

Alison Middleton

From: Mary Ann Korson <korsonm1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 2, 2021 8:04 AM
To: Rick Robbins; Debra Rushton; Will Bunek; twessel@leelanau.gov; Patricia Soutas-Little; Gwenne Allgaier; Melinda Lautner; Clerk; Chet Janik
Subject: Lake Board
Attachments: lakeboard letter 1 July 2021.pdf

Please read the attached letter regarding your upcoming meeting on July 13, 2021.

We are concerned about the Eurasian watermilfoil problem in Lake Leelanau & agree that the problem must be addressed, as the risk to the lake is too great.

We were pleased to see that a boat-cleaning unit will be installed at the Bingham launch site this summer through funding of \$40,000 from the Association and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. This is a step in the right direction & we hope the county can implement this at the other launching sites as well. A suggestion in financing this would be to require boat launchers at facilities to have a tag that would be placed on their license. Revenues from this fee could serve 2 purposes, one to help fight the Millfoil problem currently in the lake and the other, to build up funds for preventative measures such as the boat-cleaning facilities to be installed in other popular launching sites.

We have concerns about the manner of how the Lake Board will be constructed and the action plan which is outlined in the letter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

To all Leelanau County Commissioners,

We are writing to express our concerns about the proposed establishment of the "Lake Leelanau Preservation Board" (hereafter "Lake Board"). We are Leelanau county residents, lakefront owners, and are concerned about the Eurasian watermilfoil problem in Lake Leelanau. We agree that the problem must be addressed, as the risk to the lake is too great. We were pleased to see that a boat-cleaning unit will be installed at the Bingham launch site this summer through funding of \$40,000 from the Association and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. This is a step in the right direction & we hope the county can implement this at the other launching sites as well. A suggestion in financing this would be to require boat launchers at facilities to have a tag that would be placed on their license. Revenues from this fee could serve 2 purposes, one to help fight the Millfoil problem currently in the lake and the other, to build up funds for preventative measures such as the boat-cleaning facilities to be installed in other popular launching sites.

We have concerns about the creation of the board, as shown below:

1. The Lake Board would be able to spend ANY AMOUNT they deem necessary to combat invasive species. There is no statutory limit in this amount. The citizens who will be directly responsible for paying the bill for these expenditures will have no vote as to the amount spent or the nature of the projects. This is **taxation without representation**. It would create an autonomous Lake Board that is not accountable to the citizens of Leelanau County or the lakefront owners. It is undemocratic.
2. The Lake Board would only be required to have one representative from among lakefront owners, and that is the only member of the board that would be subject to term limits. The only elected official would be a member of the county commission. All other members are appointed, and could be on the board for a lifetime.
3. Yes, act 309 allows for public hearings, but there is no requirement to follow the input gathered from such hearings. These hearings would be open to anyone and everyone. Non-lakefront owners and even those who are not citizens of Leelanau County can attend these meetings and give input as to the amounts spent and the projects pursued. Meetings that would determine what **ONLY THE LAKEFRONT OWNERS WOULD HAVE TO PAY**. The lake is available for all citizens and invasive species such as zebra muscles and now milfoil were a result of non-lake front owners launching their unclean boats in Lake Leelanau. The cost should be shared by all, in particular citizens launching boats in the lake.
4. Once created, this board has almost unlimited authority to pursue any project of any amount as long as it is related invasive species. There are 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.

We ask you to reject the creation of the Lake Board and to provide a path to a democratic and equitable solution to the Eurasian Watermilfoil Problem in Lake Leelanau. This Lake belongs to the entire county, and provides benefits to the entire county. Lets all work on this together to find a solution. Thank you for your time.

Mary Anna & Donald Korson