

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA

IRON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Friday December 5, 2025 9:00 a.m.

**Iron County Courthouse Annex
2 South Sixth St.. Crystal Falls, MI 49920
906-875-3301**

**The Purpose of the Meeting will be for Discussion regarding the Appointment of
an Agency for Part 91 Soil and Sedimentation Permitting Program**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
- 3. Roll Call**
- 4. Public Comment, agenda items only, 3 min. max.**
- 5. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action Upon:**
 - a. Part 91, Soil and Sedimentation Permit Program**
- 6. Public Comment**
- 7. Motion To Adjourn**



Iron Baraga Conservation District
2 South Sixth Street, Suite 15
Crystal Falls, Michigan 49920
Phone: (906) 875-3765
IronBaragaCD.org

November 24th, 2025

Good Morning,

Starting January 1st, 2026, the Iron Baraga Conservation District will no longer administer the Part 91 Soil and Sediment permitting program for Iron County. After this date, we won't be able to issue permits. The new administrator may have additional requirements and new forms. Permits issued before that date will be honored by our replacement, who may implement new policies on extensions or design requirements. Please contact them in January for updates or assistance.

The Iron County Board of Commissioners and Chairman Mark Stauber are currently working with EGLE staff to identify a prompt replacement for the Part 91 CEA. While we do not know the name of the new appointee at this time, you will soon find their contact information on the Iron County and EGLE Part 91 websites.

If you have any questions or concerns, we suggest contacting the appropriate individuals and agencies in January or February to obtain the most up-to-date contact information for the new Part 91 CEA. We will update our website with the new CEA's contact information as soon as it becomes available.

You can reach the Iron County Administration Office and the Board of Commissioners at (906) 875-0116.

To contact the Iron County Construction Code Office for other permit needs, please call (906) 875-3102.

Iron County Website: <https://ironmi.com>

EGLE Website: <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/water-resources/soil-erosion/part-91-agencies>

Several factors influenced our decision to discontinue acting as the Part 91 Administrator. As you are aware, the Iron Baraga Conservation District is an independent unit of local government rather than a county agency. Our programs and services for the community are mainly funded through grants and fundraising efforts, and we are overseen by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD).

Over thirty years ago, the County of Iron appointed the Iron Conservation District to manage Part 91, committing \$3,000 annually—unchanged since then, to support our efforts. At that time, Iron County faced a declining population with limited construction near lakes or wetlands, leading to high compliance with Part 91 regulations. This also enabled greater public engagement and education on Farm Bill Programs, as the primary goal was to promote best management practices rather than serve as a regulatory body.

Since 2020, our area has seen significant changes, particularly a construction boom in remote regions near water sources. There has been a significant increase in non-compliant building sites that violate Part 91 soil runoff rules, threatening local waterways and creating nuisances for neighbors. Part 91 was adopted in Iron County through a resolution rather than an ordinance, allowing us to collect permit fees but lacking the enforcement power to issue fines

or tickets. This issue has become increasingly burdensome, leading to frustration among concerned residents and reputable contractors, as there are no penalties for violators.

Financially, the Part 91 program has struggled for years, relying on permit revenue that no longer covers operating costs, leading to a deficit of over \$18,000 last fiscal year. This unsustainable practice has rendered our program ineffective, and we all bear the costs associated with non-compliant sites, as our only option has been to increase the permit fees.

For several years, the Iron Baraga Conservation District has felt that our core mission of public service is at odds with the regulatory role of the Part 91 program we administer. This dual responsibility has made it difficult to be seen as a resource for landowners, while also leading to adversarial encounters for our staff working on Part 91. As a result, our staff faces ongoing safety concerns during Part 91 inspections, exposing them to unnecessary risks. We want to focus on helping the community rather than balancing dual roles. By returning the Part 91 Program to the County of Iron, we can realign with our true mission of assisting the public with their natural resource needs.

We are also excited to announce that we are relocating our office from the Iron County Courthouse to a larger, accessible space at the Windsor Center in Iron River, Michigan, at the end of February. You'll find us in Room 105 North at 612 West Adams Street, Iron River, Michigan. Our entrance will be directly accessible from outside the building, by the north parking lot at the rear of the building.

To accommodate those who work during the day, we will offer evening hours on Wednesdays and host monthly activities and workshops at the Windsor Center. We look forward to collaborating with other community organizations and will hold an Open House near the end of March. More details about our new office hours and updated contact information will be available on our website.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all landowners and contractors we have worked with under Part 91 for your commitment to best management practices and responsible resource management. As we move forward, we're excited to help the public with natural resource concerns by providing guidance and assistance to landowners without enforcement. Together, we can create a collaborative environment that benefits our community and landscape. Thank you for your continued support as we embrace new opportunities to serve and enhance our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Ann Ricker-Feak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Ann Ricker-Feak
District Manager of the Iron Baraga Conservation District