

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sheet**  
**Big Bear Farms 2-2 & Golf Village Drainage Improvement Project**

**1. Am I being assessed at this time?**

No. Please continue reading for more information.

**2. Why is there a petition for this project?**

Drainage infrastructure within Ohio is the responsibility of private landowners. The drainage petition process, authorized by Section 6131 of the Ohio Revised Code, allows landowners to request Delaware County to construct and maintain drainage improvements on private property. In the absence of a drainage petition project, the construction and maintenance of drainage infrastructure remains the responsibility of private landowners.

**3. How are drainage petition projects paid for?**

The costs are covered by special assessments to the properties that are within the watershed, or benefit area, of the project. Petition projects are entirely landowner-driven and landowner-funded. Public entities that own rights-of-way, schools, utilities, churches, etc. that own land within the watershed are also treated as landowners and assessed. The petition process then allows Delaware County to expend these funds to construct and maintain the improvements.

**4. What is the purpose of the View?**

The View is an opportunity for the Delaware County Commissioners to see the condition of the existing drainage infrastructure in the area, and to allow the public to point out specific areas of concern. The View will be conducted by showing a drone video of the potential project. There is no testimony allowed to be taken at the View.

**5. How is the scope the project determined?**

The scope of any petition project is based on the actual petition request received. Signing or amending a petition is a landowner's opportunity to specifically request that a portion of the improvement be designed to their property. In the case of this petition, the scope of the request covers the area serving as the outlet for the existing stormwater system for Big Bear Farms 2-2.

**6. How do I sign the petition after it has been filed?**

Once a petition is filed, any addition to the petition including additional signatures is considered an amendment to the petition. Fill out the form included with this mailing and submit it to the Commissioners' office within 21 days following the date of the View. Amendment requests submitted after this period cannot be considered and will not be part of the scope of the project.

**OVER**

**7. What is the purpose of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hearing?**

The Delaware County Engineer and Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District prepare a 1<sup>st</sup> Hearing report which includes a description of the existing conditions, a preliminary cost estimate, and comments on the feasibility of the project. After hearing the report, the Commissioners will take testimony from the benefitting landowners. The Board may then find in favor of the petition if they believe the improvement is necessary, believe it is conducive to the public welfare, and are reasonably certain the benefits of the project will exceed the costs. Individual property assessments are not calculated for the 1<sup>st</sup> Hearing.

**8. Why am I considered a benefitting landowner?**

The Ohio Revised Code (state law) considers all landowners within the watershed, or drainage area, of a project as *benefitting* from the improvement. Essentially the law equates benefit to use. If you are receiving the mailing, a property owned by you is located within the watershed for the Big Bear Farms 2-2 drainage system outlet and benefits from the drainage capacity provided by the system.

**9. What happens after the 1<sup>st</sup> Hearing?**

If the Board of Commissioners approve the petition, the project moves to a survey and design phase. During this time, the Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District and Delaware County Engineer will gather field survey data, develop detailed engineering plans and cost estimates, prepare a final report, and formulate the schedule of estimated assessments. This information, once complete, is returned to the County Commissioners who will then schedule a Final Hearing to further consider the project based on this more detailed information.

**10. I already pay an assessment for maintenance of the Big Bear Farms 2-2 stormwater system. Why is this additional petition necessary?**

The original petition Big Bear Farms 2-2 did not include the outlet for the system through Seldom Seen Road and Golf Village. This petition has been submitted seeking to improve the outlet and place it on the Drainage Maintenance program.

**11. When will I know how much my cost will be?**

Detailed cost information is included in the notification letters sent for the Final Hearing.

**12. How can I find more information?**

Please visit the Soil & Water Conservation District's website, <https://soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us/drainage-petition-projects/>, or call their office at 740-368-1921 and ask to speak to someone regarding the Big Bear Farms 2-2 and Golf Village drainage petition project.