

Dear Commissioner:

I am opposed to the creation of the Lake Leelanau Preservation Board.

The wording in the LCBC draft resolution states any person who has legal access to the lake may serve as a member. Every person has legal access to this lake (I think Part 309 specifies lake land owners). Also, the time frame of at least three years for the lake board to exist is also indefinite.

Beyond that, after reading Act 451 of 1994: 324.30901-29, I have many more concerns about forming a lake board that has such far reaching power. To benefit all is wonderful, but to hold a minority financially hostage for that benefit is wrong.

(11) It was interesting to find out the he county board of commissioners may provide up to 25% of the cost of a lake improvement project on any public inland lake.

(19) It was also interesting to find out that the lake board can make additional pro rata assessments to make up for non collections, and the total amount assessed against any parcel of land shall not exceed the value of the benefits received from the improvement. Who would decide the value of improvement/amount assessed ratio?

(23) I found it disturbing that if the lake board determines it is necessary to condemn private property to fulfill its plans, a procedure starts, the condemnation proceedings start, and all will be conducted legally. However, this "legally" means another document to be interpreted and applied.

(27a-j) This is a huge expensive list. The lake board would have authority to retain an engineer and a lawyer, set the budget, etc. Lake property owners would be responsible for the costs. They would also be responsible for a plethora of potential litigation fees.

These are just some concerns I have at first glance and thinking of the pros and cons of creating a lake board.

There are better ways to address the problem of invasive species in our lake. We all want to be successful keeping the lake healthy. If there is absolutely no other way than to burden the lake property owners with the cost, then a specific annual dollar amount for a specific number of years would be a better option. A special property tax assessment roll is created and this special tax is not rolled into the existing tax assessment. This is legal if the property owners being taxed vote on it. Having the lake property owners on board, agreeing to pay for dealing with invasive species is important. We have a lake association that could possibly be the conduit for continuing to implement these important projects.

If the argument against something of this nature (set dollar amount and time frame) is because the cost is unknown...that would be the first red flag.

I applaud those that are actively doing the work now to get rid of the eurasian watermilfoil, and you for your service. Thank you for all of the work that you do for our beautiful county.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to your response.
Sincerely, Rose Laing