

May 4, 2021

Mr. Chet Janik and Leelanau County Board of Commissioners:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Lime Lake Association. The Lime Lake Association (LLA) Board of Directors has been following the efforts of the Lake Leelanau Lake Association (LLLA) and the Grand Travers Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians to eradicate the Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) found in South Lake Leelanau in 2019. We also understand that the LLLA has asked the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners to adopt a resolution creating a lake board for Lake Leelanau, as is permitted by Michigan State law, for the purpose of funding efforts to address the EWM in Lake Leelanau. The LLA supports the LLLA's recommendation for a lake board creation for Lake Leelanau.

Tom Hiatt and Jim Wysor of the LLLA and Brian Price, the LLLA's biologist and a friend to many of us on Lime Lake, have shared with us the real risks and the impact EWM will have in Lake Leelanau if this highly invasive species is not brought under control. The chilling experience of Houghton Lake has reinforced our understanding of the long term danger to Lake Leelanau and to our entire County if substantial and continuing efforts are not made to eliminate EWM. The LLA recognizes that all Leelanau County lakes are connected via recreational use of our waters by locals and visitors. Boats enter our waterways after time in lakes across the State and the County, potentially carrying invasive species.

We understand that some may believe this is not our fight, that it is not appropriate for the Lime Lake Association to take a position on whether the County Board should create a lake board for Lake Leelanau.

We disagree with that perspective. The LLA mission is to serve as "Stewards of the environmental purity and beauty of Lime Lake." We concur that EWM was, almost assuredly, brought into Lake Leelanau by a boat that had been in another lake which was infested with this weed. If the infestation in Lake Leelanau is not managed, if portions of the lake become covered with a canopy of EWM, there is a much greater risk that not only Lime Lake, but every other lake in our county, will eventually become infested with this destructive weed. As said above, all Leelanau lakes are connected by watercraft activity. The spread of EWM would truly be a long lasting, self-inflicted injury to our County's economy, to the recreational enjoyment of our lakes, to property values, and to the beauty of our peninsula.

Action now by the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners to assist the LLLA in the battle of EWM will save them, Lime Lake, and other County lakes hardship in the future. Please act within your power to create a lake board for Lake Leelanau to preserve the beautiful Leelanau County lakes.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dean Manikas and Lime Lake Board of Directors

Cc: Tom Hiatt, LLLA
Jim Wysor, LLLA