

LOCAL

GCEDC reworks drainage plans for 200-acre Bergen business park

By Paul Mrozek
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The Genesee County Economic Development Center is revising its drainage plans for Apple Tree Acres Corporate Park in response to concerns from the state Department of Environmental Conservation, engineer Steve Tanner said Wednesday.

Tanner, speaking at the GCEDC board meeting, said the DEC won't allow the county to enlarge a stormwater detention pond on the southeast corner of Apple Tree, a 200-acre business park at Route 33 and Route 490 in Bergen.

"We can't make them budge. We can't use it," Tanner said.

The DEC considers the pond in question as wetlands that cannot be disturbed.

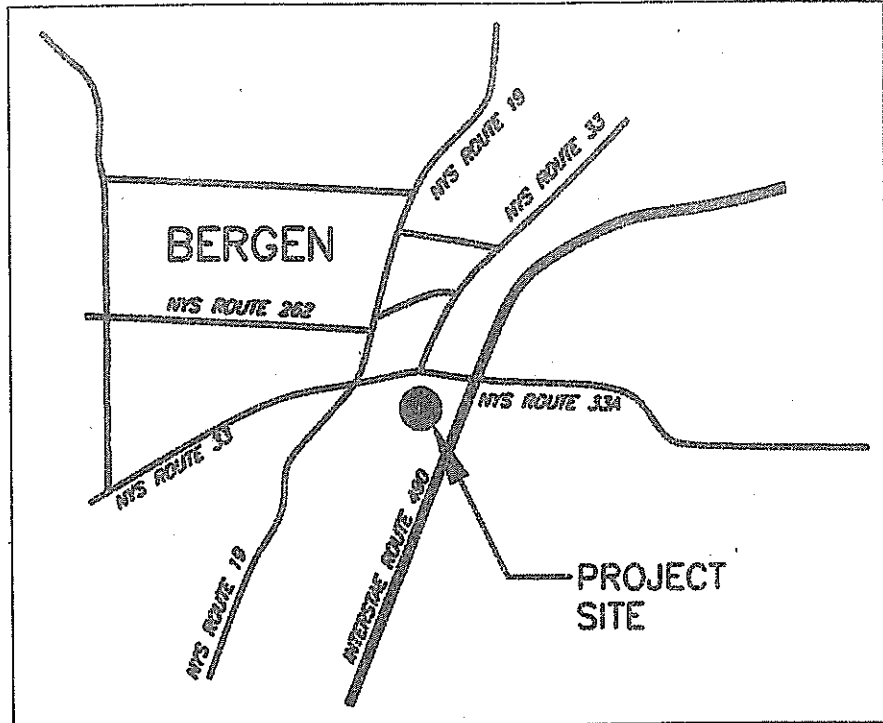
The EDC has already done some excavation work to increase the size of the pond and will have to return the land to its former state. The pond is not a natural one; it was dug when Route 490 was constructed, Tanner said.

The new site plan for Apple Tree calls for digging three smaller ponds to handle storm runoff, one each on the east, west and north sides of the property. The EDC has let bids for two of the ponds, with the remaining one to be built as part of a future phase of the park's development, Tanner said.

The bid opening is July 28. The DEC is aware of the proposed changes in siting the ponds in Apple Tree Acres, Tanner said. EDC Chairman John F. Andrews asked Tanner if the DEC has been evenly enforcing its regulations.

"Wetlands (laws) has been consistent," Tanner said. However the requirements for stormwater basins have changed and become more stringent, he said.

The EDC board, at Wednesday's meeting, approved spending up to \$80,000 for stormwater management improvements at Apple Tree Acres. The new ponds will open up more than



Courtesy of Clark Patterson Lee

APPLE TREE GROWTH: The Genesee Economic Development Center is changing its stormwater management plan for the 200-acre business park in the town of Bergen.

60 acres for development.

Tanner said the revised site plan will have no bearing on the \$4 million expansion under way at Apple Tree's anchor tenant, Liberty Pumps. Liberty has its own stormwater retention pond and already increased the size of it, the engineer said.

In other matters at Wednesday's meeting the EDC board:

- Approved using a \$138,000 state grant to help Tompkins Metal Finishing of Batavia to improve the management and recycling of toxic and hazardous materials it generates as part of its manufacturing operations.

- Appointed Walter Hinchey, president of P.W. Minor, chairman of its governance committee.

- Heard a report from EDC Executive Director Steve Hyde on the improvement in the organization's cash

flow. Hyde said in June that the EDC was strapped for working capital because of increased costs of petroleum-based building materials.

The cash crunch eased in the past several weeks because the EDC received about \$90,000 in payments, he said. "It was a very strong month," Hyde said.

- Heard from Hyde on a proposed \$225,000 grant from the town of Batavia to the EDC for infrastructure work in the planned Genesee Valley Agri-business Park.

The Batavia Town Board is scheduled to vote on the grant at its July 16 meeting.

The EDC is also preparing to close on the purchase of a railroad bed in the Agri-business Park. The park site is on a tract of land just east of the city of Batavia.