

To: Mr. Steve Christensen
Leelanau County Drain Commissioner

From: Joe and Tara Bolton
10516 S. Leelanau Highway

Via Email: levans@leelanau.gov

Date: April 22, 2022

Subject: South Bar Lake Drainage District/Scope Meeting Held April 14, 2022

We are property owners at 10516 S. Leelanau Highway, our property is included on the very edge of the South Bar Lake Drainage District, and we attended your SCOPE meeting held on April 14, 2022. As we are not considered benefactors nor does our property contribute to the issue as described (we are surrounded by bluffs that inhibit any watershed flowing from our property to South Bar) **we would like you to exclude our property from the Drainage District.**

After listening to your presentation and the thoughtful comments made by some of the attendees post presentation, we would like to share the following thoughts we have regarding the South Bar drainage issue at hand:

- It is our understanding that the drainage district was created when the Village of Empire petitioned the drainage commissioner regarding a reoccurring drain culvert blockage issue which is located on South Lake Michigan drive. It was explained at the SCOPE meeting that this issue occurs mainly when Lake Michigan hits the high water mark (582 feet) a rare event which records show has occurred 3 times in the last 150 years. We see no evidence that our property has any impact on the water level of Lake Michigan or the wave action on Lake Michigan for that matter.

We request that the Drainage Commissioner decommission this project and work at the local level with the Village of Empire to solve this very infrequent culvert blockage issue.

- For a problem that occurs every 50 years we think consideration needs to be given to a lower cost more common sense approach, which would simply consist of replacing the existing culvert with a newer more robust culvert, nothing more. The existing process for cleaning out the culvert system seems effective and may even improve with a new culvert in place
- This problem and the associated costs belong back at the local level to those that are the benefactors of an unclogged drainage culvert. Those benefactors we feel are those that reside around South Bar lake and in the Village of Empire.

Please consider the aforementioned points as good reasoning to **exclude our property from the South Bar Lake Drainage District.** Thank you for your consideration.