

November 12, 2019



Lieutenant Colonel Gregory E. Turner
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Detroit District
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226

Ms. Teresa Seidel, Director
Water Resources Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy
Constitution Hall
525 West Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909-7973

Dear Colonel Turner and Ms. Seidel:

I am writing on behalf of the Beaver Island Association ("BIA") at the direction of our board concerning the high water levels of Lake Michigan and attempts to protect property from damage caused by a combination of the high water and storms. The BIA is a non-profit association of persons with an interest in the environmental and economic sustainability of Beaver Island and the nearby islands in the Beaver Island archipelago. Our archipelago's shorelines have long been recognized as critical to federally and state threatened and endangered species and as important for fish spawning. Our entire island falls within the State of Michigan Coastal Zone Management Area.

Unfortunately, the high-water threat to homes and other improvements has led to poorly designed attempts to protect the shoreline. These poorly engineered efforts are destructive ecologically, have harmed neighboring property and, in some cases, have resulted in creating hazards to navigation from floating debris. In addition to these issues, our municipal marina and ferry dock are threatened by the high water. They are both critical to the economy of the island.

Our island community presents unique challenges in addressing the issue because of numerous environmentally sensitive locations in the archipelago, limited access to professional assistance and transportation issues. We have learned at a recent coordinating meeting between our local Emergency Services Authority and representatives from regional and state emergency management organizations that there is not likely to be state or federal funding to assist in responding to these issues (except in the case of publicly owned critical infrastructure). However, information on the Army Corps website indicates that it has special tools and programs for analyzing high water impacts and designing approaches to protect as well as restore shoreline. We believe the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy has a unique interest in protecting the archipelago shoreline because of the substantial state land holdings here and the environmental significance of the area (which is a unique home to many endangered plants and animals). Accordingly, we request assistance from both organizations in reviewing the situation and providing engineering assistance to those dealing with high water

issues. In that regard, we understand that a regional meeting with the Army Corps is being discussed for the spring. Although we understand and appreciate the concern this represents, the unfortunate reality is that a mainland meeting in the spring is not very practical for the island. This is because logistics on the island require that spring projects be planned now and mainland meetings are very difficult to attend from an island 30 miles offshore in Lake Michigan.

Unique environments are at risk. Home and property values are threatened and, as a result the island's tax base is also at risk. Failure to properly address the issue threatens the island's environmental and economic sustainability. I have attached pictures from some of our members that show some of the damage so far on the east side. If the lake continues to rise as predicted, the consequences could be dire. We respectfully ask that you consider arranging to provide information, advice and other available assistance to islanders working to respond to these issues including by arranging informational meetings on the island. We are willing to assist in arranging and provide logistic support for visit(s) to the island, to arrange public meetings and to use our resources to assist in making your advice widely available.

We look forward to hearing from you.

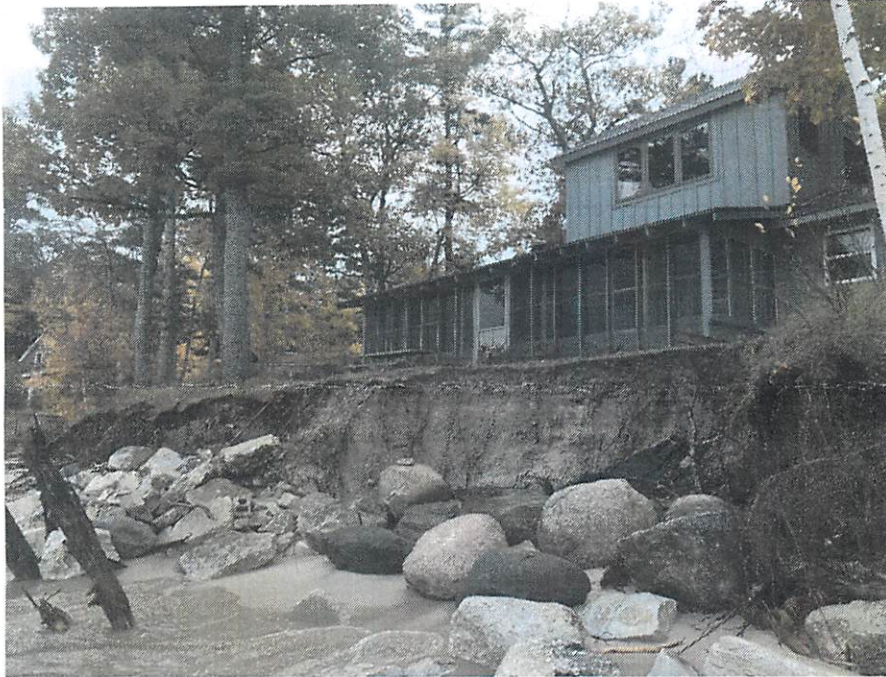
Sincerely,



Kevin Boyle, President
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cc: Kitty McNamara, St. James Township Supervisor
Bill Kohls, Peaine Township Supervisor
Senator Deborah Stabenow
Senator Gary Peters Sr.
Representative Jack Bergman
Michigan Senator Wayne Schmidt
Michigan Representative Triston Cole
Megan Anderson, Director, Charlevoix - Cheboygan – Emmet Office of Emergency Management
Lt. Michael deCastro, District Coordinator, Michigan State Police Emergency Management & Homeland Security Division
Tom Johengen, Director, Michigan Sea Grant
Scott Hicks, Field Office Supervisor, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Matt Preisser, Lake Coordinator, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Examples of High Lake Level Impact on Beaver Island



31330 East Side Drive



31250 East Side Drive



30930 East Side Drive



East Side Drive