



100 S. State Street, Suite M-4  
Hart, MI 49420  
Phone (231) 873-4835; Fax (231) 873-5914

**Tracy L. Byard**  
County Administrator

**Jessica LaPointe**  
Financial and Human Resources  
Coordinator

**Jana Boundy**  
Accounting and Payroll Specialist

**Tressa Latimore**  
Accounts Payable – Administrative Asst.

Thursday, May 28, 2026

**RECEIVED**  
6-4-26  
cw

Crystal Township Board  
1499 E Hammett Rd  
Hart, MI 49420

Dear Crystal Township Board Members:

Oceana County is currently evaluating the necessary repairs and long-term stabilization efforts associated with the Crystal Valley Dam infrastructure project. As discussions continue regarding project scope, funding opportunities, and long-term maintenance responsibilities, the County is seeking input and partnership from all impacted local units of government.

At this time, the County has been advised that funding opportunities through the State of Michigan are currently focused on dam removal projects rather than repair or rehabilitation efforts. Unfortunately, there appears to be little to no State funding available specifically for the repair and preservation of the Crystal Valley Dam. As a result, any effort to maintain and repair the structure will likely require substantial local collaboration and financial participation.

Given the importance of the Crystal Valley Dam to the surrounding community, including its impact on public safety, environmental stewardship, drainage, recreation, property values, and local infrastructure, Oceana County respectfully requests that Crystal Township provide information regarding its anticipated role in supporting and helping fund the project.

Additionally, due to the significant local impact and financial considerations associated with this project, the County believes it is important that there be demonstrated support from Crystal Township and its residents regarding the future of the Crystal Valley Dam and the Township's willingness to participate in potential funding efforts. Community engagement and public support will be important factors in determining the long-term feasibility of pursuing repairs and preservation of the structure.

Specifically, the County requests that the Township provide feedback on the following:

1. Whether Crystal Township is willing to participate financially in the Crystal Valley Dam repair project;
2. Potential funding mechanisms the Township may consider, including but not limited to:
  - Direct financial contributions;
  - Millage support;
  - Grant partnership participation;
  - In-kind services or equipment usage;
  - Special assessment participation; or
  - Other collaborative funding solutions;
3. Any estimated amount or level of contribution the Township may be willing to consider;
4. Whether the Township would support joint grant applications or intergovernmental agreements related to the project;
5. What efforts the Township intends to undertake to gauge or demonstrate resident support for the project; and
6. Any additional comments, concerns, or recommendations the Township would like the County to consider as planning progresses.

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Official County Website: <http://www.oceana.mi.us>



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The County recognizes that this project may require a collaborative regional approach in order to responsibly address the infrastructure needs while minimizing the financial burden on taxpayers. Your input will assist Oceana County in evaluating viable funding strategies and determining the feasibility of moving the project forward.

In order to assist with ongoing planning and budgeting discussions, Oceana County respectfully requests a formal written response from Crystal Township no later than October 1, 2026.

Thank you for your consideration and continued partnership in serving the residents of Crystal Township and Oceana County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy L. Byard".

*Tracy L. Byard, ICMA-CM*  
Oceana County Administrator  
100 State St.  
Hart, MI 49420  
231-873-4835

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