

**Laurel Evans**

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**Subject:** FW: Public Comment for Commissioners Meeting February 16 2021

**From:** Little Traverse Lake Property Owners Association <[ltlpoa88@gmail.com](mailto:ltlpoa88@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2021 2:14 PM

**To:** Clerk <[Clerk@leelanau.gov](mailto:Clerk@leelanau.gov)>

**Subject:** Public Comment for Commissioners Meeting February 16 2021

**\*\*Please include this letter as Public Comment in the February 16 meeting\*\***

February 16, 2021

To: Leelanau County Commissioners

RE: Pilot Septic Systems Program Options – Little Traverse Lake

The Little Traverse Lake Property Owners Association has been active on Little Traverse Lake for over 50 years. We represent almost 70% of the property owners on Little Traverse and are a IRS 501c3 organization.

The Association has been studying water quality on the lake for many years and has an extensive amount of data and historical records. In 2020, we began a project to test water quality, septic systems and well water. This project is being done by a Leelanau firm, Freshwater Solutions. In 2019, we began a three-year study of water quality by Dr. Ray Canale utilizing multiple testing sites and analysis. All of the data we have collected, and reports written, are available on our website [www.littletraverselake.org](http://www.littletraverselake.org).

Impacting water quality on Little Traverse Lake is not only septic systems but lake levels and invasive species. We are currently working with Cleveland Township, the Leelanau County Road Commission and the National Park Service to manage lake levels with a beaver dam control project on Shalda Creek. We annually survey the lake for invasive species and are investigating a boat wash system to try to curb their impact.

We welcome your interest in piloting Little Traverse Lake in a septic system study. We feel it is important that any study undertaken by the County includes the Lake Association and could use our established data to enhance the County's work.

The Association is happy to join you "at the table" when clear objectives, protocols, resources and budgets of the project are established. The Association can provide information, data, and history which will eliminate the County having to recreate information that may already exist.

We look forward to working with you and embrace being an integral part of this pilot program.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors

Little Traverse Lake Property Owners Association