

prejudice value and assess the cost of damages to be suffered and incurred by any persons interested in the said property over, through and by which the said road, bridge or drain is to be opened, closed, extended, widened, graded or improved; and also to estimate the benefits that may accrue therefrom to any such property owner, through and by which the said road, bridge or drain is to be opened, closed, extended, widened, graded or improved or any property adjacent thereto, or any other property injured or benefited by said road, bridge or drain; they shall give at least fifteen days' notice in a newspaper published in St. Mary's County of their purpose to lay out, open, extend, close up, widen, straighten grade or improve the road, bridge, or drain as directed to be laid out, opened, extended, closed up, widened, straightened, graded or improved and of the day, hour and place of meeting for that purpose; and they shall meet at the time and place mentioned in the notice given by them and proceed to exercise the powers and perform the duty assigned to and required of them, and to ascertain whether any and what amount in value of the damages will be caused thereby for which the owner or occupant of any rights or interest, claimed in any ground or improvement ought to be compensated, over and above the amount in value of benefits which will thereby accrue to said owner or occupant thereof, and ascertain what amount in value of benefits will thereby accrue to any lot or parcel of ground by or through which the same may pass, or improvements made, or any other property or to the owner or occupant thereof, and which said lot or parcel of ground, or the owner or occupant thereof ought to pay. They shall locate boundaries and prepare an explanatory map giving a description of the road opened, closed, extended, widened, straightened, or bridge or drain, with each separate lot or parcel of ground deemed to have sustained damage or received benefit, and they shall, within twenty days, return to the County Commissioners such maps, together with the amount of damage awarded such owner or occupant and the amount of benefits assessed to any lot or parcel of ground or the owner thereof, together with a certificate of their qualifications, which may be ratified or rejected or allowed or amended in whole or in part by the County Commissioners; provided, that the County Commissioners shall give ten days' notice at least by publication in a newspaper published in St. Mary's County or by