

*****Read/extemporized at FIRST Public Comment period at beginning of meeting.**

We're here today to provide this new BPW a peculiar & unpleasant history of Leelanau County Commission's/BPW's projects. Documents given to each BPW member and recording secretary before meeting began:

1. 1990 Provemont Pond Sewer Camp photo: Image of identified public bodies involved
 2. 2000 Winter front page-EPA's 'Small Flows' publication re sewers and on-site septic systems
- These indicate (1.) deserved low esteem homeowner sewer users had & have for public officials involved and, (2.) an EPA publication regarding benefits of on-site septic systems.*

ISSUE: Questionable performance of Leelanau County Board Commissioners and its Board of Public Works (BPW) as to their involvement in (sewer) projects...

Leland Twp Project: In **1983, needed** for Leland Village **large users** (homeowners **not in need**) costing \$700,000 for **38** users. **By 1990 it ballooned to more than 500 users (90 % homeowners to subsidize it for large users), to nearly \$8,000,000! Some of its harmful/damaging/costly serious problems:**

*** Leland Twp Board Spent \$250,000 design/engineering on a NO-BID BASIS for three years 'blessed' by Leelanau County BOC and its BPW!?**

*** Home owners FORCED to subsidize large users w/Special Assessments and fees--**continuing** to present. Officials **never** determined Need/Necessity/Benefit Justification for homeowners. Twp Board monthly meetings: **100+** people for years!**

*** Poorly designed, badly engineered, poorly constructed and a defective 1988 Hydrogeological Study. 1998 MDEQ required new Study indicating significantly different groundwater flow--**toward Lake Leelanau Village!****

*** Bond interest at 9-3/8 %, project with so many defects **\$500,000 stolen** from debt fund to fix some of Problems. Users are still paying extra for those defects**

*** Engineers designed with mild steel. They KNEW that mild steel cannot be used in this type of system due to **corrosive** atmosphere and liquids.**

*** 1998 MDEQ declared sewer failed and mismanged! Lagoon overflowed, drainfields flooded, etc. (Everybody responsible but nobody accountable.)**

*** Elected officials--Leland Twp, Leelanau County Commission and its BPW failed to hold engineers and builders accountable by doing their best to allow the statue of limitations to expire—7 years!**

*** Destroying (stealing) our 100 acre Provemont Pond Nature Area Park registered with state even though **other sites available** for treatment plant, 12 large drainfields & 6 million gallon lagoon. **30+ acres clearcut, hills bulldozed, etc.****

Leelanau Twp/Northport Project: Appears to be a similar bad experience...

We hope and trust that future Leelanau County Commissions and BPWs will be more successful than above...with an abundance of prudence to do no harm.

****Read/extemporized from notes taken at meeting at SECOND Public Comment period at END of meeting.**

As a commissioner we'd like to know/understand why LC BPW projects like the Leland and Northport Sewer are unsuccessful and so poorly put together— design/engineering/ operations and financing so they become burdensome and MUCH more costly to users than PROMISED? And difficult to run properly. Expect Northport/ Leelanau Twp users costs to increase another \$80/quarter soon. Twp officials unable to handle...? B

We're fascinated by NLTUA(?) officials confident of 'creative financing' to take care of significant unanticipated costs. And, imagined hopes that new "potential' sewer users 'soon' will magically provide revenue to operate but seem not to know capacity. Does county have special techniques to find money? This BPW needs to more demanding to seek more clarity...

BPW/BOC did not help **Leland Sewer users** with "creative" money or "grants" from other taxpayers. Users were **forced/extorted** to pay for all errors/mistakes of elected officials and professionals they employed who **promised a trouble-free sewer**. Back to government officials involvement...lots of responsibility but NO accountability. **Our Leland "sewer" experience from start up in Fall 1992 to summer 1998, lagoon overflowed, drainfields overflowed, apparent mismanagement and \$500,000 of emergency repairs/ correcting design and engineering defects and operations errors...!**

MDEQ demanded Leelanau County, Leland Twp officials, Engineers, etc. to attend **their crises meeting** (1998) in Cadillac as DEQ declared Leland Sewer **failed**. DEQ officials demanded we not video tape meeting threatening us with State Police removal... Mr. Yoder had been Chair of BOC at that time...