

To: Stephen Christensen, Drain Commissioner; Members of the Board of Determination
From: Bronwyn Jones, Empire Township Property #'s: 005-018-017-00; 005-018-016-00
Re: South Bar Lake Drain

I am the owner of two contiguous parcels of land in Empire Township that have been in my family since the early 1930's: Property #005-018-016-00, address 9797 West Windsong Drive, Empire, 49630 is a 13 acre parcel, including a family home, barn, and garage; Property #005-018-017-00 is a contiguous 26 acre piece of land, placed in conservancy with the Leelanau Conservancy and adjacent to the Chippewa Run Natural Area.

In your letter dated October 2, 2020, I learned, for the first time, that the above properties have been included in the proposed geographic description of a South Bar Lake Drainage District. After careful consideration of the letter and map, it is important that the Board of Determination understands that I see ZERO benefit conferred on my property by what will be a costly project both reengineering and constructing a solution to the failing culvert/drain from South Bar Lake into Lake Michigan.

Indeed, it seems the Village of Empire seeks to fund a costly project on the financial backs of township property owners, especially as the easement costs will be assessed by acreage and not millage. There will be NO public health benefit, NO convenience, NO improvement in general welfare conferred on me, my family members, or my property by this project, NOR to the majority of property owners in the proposed drainage district.

While my husband and I have supported/voted for millages that benefit education, fire safety, health, law enforcement and the environment, we do not see this project conferring these types of broadly shared benefits. We OBJECT to the formation of the South Bar Drainage District as configured in the map, Exhibit A, included with the October 2 letter.

We encourage the Board of Determination to find that this South Bar Drainage District as currently configured is NOT necessary and to REJECT the petition.

Sincerely,

Bronwyn R. Jones
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(231) 631-3956

To: Stephen Christensen, Drain Commissioner; Members of the Board of Determination
From: Bronwyn Jones, Empire Township Property #'s: 005-018-017-00; 005-018-016-00
Re: South Bar Lake Drain Addenda to Comment for October 22nd Meeting

After further thought and research, I believe that creating a South Bar Lake Drainage District is the WRONG solution to the problem. Indeed, the problem with the culverts leading from South Bar Lake into Lake Michigan is a ROAD problem, NOT a drainage problem. The funding for correction of the failing culverts should come from state and federal road funds. For example, in Cleveland Township, the failure of the Shalda Creek culverts under 669, Bohemian Road, were addressed as a ROAD problem, NOT with the creation of a drainage district. And the culverts and roadway were repaired and updated this past summer, 2020, with funds that did NOT come from a drainage district.

Once you create a drainage district, you cannot uncreate it. Again, I will emphasize that this move is absolutely the WRONG funding solution for this problem and as a property owner in Empire Township I oppose the creation of a drainage district. Further research into a more equitable funding solution is urgently needed.