

**From:** [PeSuMaher PeSuMaher](#)  
**To:** [Laurel Evans](#); [PeSuMaher PeSuMaher](#)  
**Subject:** South Bar Lake Drainage District  
**Date:** Friday, April 29, 2022 12:13:53 AM

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Dear Ms. Evans:

Please forward this email to Mr. Steve Christensen, the Leelanau County Drainage Commissioner. This communication reflects the comments of the sender following the Scope Meeting held by the Drainage Commissioner on 4/14/22 regarding his plans for the newly formed South Bar Lake Drainage District, specifically the reconstruction and/or relocation of the drainage outlet from South Bar Lake (SBL) into Lake Michigan.

The undersigned is a property owner (with my wife) and part-year resident of the Village of Empire. We own a home on South Lake Michigan Drive, the private driveway which extends north approximately a half mile from the Village of Empire's public beach between Lake Michigan to the west and SBL to the east of said driveway.

The undersigned is also the current president of the Empire Beach Association (EBA), a longstanding homeowners association for the 23 private properties which share the usage of the private driveway noted above. **Please note that the following comments reflect not just my own opinions but also the opinions of nearly all of the 23 member-property owners of the EBA. (Those who have different opinions on this matter have indicated they will submit their own comments directly to you.)**

After attending the 4/14/22 Drainage Commission meeting virtually and reviewing the materials and information shared at the meeting, it is my/our opinion that the Commission should implement either of the two options (Option #1 and Option #2) which would relocate the outlet to the south end of SBL, on the Village's public beach property. Based on the available history of SBL it is clear that when South Bar Lake was formed its outlet into Lake Michigan was located at the southern-most end of SBL. It was only through the actions and business decisions of the lumber companies which operated on SBL more than 100 years ago that saw the natural outlet moved to its current artificial location north of the public beach on what is now otherwise private property.

We the members of the EBA remain committed to the health and protection of South Bar Lake. In this regard we believe that restoring the lake's outlet to the location originally "selected" by Mother Nature would surely be in the best interests of both the long term environmental health of the lake as well as its wonderfully varied eco-system.

In addition we note that relocating the SBL outlet to the Empire public beach area (as described in the Commission's Options #1 and #2) would significantly simplify access to

whatever permanent improvements the Drainage District deems necessary and appropriate for the continued maintenance of the outlet.

Finally, I/we thank you for the opportunity to present these views and I am available to discuss any thoughts, questions or concerns you may have regarding this communication.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Maher, President  
Empire Beach Association  
South Lake Michigan Drive  
Empire, MI 49630