

Bear Lake - Lake Board

Paul Pek, Chair | 616-638-8002 | paul.pek.bllb@gmail.com | bllb.org

November 8, 2026

To: Kim Arter, Laketon Township Supervisor
2735 West Giles Road, Muskegon, MI 49445

RE: Request for Intergovernmental Cost-Sharing Contribution for the Bear Lake - Lake Board Special Assessment District

Dear Kim Arter and Laketon Township Board of Trustees,

The Bear Lake - Lake Board is currently executing a statutory special assessment process under Part 309 of Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (PA 451 of 1994) to secure critical, long-term funding for the ecological health and management of Bear Lake.

The Special Assessment District (SAD) encompasses all benefiting parcels, including Horton Park (parcel 61-09-310-000-0026-00), which is owned by Laketon Township. While the Lake Board recognizes the legal complexities regarding the formal enforceability of special assessment levies against publicly owned municipal property, the tangible benefits of a healthy lake directly extend to this park and your constituents. Enhanced water quality, weed control, and shoreline management protect property valuations, reduce public liabilities, and enrich regional recreation.

In the spirit of public cooperation, the Bear Lake - Lake Board respectfully requests that Laketon Township authorize a Voluntary Intergovernmental Cost-Sharing Contributions for the 2027-2031 fiscal years. Calculated under the standard formula applied to private parcels, the proportionate annual share for Horton Park amounts to $516.44 per year.

This contribution is requested as a public-to-public cost-sharing mechanism for environmental infrastructure to ensure the financial burden of managing this shared resource is equitably distributed.

We would welcome the opportunity to present a brief update on the project and answer any questions at your next public meeting if you desire. Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to protecting our local natural resources.

Sincerely,

Paul Pek, Chairperson
Bear Lake Lake Board