



Mr. Steve Christensen, Drain Commissioner
Leelanau County Drain Commission
8527 E. Government Center Dr., Suite 205
Suttons By, MI 49682

April 28, 2022

Dear Mr. Christensen:

The South Bar Lake Association (SBLA) was formed “for the purpose of maintaining, promoting and protecting the health and natural beauty of South Bar Lake and its supporting ecosystems”. The association goal is to be a support group, information resource and community voice.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the analysis and South Bar Lake Drain options presented at the April 14, 2022 public meeting.

Four options were presented. Options 1 and 2 relocate the drain to the South end of the lake. Options 3 and 4 modify and maintain the drain at the current location. The initial engineering presented, indicates all 4 options are feasible and address the unacceptable deficiencies of the existing condition.

Based on the initial information presented, the South Bar Lake Association supports relocating the drain to the South end adjacent to the Empire Beach Park. This location will increase water circulation and flow at the South end of South Bar Lake. This may have a positive impact on the South aquatic plant growth and the adjacent public lake uses. It will eliminate the complications of maintaining and accessing the current location on private property.

The Drainage District has the responsibility to assess and consider the environmental impacts of all options under consideration. It is important to understand the advantages, disadvantages and impact of both locations and options on the environmental quality and health of South Bar Lake. We would appreciate receiving this assessment when completed.

The need to establish a legal “lake level” was also identified at the April meeting. This is a necessary basis for the project design. The SBLA can help coordinate input from residents and compile available data to support this process.

The South Bar Lake Association is available to assist you in addressing any issues impacting the project. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments on this important drainage and environmental issue.

John Collins

John Collins

President, SBLA

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We express our appreciation to Val Dalton for use of the artistic image. Val is a South Bar resident and noted artist.