From:	schristensen@co.leelanau.mi.us
To:	Laurel Evans
Subject:	FW: Regarding Lake Bluffs drain
Date:	Monday, October 26, 2020 10:56:51 AM

-----Original Message-----
From: "Fred & Michele Cepela" <fmcepela@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2020 7:56pm
To: schristensen@co.leelanau.mi.us
Subject: Regarding Lake Bluffs drain

Dear Commissioner Christensen,

Having worked with you for over two years on the creation of a drainage district for the Lake Bluffs subdivision, I am very pleased we have reached the point of the Board of Determination hearing. Thank you for your work in getting us to this point.

The combination of more homes and paved driveways, an increase in heavy rain events, and the gradual deterioration of our roads has resulted in frequent, severe damage to our roads. Over the years, we have paid to maintain the road - adding road gravel, improving the crown, grading the edges - but it has not been enough.

Complicating our situation is the fact that we do not have a formal structure to require financial support of the road by land owners. Consequently, it is hard enough to fund snow plowing and occasional road maintenance, much less the major investments required to maintain safe and functional gravel roads. That said, given the aforementioned development of the neighborhood and changing climate, as well as the slope of our roads, the only prudent long-term course of action is paving our roads.

Our ditches have become full of sand and, since they have also become overgrown with trees, they can't be cleared. The edges of some stretches of the roads have built up over time and are difficult to grade due to vegetation. Road material has washed away or had to be dragged into wash outs, resulting in a thin or nonexistent road bed in many areas. As a result, each time we experience a significant rain event, our roads suffer major washouts. These washouts can be over 1 foot deep and 3-4 feet wide. This creates a very dangerous situation for anyone driving on the roads. Since these washouts can be adjacent to each other on opposite sides of the road, I fear there could be a time when emergency vehicles cannot reach their destination.

For all these reasons, I believe the Lakes Bluffs subdivision is the ideal candidate for a drainage district. Without the establishment of a drainage district, we will never be able to obtain the necessary funding to create a safe road system that properly manages stormwater.

Sincerely,
Fred A. Cepela
10197 S. Lake Ct.

Proposed Lake Bluffs Drainage District, Board of Determination meeting – 10/29/2020
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