

From: lynda key <lyndarkey@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 1:04 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@leelanau.gov>
Subject: concerns about upcoming proposal

Hello,

I attempted to send the below letter to all of the commissioners. I could not get it to go through to Ty Wessel's address as it continues to be returned. I'm wondering if you would be sure he receives this e-mail as well.

Thanks so much!

Lynda Key

Dear Commissioner Ty Wessel:

I am writing in reference to the Lake Leelanau Lake Association's proposal to develop a Lake Leelanau Preservation Board to collect funding for challenges facing Lake Leelanau, among them being the Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM). While I strongly support action taken to protect Lake Leelanau, I have concerns about this proposal. In reading the April 2021 newsletter by the Lake Leelanau Lake Association it is stated that aquatic weed control is a "community-wide challenge which jeopardizes revenues from tourism, property values of lakeside homeowners and the quality of life for all individuals who enjoy Lake Leelanau. It is the responsibility for those of us who wish to preserve the lake for future generations to find a long-term means of protecting this Lake we all care so deeply about". It is also stated that "It is neither reasonable nor equitable to expect a handful of private donors to underwrite most of the cost of aquatic weed control for the entire lake year after year". However, according to this proposal, The Lake Leelanau Preservation Board would be empowered to collect funding exclusively from Lake Leelanau waterfront property owners. I find charging property owners solely with this cost also disturbing when it was noted in the May 3rd Leelanau Ticker that the "ongoing spread of aquatic invasive species to inland waters can be attributed to small boats moving between watersheds". If the spread of these aquatic invasive species is primarily due to small boats moving between watersheds, how is it equitable to solely charge lakefront owners for the health of Lake Leelanau?

The health of Lake Leelanau benefits the entire community through tourism, property values, and quality of life, yet this preservation board supports charging only property owners with the cost of maintaining its health. Lake Leelanau Waterfront owners on the average in Leelanau County make up approximately 6 % of the population. When the health of Lake Leelanau benefits the entire community, how is it justifiable to charge 100% of the cost of its health to 6% of the population? At the end of the April 2021 Lake Leelanau Lake Association newsletter, it is stated: "We hope you share our understanding for the need to embrace a new lake-wide approach to address this critical threat." I certainly support a "*community-wide*" (rather than "lake-wide") approach to address this critical threat as that seems to be a fair and equitable approach, rather than disproportionately charging 6% of the population of the Leelanau community.

I recognize that some lakefront owners may not be challenged by these added expenses, however there are many individuals who will be challenged financially, especially in light of the fact that there is no statutory limit on the dollar amount that lakefront owners could be charged. Unfortunately, because lakefront owners constitute only 6% of the population of Leelanau County, they are a minority that obviously does not hold a strong bargaining position. It seems that the Lake Board will be afforded the power to discriminate against Lakefront owners by charging them the entire cost for maintaining the health of a lake that benefits the entire community. Perhaps lakefront owners might feel differently regarding this preservation board if there was a limit to the amount they could be charged, rather than feeling they are at the mercy of determinations made by a board that may significantly impact them financially.

Lake Leelanau is an amazing and beautiful natural resource. Please support working together as a community (including restaurants, bars, lodging establishments, retail establishments, non-lakefront owners, sportsmen, boaters, and all who

enjoy Lake Leelanau) to protect this awesome lake, rather than unfairly charging 6% of the population with this financial responsibility. We are in a position to do the right thing which is to share the cost of protecting Lake Leelanau as a community, rather than forcing these expenses on a small minority of individuals. Please ask yourself how you would feel if you had worked tirelessly to purchase and preserve your "family cottage" only to lose it due to the development of a Lake Board that is given the power to tax a minority of individuals for projects that benefit the entire community.

Please do not vote to support the development of a Lake Board that will be allowed to financially discriminate against a minority of individuals to gather funding for any amount that they deem necessary and appropriate.

Sincerely,

Lynda R. Key (Leelanau County Resident)