage and Off-Road Drainage Issues

Trustee Nelligan introduced special guests, John S. Weedon and Sarah E. Matheny, from Stark Soil and Water. The guests presented information on Ohio drainage laws and the services the district offers homeowners (free of charge) when confronted with drainage issues. They paid particular attention to the distinctions between road drainage and off-road drainage. The drainage specialists also commented on updates to the ditch improvement petition process.

Mr. Weedon began with a slide presentation of who is Stark Soil and Water. He indicated what Stark SWCD does regarding the stormwater issues. Mr. Weedon went on to give a definition of drainage issues and Ohio drainage laws. Mr. Weedon educated the audience on who handles and who is responsible when there is a drainage issue.

Sarah E. Matheny spoke concerning who maintains the ditches. She educated the residents on what landowners can't do with existing storm drainage facilities. Ms. Matheny spoke on what happens after a concern is submitted? The presenters talked about what Stark SWCD provides to the residents. The off-road drainage program takeaway is that Ohio governs water rights via the reasonable use doctrine:

A landowner is entitled to the reasonable use of the water that flows across their land as long as the water is returned to its natural watercourse.

Landowners can file a drainage improvement petition process.

Stark SWCD provides free resources, technical advice, and site visits for off-road drainage issues.

Off-road drainage improvement is ultimately the responsibility of the property owner.

Mr. Weedon and Ms. Matheny ended with contact information via emails and telephone contact numbers.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Public Speaks: none

Adjournment:

With nothing further to come before the Board, Trustee Nelligan stated the work session ended at 6:45 pm.

Ms. Nelligan, President

Craig Chessler, Fiscal Officer