

The MLICA Scoop



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Winter 2016

From the Lead Plow, Trevor Young, President MLICA

Happy Spring, I hope everyone had a great winter and slower time with family and friends. I'm sure everyone is itching to get started this spring. It sounds like most contractors I've talked with have a good outlook and workload for the spring season. With the milder winter, maybe some of you have been working right along. We have been running all of our equipment through our shop to ensure everything is ready to go. The fields are still really wet over my way in West Michigan. The fruit growers are getting very nervous about the unseasonably warm spring. I hope it stays mild all spring.

I hope all of you received word that HB 4606 passed into law. I am not sure how many of you this impacts, but it is huge for me. I have two counties that I work in that have been pushing hard for me to pull erosion control permits for farmland tiling. This new law exempts us and makes for a lot less paperwork, as if we all don't have enough of that already.

Thank you to all who attended winter convention and made it a huge success. I think it was one of our best ever. Let's hope we can keep the energy going for the season and bring in some more new members.

I want to wish everyone a great spring season, and remember, be safe. The board will be working on an event for this summer, so keep up to date on Facebook and the newsletters. Stay in touch and don't hesitate to call a board member if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Trevor Young

Welcome New Members & Associates!

Brad DeShano
B. DeShano Trenching

Derek Foster
Foster Trenching

Land Stewards, LLC
Mark Wilson

Spicer Group
Larry Protasiewicz

Farm Depot LTD
Jeff Moore

Ecosystem Services Exchange
Kolby Jones

Bower's Great Lakes Inter-Drain Inc.
Jim Jett

Associate Press Release

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The DL850 comes standard on all BRON 550's and is available on special order for BRON 450's and as an add-on for large dozers.



September 7-9, 2016
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Visit the Symposium website for more information and to register at
<https://cceeevents.umn.edu/international-drainage-symposium>

The International Drainage Symposium is an international forum for presenting, discussing, and collaborating on recent and ongoing drainage research and implementation throughout the world. The 2016 International Drainage Symposium will mark the 50th anniversary of the first Symposium held in 1965 in Chicago, following the distinguished tradition of the nine previous International Drainage Symposia held throughout North America.

The 10th International Drainage Symposium will address opportunities and challenges for agricultural production on the world's poorly drained soils and landscapes. The challenge of increasing agricultural production in a changing climate, with ever-greater attention to water quality and quantity concerns, will require technical, economic, and social perspectives. The Symposium will provide an opportunity for drainage research, industry, and practitioner communities to interact, share experiences, and address emerging concerns. Two days of technical presentations, followed by a day of field tours, are planned.

The Symposium is being planned by an international committee led by Co-Chairs Jane Frankenberger, Purdue University, and Gary Sands, University of Minnesota.



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Winter Convention Highlights 2016

A special thank you to all our associates and members who were able to attend our 2016 Annual Winter convention January 17th & 18th!



Many of you helped us kick off our convention with our first annual Cornhole tournament. We had a great time catching up with everyone, as well as indulging our competitive sides. Congratulations to National LICA 2015 President Steve Anderson and his partner Bill Burnett, BRON sales manager for taking first place in the tournament!

This year in preparation for convention, we ran into a problem we welcomed...running out of room for our Associates to display! Luckily, the Ramada was able to accommodate us, and moved our meeting room across the hall, so we could expand our event room.

This year we covered topics of: truck laws and rules and upcoming changes, business succession planning, Rover Pipeline project, computer data storage management, DEQ Ag Assistance program, & the National LICA Portal. We also received a legislative update from our Government Relations Director, Scott Everett, as well as having our "Geeks and Dirt" open discussion about technology, what's new, and what you do different. We ended with our annual auction and fun night. Thank you to those of you that donated items and those of you that bought items! Without you all, we wouldn't have the great auction that we do!



John Freeman (left) and James Proffer (right) enjoyed bidding against each other for these landjagers donated by Al Kemp (middle).



Below: Rob Hall of RWV BRON (left) learned Mike Cook (middle) will have you model auction items if you're talking on your phone. Darrell Birge (right) enjoying the show.



Above: Morgan Cook modeling while Jason Bleach auctioned off hats



CAT Quilt crafted and donated by Bonnie Braje. Won by CAT representative Dan Chandler, pictured to left. Ben Cook helped hold the quilt so we could get this picture.



Morgan Cook & Timmy Schlatter playing in the augmented 3D sandbox.



Several MLICA members attending a session.



Pictured Below from Left:
LICA Board Members Steve
Anderson, Jerry Buiso, Bob
Clark, David Rule



Pictured Below: Business Succession Planning Meeting. Dave Auernhamer in lower left corner.



Fiesta fun at National LICA's
Associates' Night in San Antonio.
Mike Cook and Sarah Cook posing
for a quick picture.

2016 National Convention Highlights By Sarah Cook

This year, the National Convention took place in San Antonio, TX. I kicked off the day Thursday by attending a meeting on the National Benefits provided to LICA members. Petrocon showed how easy their online portal can make ordering their products. Following the Benefits meeting, was a meeting on Business Succession & Contingency Planning. LICA is rolling out this new benefit to members where advisors around the country work with your current network of agents and advisors to help you preserve and protect your vision of what matters most. I encourage all of you to check out this **NEW** LICA Benefit. After a lunch break I attended the Executive Directors meeting. There are several new Executive Directors, so we all became acquainted with each other. We shared tips that we have learned, and had time to ask questions. It was decided that a training meeting will take place in Chicago around September. After the Executive Directors meeting, we all got ready to have some fiesta fun at Associates' Night. Friday was a day of committee meetings, and Saturday were the Delegates & Board Meetings. After an afternoon to explore downtown San Antonio, we ended the night (and convention) with the annual awards banquet, with comedian Mike Armstrong providing entertainment. Overall it was a great convention and I encourage you all to make an effort to attend our National meetings! It was great to see the whole Auernhamer family in attendance!



Executive Directors that attended the
2016 Winter meeting in San Antonio.

Pictured to Right: Picture taken at the Delegates' meeting Saturday morning.
Michigan was represented by Dave Auernhamer.



Pictured to Left:
Attendees of Fiesta night
that festively dressed up.
See if you can identify Mike
& Sarah Cook!

MLICA Member News:

Nanci Schlatter, Indiana LICA Executive Director, informed me Darrell Birge recently had surgery to remove a kidney that had cancer. Everything went well and Darrell is on the road to recovery. Darrell has been a long time paying MLICA supporting member, always tagging along with Ron Schlatter to MLICA conventions & field days. Please keep Darrell & his family in your prayers for a speedy & healthy recovery.



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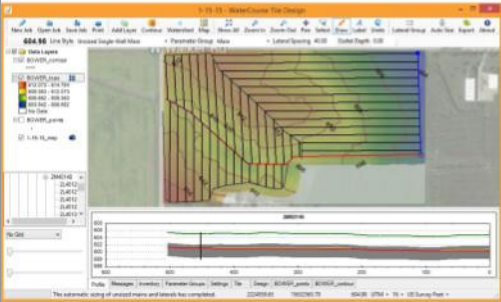
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Drainage Districts Can Now Issue Term Bonds

Michigan drainage districts can issue term bonds for their projects under a new law signed by Gov. Rick Snyder on March 1st, Public Act 27 of 2016

Term bonds allow bond issuers to group a number of bond maturities into one certificate. While they have become commonly used in recent years to increase interest in municipal bond issues, the language of the Drain Code was not flexible enough to permit them, resulting in higher interest rates in certain circumstances.

Term bonds will not be used in every drain bond issue, but under the right circumstances could reduce the interest cost of drain bonds to benefit private property owners and public corporations that are assessed for the cost of these projects.

Flint Water Hearings Set To Begin In Legislature This Week

The first of what could be several legislative hearings about how to move forward from the Flint water crisis are set to begin this week. The bicameral committee formed last month to review the various investigations into the crisis and make policy recommendations moving forward will meet for the first time at 8 a.m. March 15. The first meeting will feature testimony from the state Auditor General, as well as a presentation of the committee rules so there's no confusion moving forward.

Drainage Tile Exempt From Soil Erosion Permit

On January 26, 2016 Governor Snyder Signed into Law HB 4604 sponsored by Rep. Roberts (R) Charlotte, into PA 2 of 2016.

The legislation clarifies some specific agricultural practices that are exempt from a Soil Erosion Permit provided that no off-site discharge of sediment takes place.

The following are the new exemptions from obtaining a Soil Erosion Permit

- The construction, maintenance, or removal of fences and fence lines.
- The removal of tree or shrub stumps or roots.
- The installation of drainage tile, irrigation, or electrical lines.
- The construction or maintenance of 1 or more ponds that meet all of the following:
 - ◊ The earth change associated with the construction or maintenance is less than 5 acres.
 - ◊ The earth change associated with the construction or maintenance does not result in a discharge of storm water into the waters of the state.
 - ◊ The earth change associated with the construction or maintenance is not part of a larger plan of development. As used in this subparagraph, “larger plan of development” means a contiguous area where multiple separate and distinct construction activities are occurring under a single plan as identified in documentation or physical demarcation indicating where construction activities may occur.

Parjana: A Michigan Based Stormwater Management Firm

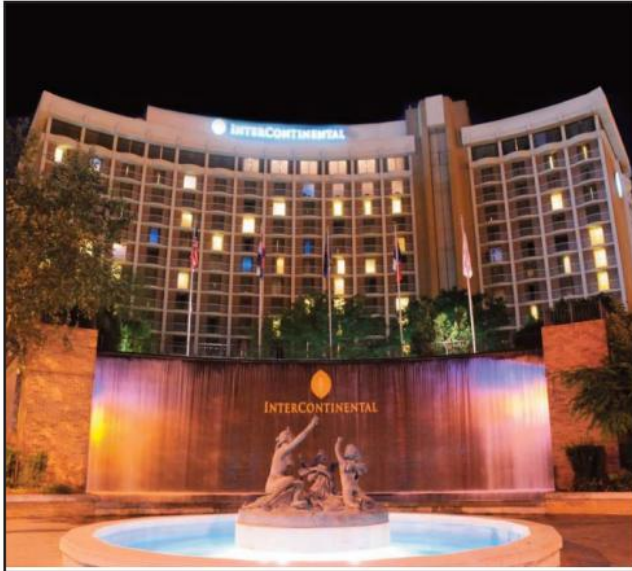
Parjana® is a Michigan based stormwater management / water abatement technology firm, having brought to market their patented EGRP® (Energy-passive Groundwater Re-charge Product) devices and system. A breakthrough innovation, the EGRP® promotes surface infiltration and can increase the volume of stormwater that can be infiltrated and stored in the soil matrix by balancing the soil-water potential across the vertical and horizontal soil strata in the vadose (unsaturated) zone.

Their inch and a quarter diameter, 5 open chamber neutral pH extrusions come in lengths ranging from 5-40 feet, and vertically installed in custom drilled holes generally 2 feet below grade (3 feet for agricultural applications). Each application is custom designed based on the project's objective. Once installed and “acclimated” via earth's natural forces, the maintenance free EGRP®'s improve connectivity between the soil's macropores that are necessary for mass flow of free water that is unaffected by soil-water tension. Repairing soil porosity by reopening meso and macro pores along the entire length of the EGRP®, the soil's hydraulic conductivity increases, allowing shallow groundwater to move relatively rapidly via lateral flow. More details are available via [World Water Storm Water Management Magazine \(Parjana\)](#).

Parjana® offers both product warranties and performance guaranties. In addition, Parjana® compliments other technologies to create completely new and innovative stormwater management systems where more than just accelerated infiltration is the goal, such as providing a water quality component to managing stormwater. Contact Tom Joseph (tomjoseph@parjanadistribution.com) @ 800-642-5504 or 586-212-5101 for additional details and information.

Join Us in KC!

2016 National LICA Summer Meeting



Book Your Room Today!

We have secured a discounted rate of \$135 (plus tax) per night. The cut-off date for this discounted room rate is **June 27, 2016**, but make your reservations early ... the block might sell out! The rate is available for three days before and three days after the event, in case you'd like to come early or stay late!

All of the rooms in the block are "Superior Rooms" and have a view of the Plaza, coffee maker and coffee, hair dryer, refrigerator, work station, and bathrobes. Check-in time is 4:00pm and check-out time is 11:00am. Arrangements for a late check-out can be made, once the guest is registered. A \$75 charge may apply. Cancellations must be received 24 hours prior to arrival.

To make reservations, call 866-856-9717 and tell them you're with the LICA Summer Meeting. Or, you may make your reservations online at www.kansascityic.com. Enter your arrival and departure dates and click "check availability." On the left hand side scroll down, click on group code (LIC), then click "apply." The group rate will appear, you will need to choose your room type and then continue booking your reservation.

July 18-23, 2016
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Some Highlights ...

Tuesday & Wednesday Pre-Tours

Steamboat Arabia
KC Waterworks Construction Project
Frontier Justice Shooting Range

Thursday & Friday

Education Classes
Associate's Night
Business Meetings

Saturday

Caterpillar Equipment Rodeo and BBQ
LICA Cook-Off!

And more ...
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Straits Pipeline: State Wants Studies, Protesters Want Shutdown

As activists continue calling for the immediate closure of the pipeline beneath the Straits of Mackinac, the state has put out requests for further study on the pipeline and the effects of a potential oil spill. The state issued a request-for-information for two things: An independent risk analysis to look at the liability associated with a "worst-case scenario spill" from the straits pipeline, and an independent alternatives analysis to "comprehensively compare" alternatives to the existing pipeline.

Contractors have until April 11 to submit their proposals.

Snyder Signs Order Creating Infrastructure Commission

An executive order signed by Gov. Rick Snyder will get the train rolling on his 21st Century Infrastructure Commission, which will tackle how to pay for and maintain Michigan's infrastructure over the long haul.

Snyder announced the idea for the commission during his State of the State address, and this week's Executive Order 2016-5 sets the framework for the commission's existence.

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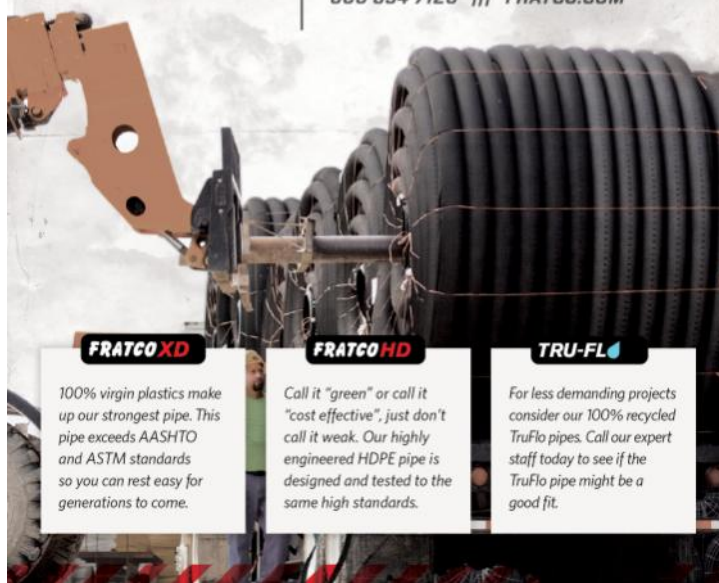
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Rover Pipeline: Preserving Our Resources, Powering Our Future

The Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association is dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of the state of Michigan and protecting our natural resources. At the same time, we understand the growing need to take advantage of domestic energy resources, which would require the proper infrastructure to safely transport. The Rover Pipeline Project promises to address both of these concerns.

The proposed Rover Pipeline route begins in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, transporting natural gas from the Marcellus and Utica shale formations to Ohio and Michigan. From these hubs, the gas will then be distributed to markets throughout the Midwest and along the East Coast. The pipeline will carry 3.25 billion cubic feet per day of domestically-produced gas, delivering a safe and affordable source of energy to consumers across the United States. This gas will power manufacturing and agricultural endeavors, heat homes, and even be used as a raw material in the manufacturing of many everyday items.

In order to begin taking advantage of this abundant American energy source, the Rover Pipeline first needs to be constructed – and that process promises to generate benefits in its own right. The project will create up to 10,000 temporary labor

positions along the pipeline route. The wages earned from those jobs will go on to support workers and their families, and in turn profit the businesses providing goods and services to construction workers. Meanwhile, the construction project will generate an estimated \$11 million per year in tax revenues for the state of Michigan alone, creating yet another source of funds for the betterment of communities throughout the state.

The Rover project has set itself apart from other pipeline infrastructure projects through its diligence in minimizing its impact on properties along the pipeline. The Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association, a group with more than 50 years of experience in ensuring responsible resource management and land improvement projects, was thoroughly impressed with Rover's request to consult with our specialists. Since that time, we have worked hand-in-hand with Rover to craft a plan that addresses any potential issues that might arise, with an attention to Michigan- and community-specific details.

Rover's proposal has proven the company's concern for affected landowners in a variety of ways. Rover is committed to preserving resources here in Michigan, and has worked with a host of civil and environmental authorities on the federal, state, and local level to capture a comprehensive picture of the pipeline's impacts. Further, Rover has consulted with industry-specific experts, including local agronomists, drain tile experts, and water specialists, on best practices.

These consultations have resulted in an acute attention to detail with regard to land restoration. Rover has pledged to maintain land elevations and contours, and restoring valuable topsoil in agricultural lands. Rover has also expressed its commitment to restoring drainage systems on farmlands.

Not only has Rover thoroughly addressed preservation concerns during construction – they have also underscored their commitment to the safe operation of the pipeline once it is on-line. Underground pipelines are the safest means of transporting natural gas. Rover has built upon this foundation by employing the latest technologies to monitor the pipeline, including sensors to track pressure and temperature, remote shutoff valves, and regulation devices to maintain safe pressure levels. These measures speak to Rover's continuing dedication to preserving our resources here in Michigan.

For these reasons, the Land Impact Improvement Contractors Association endorses the Rover Pipeline. We look forward to continuing to work with Rover here in Michigan to enable the timely completion of a project that has displayed an acute attention to conservational concerns along the pipeline route and stands to benefit Michigan citizens in so many ways.

Classifieds

Equipment for Sale?

List it here in the MLICA Scoop!

Send your information to
scook@michiganlica.org

Please include any of the
following information that
applies:

- Photo
- Make & Model
- Size & Color
- New, Used, or Reconditioned
- Price & Location
- Contact Info including Name & Phone Number

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The MLICA Scoop is the official publication of the Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association, dedicated to the professional conservation of soil and water.

The MLICA Scoop welcomes letters, subject to editing for accuracy and brevity. The MLICA Scoop also welcomes articles relevant to the land improvement industry. All letters and articles can be emailed to scook@michiganlica.org. Please include your name and phone number for verification purposes.