



## Dike funding closer to reality

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Spaulding Township is poised to receive federal funds for a dike project along the Cass River.

The U.S. House last week passed the Water Resources Development Act, which earmarks funds for water projects across the country.

Among them are improvements to the Cass River dike. The bill does not specify how much Spaulding Township would receive for the project, but states the Army Corps of Engineers would pay part of the cost.

Spaulding Township already has spent more than \$300,000 to guard against flooding, said Supervisor John A. Tagget.

He hopes to avert disasters like the 1986 flood when water "flowed in the back door and out the front" of township homes and closed a section of M-13. But the project has slowed without federal funds.

Tagget said \$750,000 was allocated to the township in the late 1990s, but that a dispute over what constituted a "matching" fund held up the money in the Army Corps of Engineers.

U.S. Rep. Dave Camp, a Midland Republican, hopes new legislation will free up that money.

"I am pleased for the residents along the Cass River that this project will finally move forward after years of being stalled," said Camp, who proposed language for the project in the bill.

Funding is not yet a reality. The U.S. Senate also must approve.

Deanne Brady, a spokeswoman for Camp, could not say whether it will come to a vote this fall or early next year.  
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