

From: [Alison Middleton](#)
To: [Laurel Evans](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment: Potential Septic Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:11:30 AM

Many thanks!

From: Michelle Crocker <mcrocker@leelanau.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 9:10 PM
To: Alison Middleton <amiddleton@leelanau.gov>
Subject: FW: Public Comment: Potential Septic Ordinance

Please place this in the link for the minutes from this evenings meeting.

Michelle

From: Tricia Denton <tricia@tuque.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 8:58 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@leelanau.gov>
Subject: Public Comment: Potential Septic Ordinance

My most sincere thanks to Commissioner Ansorge for the time he has taken to create his review and proposed septic ordinance. A few points of reflection. Three lakes in our county engaged in water sampling this summer and found presence of dna from human septic linked bacteria in well water of some of the wells sampled. I agree, I'm not concerned with dead bacteria in water being detected via qPCR, however it does establish connectivity even if intermittent between onsite wastewater treatment and surface or drinking water. There are any number of other health threats including viruses that can be transmitted via groundwater from septic systems to drinking water and surface water. While Leelanau County lacks the Limestone formations that can be problematic, we do have many areas with highly permeable soils, meaning water can move rapidly through them, thereby bypassing in soil treatment. This is increasingly an issue with the greater frequency of high intensity rain events, which have been shown to have increased by 20-30% regionally as evidenced by workshops conducted by Michigan DHHS across the state to heighten awareness around infrastructure and regulations for waste water treatment that were engineered under different weather patterns.

In regards to your proposal to use an overlay approach for inspections, I would add wetland areas as mapped by the Leelanau County Conservation District. I also feel the overlay be based on a scientific based distance, if that is 100ft than very well, but it should not be arbitrary.

Has anyone done a cost benefit analysis of administering a county wide vs Overlay approach? It may be more cost effective to do an inspection program countywide.

I appreciate your extensive review of the responsibility of the health department to protect health, but I also support continuation and expansion of Time of transfer well and septic ordinances for their consumer protection and potential health protection benefits.

Where does our environmental health department director come in on your proposal? Is Eric Johnston in favor? Has he raised any issues or recommendations? Thank you again for your time on

this topic, I look forward to further discussions

Sincerely, Tricia Denton, Cleveland Twp 231-313-0359