



# PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Quality Services for a Quality Community

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Laurie Hoffman, City Council Office

**FROM:** Ron Springer, Community Development Analyst

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RS', written over the name 'Ron Springer' in the 'FROM' field.

**DATE:** January 13, 2010

**SUBJECT:** "A River Runs Through It" The Sequel

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An additional piece of information just came in that shows a waterway in the area east of Moorland Drive and Mt. Vernon Avenue. The *1859 Topographical Map* by Geil, Harley and Siverd, clearly shows a waterway between the letters "E" and "R" of MERIDIAN. Jack Thompson took the map, enlarged it, and included an overlay of the streets which shows this waterway running north south in the low area at the east end of Mt. Vernon and Snyder Road.

### Additional Findings:

Robert Scheuerman, City of East Lansing Engineering Administrator, reviewed this map and noted that the waterway closely follows the path of a number of existing County Drains in the vicinity. These include the now enclosed Greencrest Drain (under Haslett Road) that encompasses the Haslett Road/Walnut Heights area. The Kierstead Drain, (enclosed under Burcham Drive east of Hagadorn), that handles the Burcham Drive area east of Hagadorn and west of Park Lake Road. Both of these feed into the Raby Drain. Finally, the open Proctor Drain located along the east side of Park Lake Road, handles about 60% of the runoff in this area. The Proctor Drain is located opposite Roseland Avenue and empties into the open Raby Drain east of Park Lake Road. The Raby Drain empties into the Pine Lake Outlet just north of Grand River Avenue which finally empties into the Red Cedar River approximately ¼ mile east of the Park Lake Road/Grand River Avenue intersection.

### Revised Conclusion:

The Pine Lake Outlet runs from the northwest corner of Lake Lansing (former "Pine Lake"), south and then west, before turning south again to empty into the Red Cedar River. The waterway on the 1859 map starts around what is now Haslett and Ferndale and runs south almost to Grand River before crossing Park Lake Road and looping to the north and then south before connecting to the Pine Lake Outlet Drain. It closely follows the location and contours of the existing drains.

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## **Suggested Wording:**

Based on the new information, I would offer several options for wording:

### **Hidden River Park**

- A. “An 1859 map showed a natural waterway just east of Moorland Drive. Long before the formal county drains were constructed, this waterway followed the natural contours of the low areas before eventually draining into the Pine Lake Outlet which emptied into the Red Cedar River.”
  
- B. “An open, natural waterway east of Moorland Drive, once flowed south, making its way eventually to the Red Cedar River. Now mostly enclosed, this “Hidden River” still drains this subdivision and surrounding areas while providing a natural habitat for wildlife.”

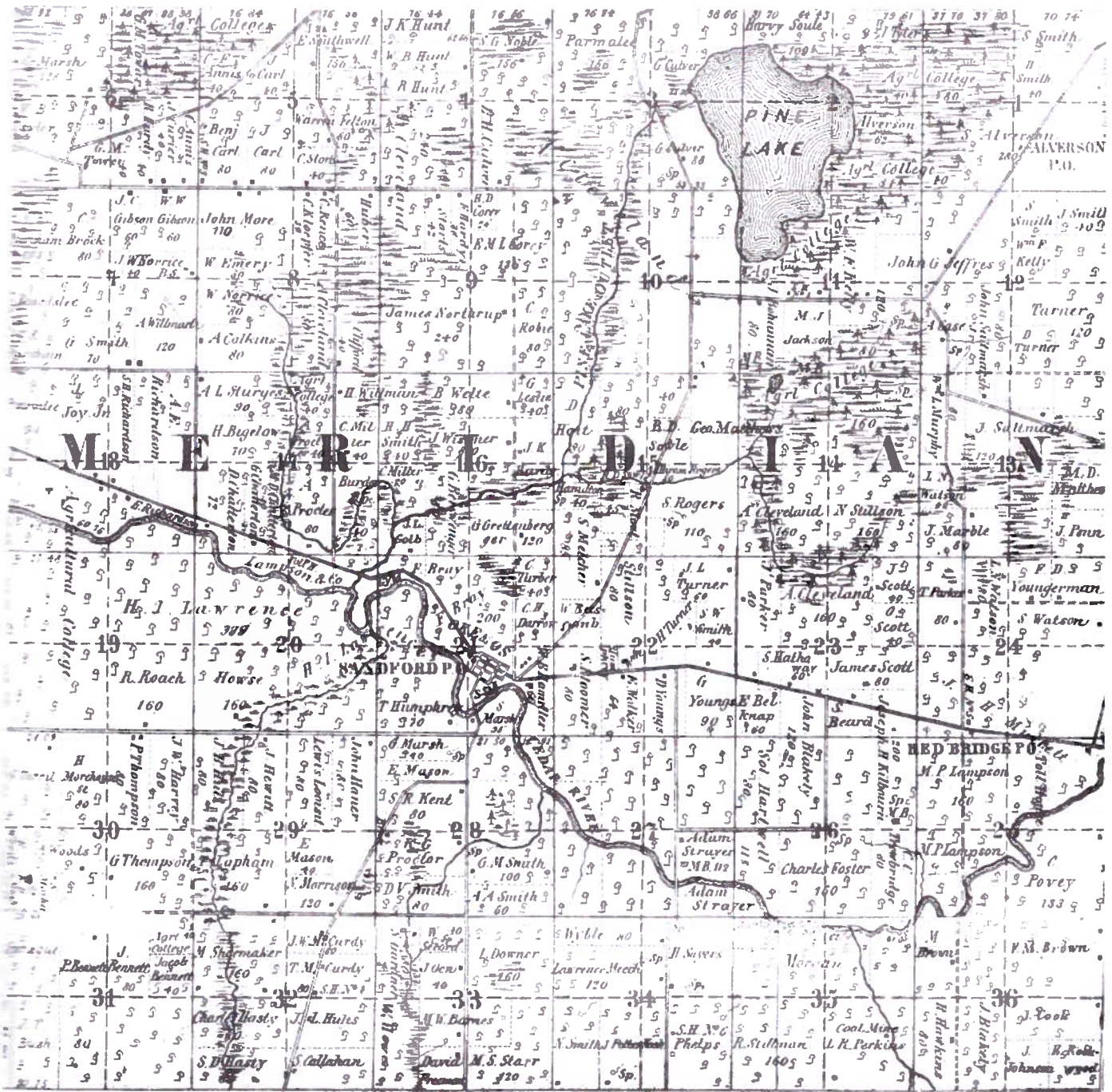
Please contact me if you have any further questions.

## **Attachments**

1859 Topographical Map by Geil, Harley and Siverd

1859 Topographical Map with overlays by Jack Thompson

1895 Standard Atlas Map with correct location of Mud Lake Drain



**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP**  
**T. 4 N., R. 1 W**

page from 1979 atlas "Reproduction of Topographical Map of the Counties of Ingham & Livingston, Michigan published by Geil, Harley & Siverd" Geneva Wiskemann, Jack Thompson

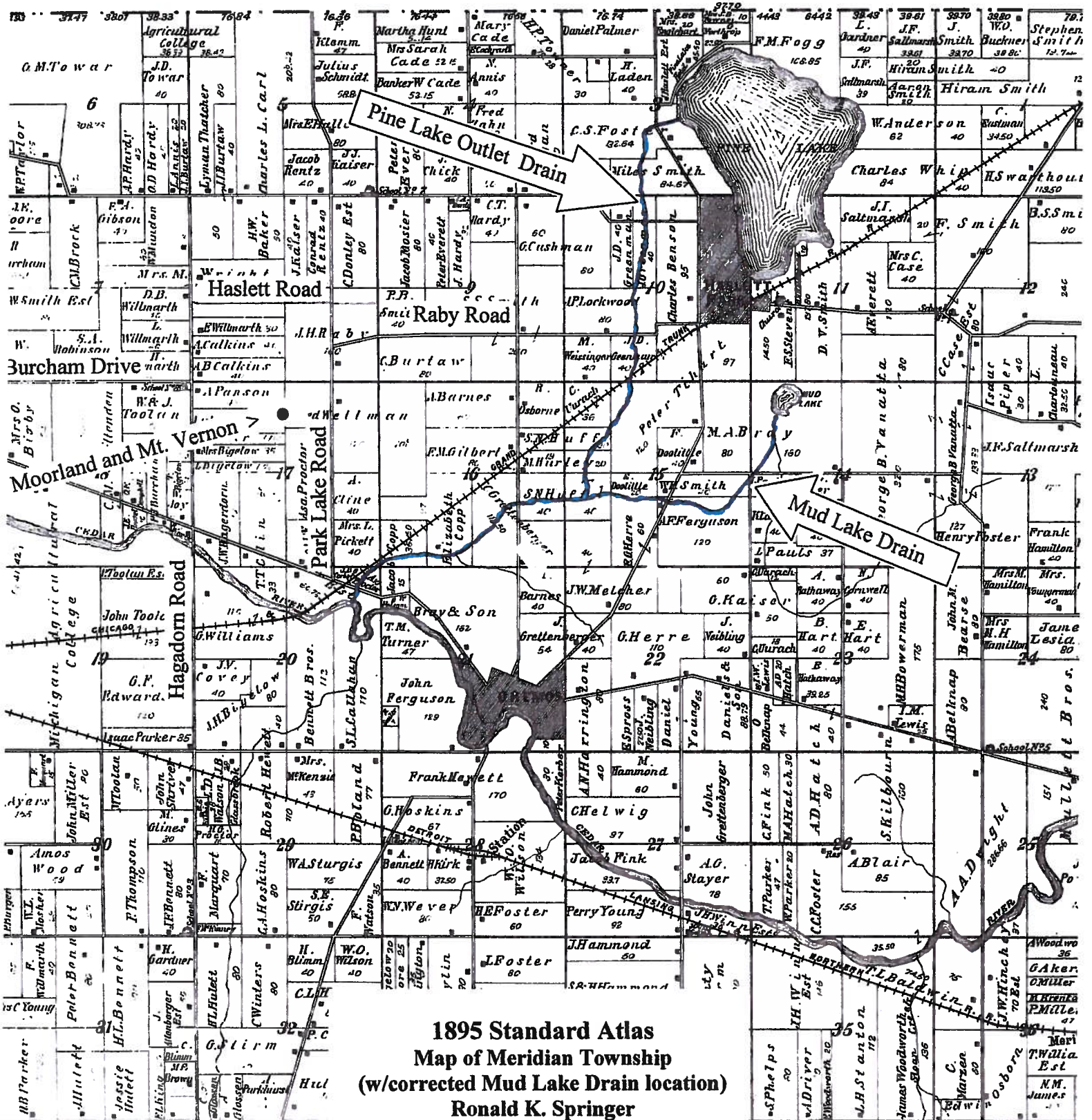


# MAP OF MERIDIAN

Township 4 North Range 1 West

Scale 2 Inches To one Mile

of the Meridian of Michigan



**1895 Standard Atlas  
Map of Meridian Township  
(w/corrected Mud Lake Drain location)  
Ronald K. Springer  
January 13, 2010**