

# Section 197 Drainage District Boundary Adjustments

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# Questions to Consider

- What is a watershed?
- What is a drainage district?
- Why do drainage district boundaries need to be adjusted?
- How does the Section 197 Day of Review work?

**Before we go further...**

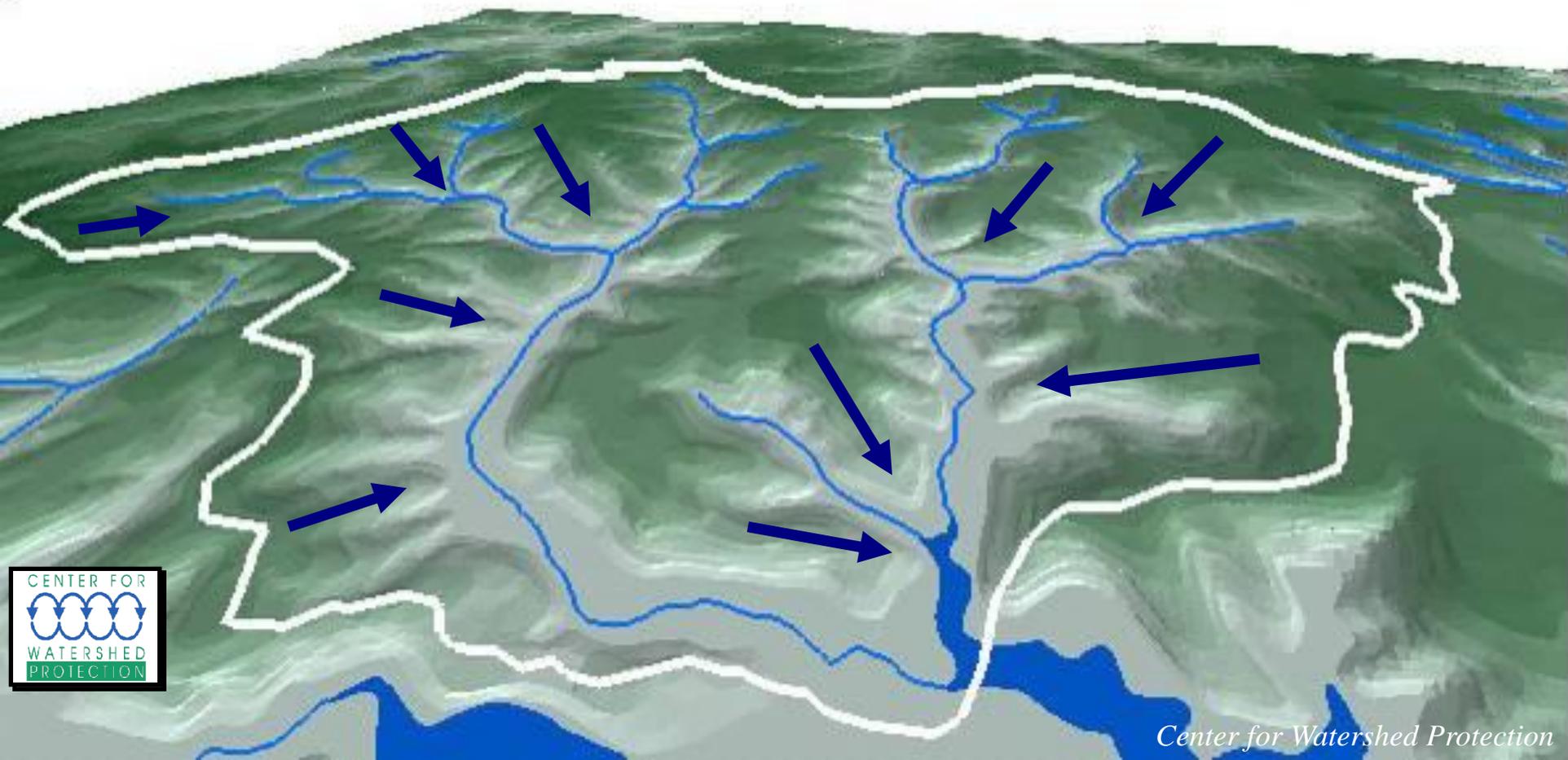
**“Let’s Talk Water!”**



# What Is a Watershed Anyway?

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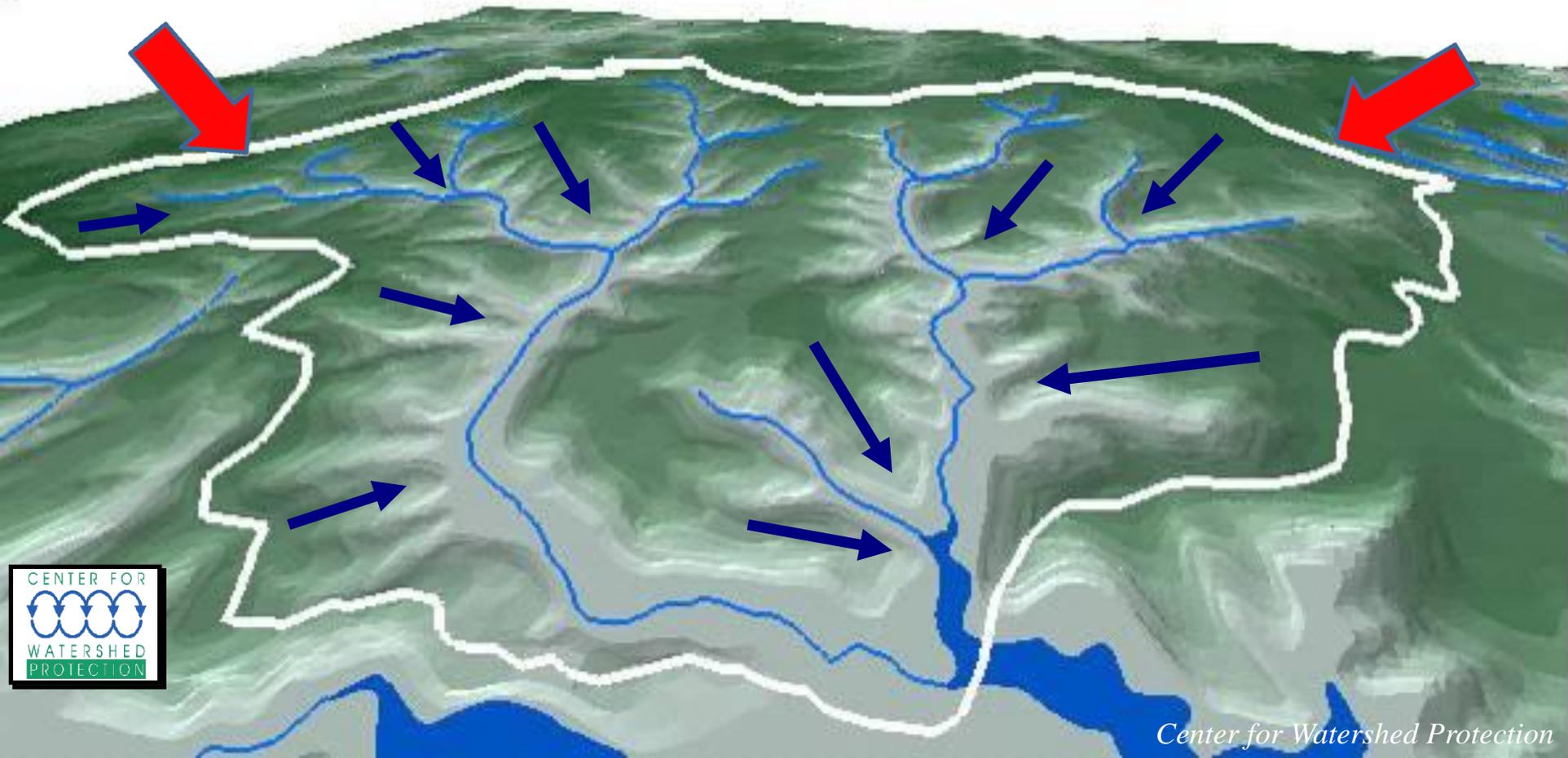
A watershed is the area of land that drains to a particular water body based on topography.



# What Is a Watershed Anyway?

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The line around a watershed is commonly called a watershed, or basin, boundary. It represents the high point of land.



# Watershed Facts

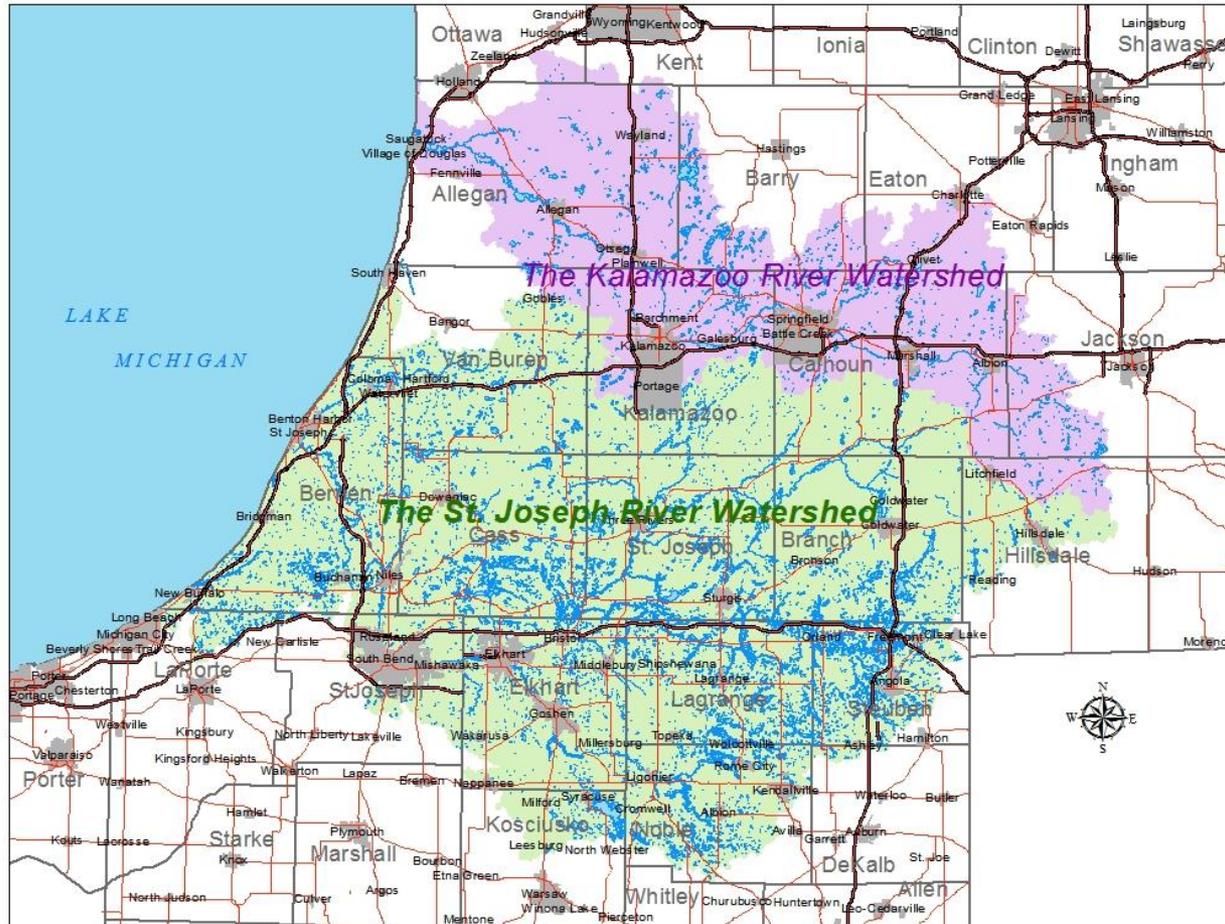
- All land areas are part of a watershed
- Water running off land in a watershed can flow on top of the ground (surface runoff) or below the ground (groundwater runoff)
- Watersheds can be very small or quite large

**The Continental Divide is a type of Watershed Boundary. Water flows either to the Atlantic Ocean or the Pacific Ocean because of the Rocky Mountains**





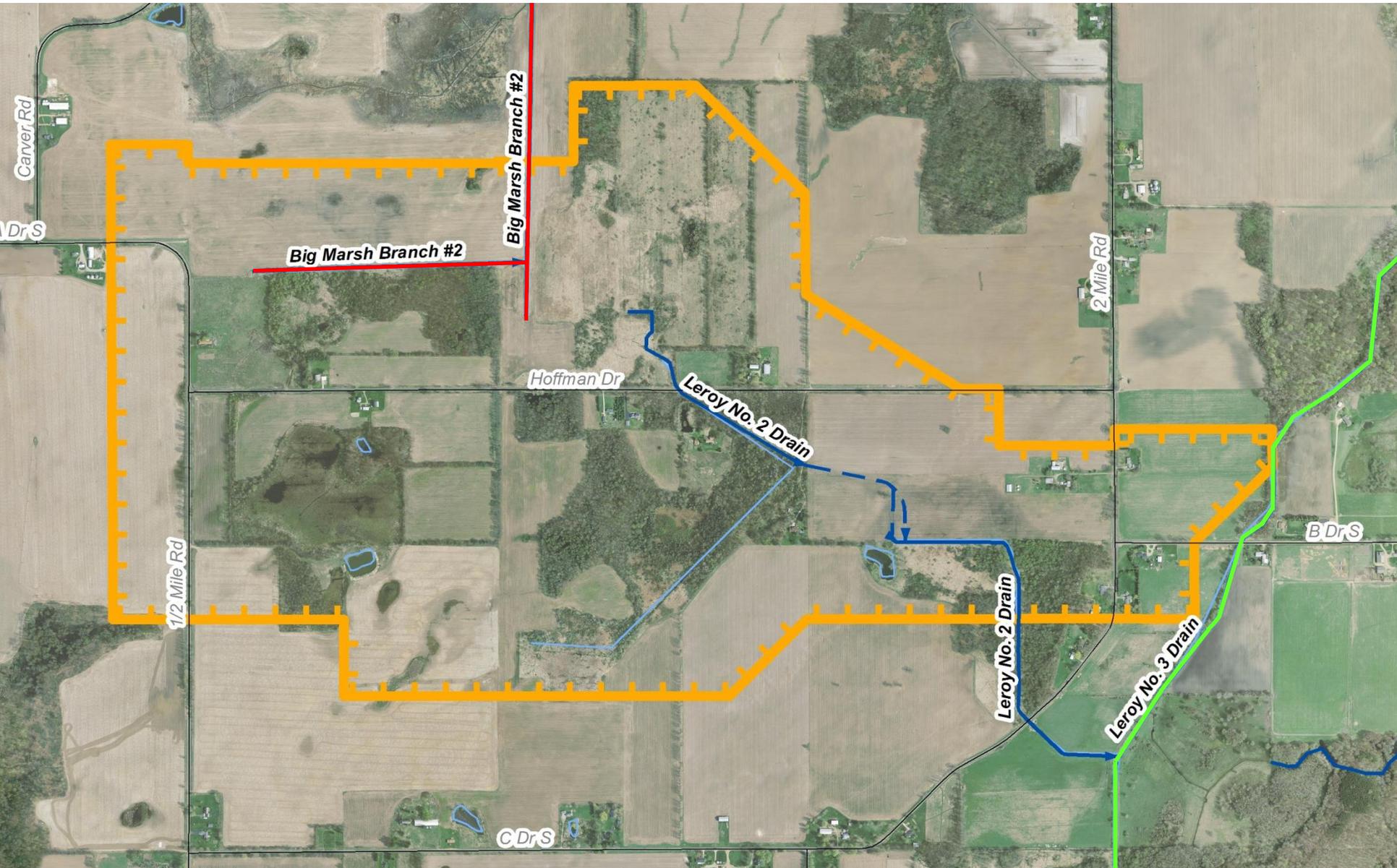
# Calhoun County has two major watersheds: the Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Rivers Watershed



# What is a Drainage District boundary?

- A Drainage District is an area of land that is assessed for creating, operating, maintaining and improving a drain under the law as governed by Michigan's Drain Code.
- The drainage district line is based on topography and on how water flows to the drain.
- Only those lands that receive benefit from the drain are assessed.

# Drainage District Boundary Example



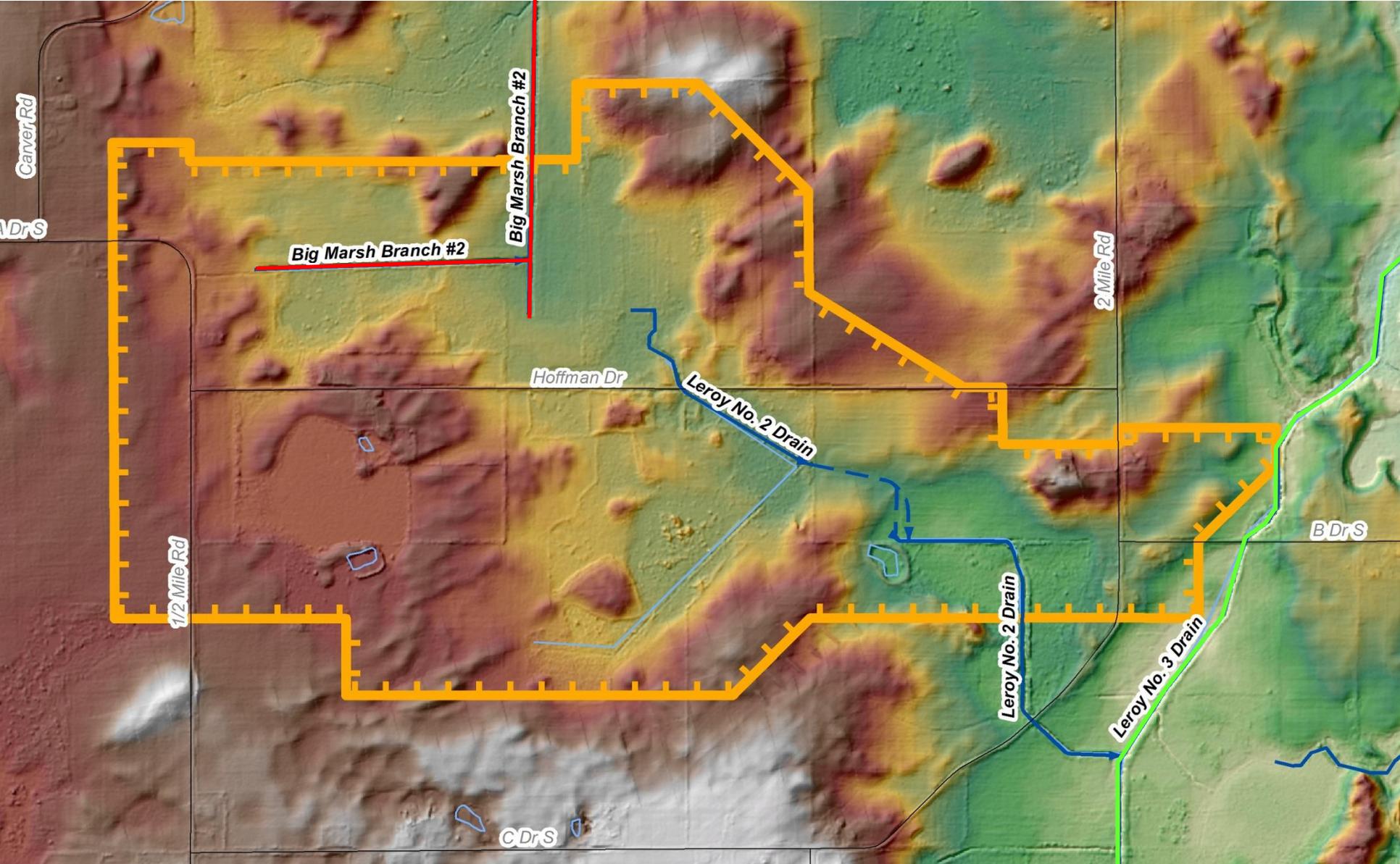
# Revising Drainage District Boundaries

- Many Drainage Districts were established in late 1800's and early 1900's
- The district boundaries were often described utilizing aliquot parts (rectangular section and/or property line breakdowns) to make the delineation of the boundaries simpler at the time
- This often missed some areas that benefited from the drain and included areas that didn't

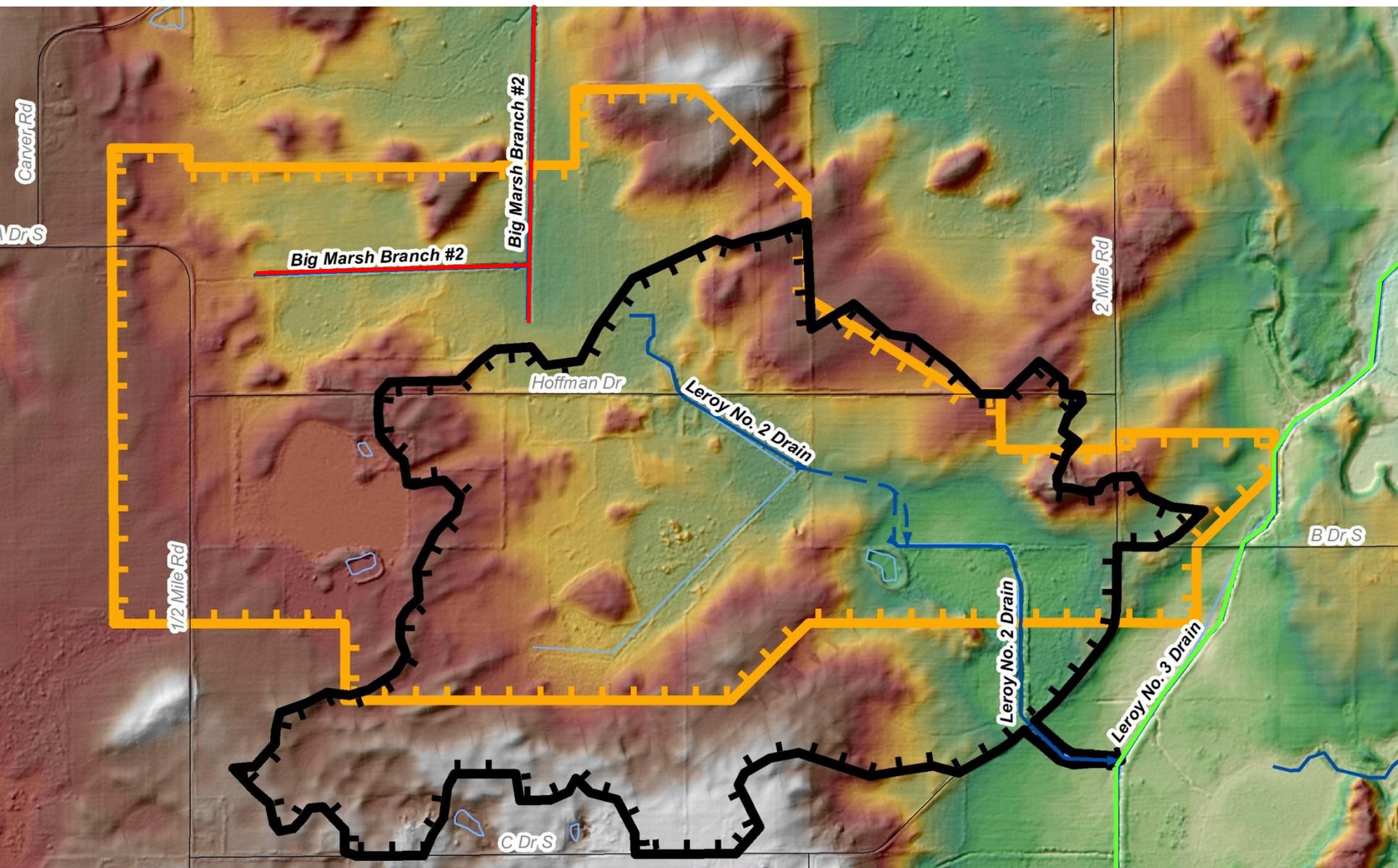
# Revising Drainage District Boundaries

- Current aerial mapping technologies allows us to locate and define the areas of a drainage district much more accurately.
- The aerial maps and field studies allow us to see where the water flows into a drain.
- This process is conducted under Section 197 of the Michigan Drain Code and culminates in a Day of Review

# Leroy No. 2 Drain – Historic Boundary



# Leroy No. 2 Drain – Revised

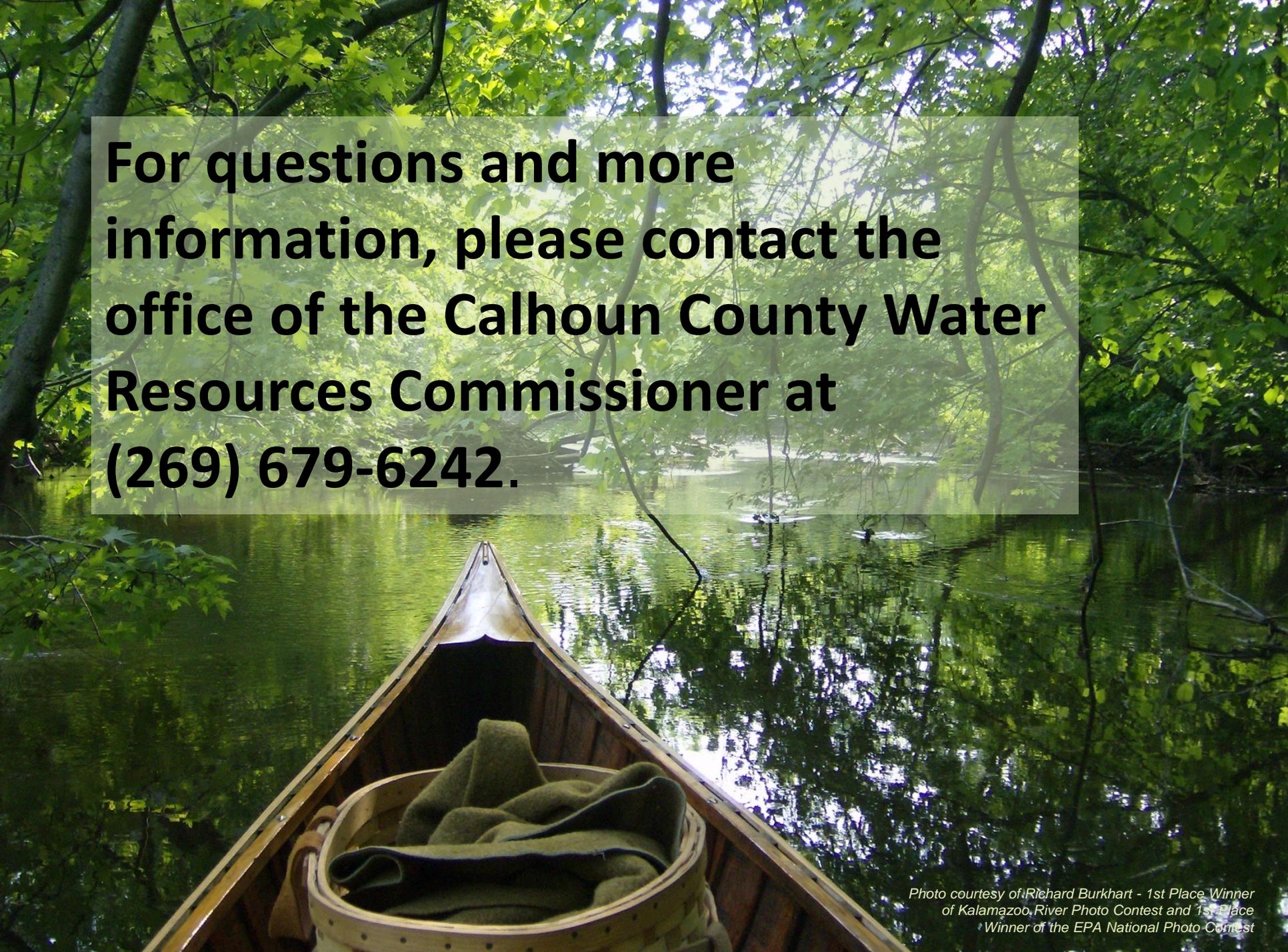


# What is a Day of Review?

- When the Drainage District boundaries have been adjusted, all landowners affected by the change are notified
  - Those in the district
  - Those added to the district (lands added)
  - Those removed from the district (lands removed)

# What is a Day of Review?

- Those affected by the adjustments will be mailed a notice informing them of the following:
  - The properties affected
  - The date and place a Day of Review will be held
- The Day of Review is an opportunity to meet with the Water Resources Commissioner's staff and consultants to learn more of how their property is affected.



**For questions and more  
information, please contact the  
office of the Calhoun County Water  
Resources Commissioner at  
(269) 679-6242.**

*Photo courtesy of Richard Burkhart - 1st Place Winner  
of Kalamazoo River Photo Contest and 1st Place  
Winner of the EPA National Photo Contest*