

From: Douglas Rexroat <drex2238@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 11:05 AM
To: Clerk <Clerk@leelanau.gov>
Subject: LAKE LEELANAU PRESERVATION BOARD

To all Leelanau County Commissioners,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed establishment of the "Lake Leelanau Preservation Board" (hereafter "the board").

I am a Leelanau county resident, and a lakefront owner, I am concerned about the Eurasian watermilfoil problem in Lake Leelanau.

I agree that the problem must be addressed, as the risk to the lake is too great. However, I have the following concerns about the creation of the board.

There is no direct way for the property owners directly responsible for the payment of any special assessment to determine the scope and or amount of any project. Yes, act 309 allows for public hearings, but there is no requirement to follow the input gathered from such hearings. The board itself determines the amounts and the projects. This board will consist of a county commissioner, the county drain commissioner, representatives from the affected local units of governments, and a waterfront property owner. Of these board members, only two would be required to be an elected official, the county commissioner and drain commissioner. Act 309 does not require that the representatives from the local governments are elected official, and the waterfront property owner is appointed not elected.

Even if most of the board are elected officials, their interest may differ greatly from the actual bill paying waterfront owners. To be sure, many of the members of this board may see the benefits from a variety of improvements to the lake, and be ready to support them, especially when they do not have to pay for such improvements. The area at large would benefit from continued tourism, fishing, and recreational lake use by many non-waterfront owners. Benefits that accrue to lodging establishments, bars and restaurants, local shopping establishments, and many other local stakeholders; none of whom would be required to pay for such benefits.

Once created, this board has almost unlimited authority to pursue any project of any amount as long as it is related to the lake. There is no time limitations, or budgetary limitations. There is no vote of the waterfront owners (the one who would be responsible for payment of any assessment) to effect the members of the board, or approve or disapprove any assessment or project. They will just be required to pay their assessment, or surrender their property, and to do so without any real representation.

I am in support of addressing the Eurasian watermilfoil problem, but cannot support the creation of the board without addressing some of the concerns outlined above. If all waterfront owners can vote as to whether to proceed with any individual assessment or project, or there is annual limits on expenditures (such as 250,000.00 annually) and the scope is limited to addressing invasive species, then I would support the creation of the board. As it stands now, I cannot support the creation of an autonomous board with unlimited spending authority.

I ask you to address the concerns outlined above, and if such restrictions on the board are not possible, to reject its creation.

Thank you for your time.

412 N Herman Rd, Lake Leelanau MI
2368 South Sandy Beach Dr, Lake Leelanau, MI