



To: Leelanau County Drain Commissioner

October 16, 2020

Subject: South Bar Lake Drain-Petition to Locate, Establish and Construct a New County Drain- Board of Determination Meeting Oct 22, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Drainage District and South Bar Lake Drain. The South Bar Lake Association (SBLA) supports the Village of Empire Application for Laying Out and Designating a County Drainage District -South Bar Lake Drain.

The SBLA consists of owners of property bordering South Bar Lake. The association is “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 for protecting the health and natural beauty of South Bar Lake. South Bar Lake is a special unique natural resource valued and enjoyed by the entire community. Our association is committed to working closely with the Village, Township, County and residents to support a vibrant environmentally healthy South Bar Lake.

The existing South Bar Lake Drain is unreliable and inadequate. The drain frequently plugs up with sand causing a backup of water, raising the South Bar Lake level, creating flooding conditions on property around the Lake and affecting water levels and drainage in the Village. When the drain plugs up, it requires manual clearing. The clearing process is disruptive and ineffective. Ineffective, because it often has to be repeated in hours or days when Lake Michigan weather and sand transfer again plugs the drain. Clearly the existing drain is not adequate.

A new South Bar Lake Drain is needed and necessary. This can to be designed and constructed to function in the broad range of weather conditions on Lake Michigan. Further study is needed of options and solutions. If the Drainage District is approved, the SBLA is available to assist in the development of a functional cost effective new South Bar Lake Drain.

Thank you for your consideration,


John Collins, President (johnpcollins4@gmail.com)

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LEELANAU COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR