




**LUCAS COUNTY
ENGINEER** 
Mike Pniewski, P.E., P.S.

NEWS RELEASE

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Lucas County Engineer to request continuance for Swan Creek Joint Petition

Lucas County Engineer Mike Pniewski submitted a recommendation Thursday to the Joint Board of Fulton, Lucas and Henry County Commissioners that the Final Hearing for the Swan Creek Joint Ditch Petition be continued and recessed to July 15, 2025. In addition, Pniewski will also recommend the Board remove the portions of Ai Creek, Swan Creek, and Fewless Creek within Fulton County from the petition.

The Final Hearing is currently scheduled for August 6, 2024. Lucas County Engineer's Office held an informational meeting in Swanton on July 23, 2024, at which many members of the public provided information and feedback on the petition and the nature and scope of the project. Based on this feedback, Pniewski will ask the Joint Board for a continuance of the Final Hearing to allow for further public outreach, to provide an opportunity to rescope the proposed workplan and annual budget, and to work with State and Federal agencies and officials to obtain outside funding to offset any proposed assessments.

"I believe that it is necessary for additional time to provide public education and outreach on the nature of the project as well as to further develop and refine the scope of the project and work with the communities and stakeholders on the issues and needs that this project can address," Pniewski said.

"I'm committed to work with the Board as well as State and Federal representatives to obtain additional funding to provide relief to our citizens who

must remove dead trees and log jams as a result of the emerald ash borer.”

In addition, the removal of the streams from the petition will result in a significant reduction in the maintenance base for property owners in Fulton County.

“One of the key messages we heard at the information meeting was that Fulton County citizens should be responsible for Fulton County drainage,” Pniewski said. “The removal of the length of ditches in Fulton County will result in a significant reduction in the maintenance base. Fulton County citizens will only be responsible for maintenance costs on Swan Creek in direct proportion to the water contributed to the stream.”

The Joint Board will consider the engineer’s recommendation on August 6.