

Welcome to the Cedar Lake Improvement Board

Regular Public Meeting

February 20, 2026

Board Members

Carolyn Brummund

Jesse Campbell

Dave Dailey

Adam Kline

Terry Dutcher

Fred Strauer

Rex Vaughn

Alcona County Commissioner

Alcona County Road Commission Rep.

Greenbush Twp. Representative

Oscoda Township Manager

Iosco County Commissioner

Iosco County Drain Commissioner

Citizen Riparian Representative

Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
Regular Public Meeting & FOIA Appeal  
Greenbush Township Hall  
Greenbush, MI 48738  
Friday, February 20, 2026  
10:00 AM ET

Agenda (Revised In-Meeting)

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call.
3. Conference Call Meeting Operating Protocol & Housekeeping.
  - a. Audio only, video services not available.
  - b. Please keep your phone muted until invited to speak by the Chair during Public Comments or the FOIA Appeal.
4. Public Comments.
5. Approval of Agenda as Presented. (*See changes noted below*)
6. Review and Approve Minutes from the December 12, 2025, Regular Meeting & Budget Public Hearing.
7. Old Business.
  - a. Kieser & Associates Update by Mark Kieser (call-in) on phosphorus, levels of *E. coli*, and total coliform discovered in the northwest end of Cedar Lake.
    - i. Presentation of Technical Memo on the November groundwater testing results.
  - b. Update on Midwest Glacial Lakes Fish Habitat Partnership Grant administered by the Fish & Wildlife Service.
    - i. Email exchange with Justin Chiotti, Habitat Biologist, USFWS – Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program.
8. New Business.
  - a. Review and approve bills that were paid since the 12-12-2025 meeting or are now due.
    - i. Kelly VonFintel, Scribe Services for two (2) 2025 CLIB Meetings, \$200.00 (paid).
    - ii. Kieser & Associates, Watershed Consulting Contract, professional services, Inv. 26-211, \$1,499.00 (paid).
    - iii. Kieser & Associates, Watershed Consulting Contract, professional services, Inv. 25-207, \$2,512.50 (paid).
    - iv. Alcona County Review, 2026 Regular Meeting Notice Display Ad, Inv. 30505, \$58.00, (paid).
    - v. Oscoda Press, 2026 Regular Meeting Notice Display Ad, Account # 99203325, \$116.88, (paid).
    - vi. Bloom Sluggett PC, professional services through 12-31-2025, Inv. 27639, \$774.00, (new).
    - vii. Bloom Sluggett PC, professional services through 12-31-2025, Inv. 27792, \$102.00, (new).
    - viii. Staley Lamp & Kraenzlein, PC, professional services for 2026 budget preparation, Inv. 43571, \$750.00 (new).
    - ix. Rex Vaughn, reimbursement for office supplies (color printer ink), \$61.87, (new).

Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
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Proposed Agenda

Cont'd,

- b. Consumers Energy Foundation 2026 Planet Award Grant Opportunity.
    - i. Communication with CLIB Board.
      - 1. 1/28/2026 Letter to the Board.
      - 2. Kieser & Associates support.
        - a. K&A prepared the Letter of Intent, and if we make the first cut, they will prepare the Formal Grant Application.
        - b. K&A's professional services for Letter of Intent and Formal Grant Application provided at no cost to the CLIB.
      - 3. Letter of Intent submitted 2/4/2026.
      - 4. First cut date 2/23/2026.
      - 5. If selected, full grant application due 3/11/2026.
      - 6. Award winners announced this Spring.
    - ii. CE Grant Info.
  - c.—~~Proposed closed/executive session of the Cedar Lake Improvement Board, pursuant to Section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(1)(h), to discuss a privileged and confidential written communication from the Lake Board's attorney dated February 18, 2026. (Removed by motion.)~~
  - d.—~~FOIA Appeal. (Removed by motion, appellant withdrew the appeal during first Public Comment session.)~~
    - i.—~~Timeline Review.~~
      - 1.—~~Original FOIA received 10/30/2025~~
      - 2.—~~10-day letter issued 11/6/2025.~~
      - 3.—~~FOIA Response letter issued 11/20/2025.~~
      - 4.—~~Appeal letter received 12/21/2025.~~
      - 5.—~~Appeal Response sent 12/30/2025.~~
      - 6.—~~Final Response to the 10-31-2025 FOIA Request sent on 2/13/2026 via email/USPS with an emailed download link via DropBox to the responsive documents (213 MB of documents).~~
      - 7.—~~Copies of the letters in the timeline included in the Board Notebook and the Board Packet.~~
    - ii.—~~Appellant opportunity to address the Board.~~
  - e. Correspondence received from local citizens. (*Added by motion.*)
9. Public Comment.
10. Next Regular Meeting Date: Friday, April 10, 2026.
11. Adjournment.

Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
Regular Public Meeting & FOIA Appeal  
Greenbush Township Hall  
Greenbush, MI 48738  
Friday, February 20, 2026  
10:00 AM ET

Proposed Agenda

Cont'd,

**Cedar Lake Improvement Board Regular Public Meeting & FOIA Appeal  
Public Access Instructions**

**Friday, February 20, 2026, at 10:00 AM ET**

**CONFERENCE CALL-IN INFORMATION:**

**To join the conference call, participants should call 302-202-1110 & enter Conference Code:  
639770**

Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
Regular Public Meeting & Public Hearing  
Greenbush Township Hall  
Greenbush, MI, 48738  
Friday, December 12, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Meeting called to order at 10:07 AM by Chairman Vaughn.

1. Board Roll Call. Present: Brummund, Kline, Dutcher, Vaughn. Absent: Campbell, Strauer, and Dailey. There is a quorum.
2. Public Comment.
  - a. Jeff Linderman, Oscoda Township, concerned about testing done in July and wanted to know why the public was not notified about the elevated levels of *E. coli*.
  - b. Greg Weyhing, Cedar Lake Rd, Oscoda Township, Lakewood Shores, wanted to know if the CLIB knew what Fred Strauer's presentation at the Lakewood Shores board meeting (which was cancelled due to weather) was going to be, and if it was going to be in his capacity as Drain Commissioner or as a CLIB board member. Mr. Vaughn answered by saying it would be in Mr. Strauer's role as Drain Commissioner, and that the CLIB was not knowledgeable of the content of the planned presentation. Mr. Dutcher then said that Mr. Strauer wanted Oscoda Township to petition the Drain Commissioner for work on the Lakewood Shores drains, but Dutcher was not sure if that is what the meeting was about.
3. Approval of 12/12/2025 Agenda as presented. Motion made by Brummond/Dutcher. Motion carried.
4. Review and approve minutes from 10/10/2025 Regular Meeting as presented. Motion made by Dutcher/Brummond. Motion carried.
5. Motion to recess meeting for 2026 Budget Public Hearing. Motion by Dutcher/Brummond. Motion carried.
6. Open 2026 Budget Public Hearing.

**ROLL CALL.** Present: Brummond, Dutcher, Vaughn, Kline. Absent: Campbell, Strauer, and Dailey. Quorum is present.

  - a. Public notices were printed in local newspapers. Affidavits are in the mail to Vaughn.
  - b. Presentation of 2026 Proposed Budget. The budget is balanced with one transfer from the Fund balance to general account to support the 2026 budget.
  - c. Glacial Lakes Fish Habitat Partnership grant is new for the year. \$29,250 of the \$84,310 grant will be recognized in the 2026 budget year. It is a two-year grant. The grant has been approved but the funds have not yet been released by the government.
  - d. A driveway will need to be installed on the property on the NW side of Cedar Lake. That is under Watershed Construction Projects and Repairs. A quote is still needed for the driveway.

- e. Nick Cordes, CPA, worked with Vaughn to put the budget together.
- f. Open Public Comment:
  - i. Greg Weyhing, Cedar Lake Road, Oscoda Township, asked what the \$29,250 portion of the \$84,320 federal grant will be used for. Vaughn stated that it would be reviewed during the regular meeting.
  - ii. No further public comments and no written comments received by the Board.
- g. Brummond/Kline made the motion to close the 2026 Budget Public Hearing.  
**ROLL CALL:** Brummond, YES, Dutcher, YES, Kline, YES, Vaughn, YES. Absent: Campbell, Strauer, and Dailey. Motion carried.

7. Reconvene Regular Meeting.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Brummond, Kline, Dutcher, Vaughn. Absent: Campbell, Strauer, and Dailey. There is a quorum.

8. Recap of 2025 Actual CLIB Budget through 11/30/2025.

- a. CLIB spending for this year is projected to be \$93,554.99. 2025 budget was \$108,000, so we will end the year below budget. No budget amendments will need to be made for 2025.
- b. The 2026 Balanced Budget will require a transfer out of the fund balance by \$5,287.
- c. There will be draws against the Glacial Lakes Fish Habitat Partnership grant through the federal payment system which is set up already. We are just waiting for the funds to be released.
- d. Final Review of 2026 CLIB Proposed Budget and consider adoption of 2026 Budget Resolution.
  - i. Motion made by Brummond/Dutcher to approve the 2026 Budget Resolution No. 2025-1 for \$147,157.00.
  - ii. **ROLL CALL:** Brummond, YES, Dutcher, YES, Kline, YES, Vaughn, YES. Absent: Campbell, Strauer, and Dailey. Motion carries. Resolution passed.
  - iii. 2026 Budget Resolution 2025-1 was read aloud in full by Chairman Vaughn.

9. Old Business.

- a. Update on elevated levels of phosphorus, *E. coli*, and total coliform discovered in the northwest end of Cedar Lake.
  - i. Vaughn reminded the Board that District Health Department #2 and EGLE chose to take no action once they were made aware of the elevated levels of *E. coli* and phosphorus in July. Neither entity felt it was enough to take any action. Not satisfied with the response of the two regulatory agencies, and as recommended by our consultant, CLIB continued with further testing in August and November.
  - ii. Mark Kieser (Kieser & Associates) gave a very thorough update (via phone) on phosphorus, elevated levels of *E. coli*, and total coliform in the NW end of Cedar Lake. Please see the extensive (86 pages) Technical Memorandum prepared by Kieser & Associates titled "Cedar Lake Nearshore and Tributary Monitoring to Assess Possible Phosphorous Sources Stimulating Nuisance Algal Growths Near Jones Ditch" posted on the CLIB website and included in the emailed Board Packet.

- iii. Mr. Kieser also updated the Board on the November shallow ground water samples collected on 11/24/2025. SRP (soluble reactive phosphorous) in half of the wells was relatively low. There were a couple of wells, moving south from Jones Ditch, that had concentration of roughly 30 parts per billion of phosphorous. That indicates that there could be some septic system leachate getting into the lake, but there was no *E. coli*, and little total coliform in the groundwater samples. Very poor site conditions prevented collecting shallow groundwater samples on CLIB property north of Jones Ditch. K&A will try again in the spring to collect shallow ground water samples along the shoreline of the CLIB property.
  - iv. DNA testing of some of the shallow ground water samples will take place next year. Samples already taken will be used as they have been properly frozen and stored at the lab in Traverse City.
- b. Update on Midwest Glacial lakes Fish Habitat Partnership Grant.
- i. Correspondence with Justin Chiotti, Habitat Biologist, states grant funding release time is indefinite. We have to wait until the Department of Interior reviews all of the presidential executive orders to make sure our grant complies with their criteria.

#### 10. New Business.

- a. FY 2025 Audit Engagement Letter from Straley, Lamp & Kraenzlein, P.C. Chair requests motion to authorize his signing of the Engagement Letter to retain Nick Cordes as our auditor. The Auditor fee will be \$3,500, same as previous years. Dutcher/Brummond made motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Engagement Letter for the 2026 audit for \$3,500. **ROLL CALL:** Brummond, YES, Dutcher, YES, Kline, YES, Vaughn, YES. Absent: Campbell, Strauer, and Dailey.
- b. Review and approve bills that have been paid since the 10/10/2025 meeting or are now due.
  - i. Kieser & Associates, Watershed Consulting contract, professional services, Inv. 25-187, \$16,608.15 (new).
  - ii. Bloom Sluggett PC, professional services through 11/30/2025, Inv. 27499, \$1,140.00, (new).
  - iii. Mike's Computer Repair, CLIB Website Updates October through 12/3/2025, Inv. 1938, \$97.50 (new).
  - iv. Alcona County Review, 2026 budget Public Hearing Notice Display ad, Inv. 230463, \$105.13, (new).
  - v. Oscoda Press, 2026 Budget Public Hearing Notice Display Ad, Account #99203325, \$189.75, (new).
  - vi. Rex Vaughn, reimbursement for office supplies (printer paper and laser printer toner), \$220.95 (paid).
  - vii. New invoice presented by Pat Dailey for 2025 Scribe & Fiduciary services, 12/12/2025 Invoice, \$507.50 (new).
  - viii. Brummond/Dutcher made motion to approve invoices (i) through (vii) as described. **ROLL CALL:** Brummond, YES, Dutcher, YES, Kline, YES, Vaughn, YES. Absent: Campbell, Strauer, and Dailey.

c. 2026 Meeting Schedule.

- i. Proposed that the CLIB meet five times in 2026. Fridays: Feb.20, April 10, July 10, Oct. 9, Dec. 11.
- ii. Dutcher/Kline made motion to adopt the 2026 meeting schedule as presented.  
**ROLL CALL:** Brummond, YES, Dutcher, YES, Kline, YES, Vaughn, YES. Absent: Campbell, Strauer, and Dailey. Motion carries.

11. FOIA Request for information concerning events from April 1-Oct. 31, 2025, related to high levels of phosphorus and *E. coli*.

- a. FOIA received 10/30/2025.
- b. FOIA 10-day letter issued 11/6/2025.
- c. FOIA Response letter issued 11/20/2025. Granted in part and denied in part as described in the letter.
- d. Informed requestor, who was present at the meeting, that it will take the Board until approximately January 31, 2026, to fulfill the FOIA request.

12. Public Comment.

- a. John Klocek, Greenbush Township, asked if board members were informed about the contamination in July.
- b. Jeff Linderman, Oscoda Township, asked additional questions about board members being informed about the contamination in July.

13. Next regular meeting: Friday, February 20, 2026, at 10 AM at the Greenbush Township Hall.

14. Motion to adjourn by Dutcher/Vaughn. All Ayes. Motion carried, adjourned at 11:39 AM.

**CEDAR LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD**

**ALCONA COUNTY & IOSCO COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-1**

At a regular meeting of the Cedar Lake Improvement Board (the "Lake Board") held on December 12, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Greenbush Township Hall, the following Resolution was offered for adoption by Lake Board Member Carolyn Brummund and was seconded by Lake Board Member Terry Dutcher:

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CEDAR LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD 2026 ANNUAL BUDGET**

WHEREAS, Section 30927 of Part 309 of Public Act 1994 (MCL 324.30927) requires that the Lake Board adopt an annual budget;

WHEREAS, the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act, Public Act 2 of 1968, as amended by Public Act 621 of 1978, requires that the Lake Board hold a public hearing prior to the adoption of the annual budget;

WHEREAS, the Lake Board has convened a public hearing on the proposed annual budget after the publication of notice as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Board has considered the proposed annual budget and any comments made at the public hearing related to the annual budget.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The Lake Board hereby adopts the Cedar Lake Improvement Board 2026 Annual Budget in the total amount of \$147,157.00 (copy attached as Exhibit A) as its general appropriations act pursuant to the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act.
2. The Lake Board expenditures pursuant to the annual budget, the amendment of the budget, the transfer of funds thereunder and other matters pertaining to financial operations pursuant to the budget shall be subject to applicable provisions of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act and other applicable law.
3. This resolution shall become effective upon signature.

The vote on the motion to adopt this Resolution was as follows:

YEAS: Carolyn Brummund, Terry Dutcher, Adam Kline, Rex Vaughn

NAYS: None

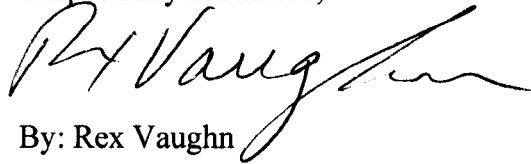
ABSENT: David Dailey, Jesse Campbell, Fred Strauer

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the above is a Resolution adopted by the Cedar Lake Improvement Board at the date and place stated above pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Vaughn", written in a cursive style.

By: Rex Vaughn

Dated: December 12, 2025

Its: Chairman

## Cedar Lake Improvement Board Proposed 2026 Budget - Exhibit A

Revenue		2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Projected YTD	2026 Budget
220-000-451.000	Spec. Assessment - Greenbush Twp	65,850.00	66,457.50	65,850.00	68,789.54	65,850.00	66,159.00	65,850.00
220-000-451.001	Spec. Assessment - Oscoda Twp	48,450.00	47,373.36	47,373.00	47,932.41	46,650.00	43,050.00	46,650.00
220-000-524.000	Glacial Lakes Fish Habitat Partnership Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,250.00
220-000-665.000	Interest Income - Bank Deposits	100.00	78.12	80.00	77.19	80.00	118.62	120.00
220-000-665.100	Interest Income - CD Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
220-000-693.000	Sale of Excess Property @ Jones Ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43,406.15	0.00
	(Transfer To/From Fund Balance)	16,362.00	9,831.33	0.00	-23,431.70	-4,580.00	-59,178.78	5,287.00
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>130,762.00</b>	<b>123,740.31</b>	<b>113,303.00</b>	<b>93,367.44</b>	<b>108,000.00</b>	<b>93,554.99</b>	<b>147,157.00</b>

Beginning Bank Balance	123,748.07	113,916.74	137,482.34	196,660.72	- based on December Projected Activity
Ending Bank Balance	113,916.74	137,482.34	196,660.72	0.00	
Certificate of Deposit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>113,916.74</b>	<b>137,482.34</b>	<b>196,660.72</b>	<b>59,178.38</b>	
Net Change By Year	-11,016.05	23,565.60			

Expenditures		2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Projected YTD	2026 Budget
220-570-801.000	Scribe/Recording Secretary	290.00	290.00	500.00	0.00	1,000.00	840.00	550.00
220-570-801.001	Fiduciary	290.00	290.00	500.00	0.00	1,000.00	840.00	550.00
220-570-805.000	Biennial Audit	3,500.00	4,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00	0.00	3,500.00
220-570-805.001	Legal & CPA Consultation Fees	2,500.00	7,528.00	5,000.00	2,411.00	2,400.00	7,666.00	7,500.00
220-570-727.000	Office Supplies	250.00	124.98	250.00	403.39	500.00	416.64	500.00
220-570-728.000	Postage & PO Box	70.00	136.50	150.00	74.00	150.00	78.00	100.00
220-570-802.010	Lake Management Contract	12,000.00	11,480.80	14,448.00	15,731.35	15,206.00	15,445.60	15,627.00
220-570-802.100	Limnologist Special Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
220-570-967.000	Natural Shoreline Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
220-570-967.001	Fisheries Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
220-570-803.000	Consulting Engineering Contract	50,000.00	47,447.49	31,948.00	35,651.50	31,746.00	47,975.90	40,280.00
220-570-971.000	Construction Projects	0.00	199.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
220-570-803.100	Fish Habitat Partnership Grant Consulting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,250.00
220-570-971.100	Fish Habitat Partnership Grant Construction	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
220-570-806.000	EGLE Berm Permit Appeal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
220-570-804.000	Lake Herbicide Treatment Contract	40,000.00	34,383.59	40,000.00	28,426.90	40,000.00	16,213.98	30,000.00
220-570-861.000	Board Travel Reimbursement	600.00	865.96	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	250.00
220-570-901.000	Advertising/Meetings Incl. SAD	250.00	4,062.24	3,500.00	1,881.94	3,500.00	1,939.13	2,750.00
220-570-820.000	SAD Legal & Eng. Services	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
220-570-932.000	Rainfall Instrument Repair/Replacement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
220-570-961.000	Bank Charges (Oscoda)	120.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
220-570-969.000	Contingency	2,000.00	0.00	2,817.00	0.00	2,548.00	0.00	2,500.00
220-570-933.000	Watershed Construction Projects & Repair	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
220-570-805.002	Liability Insurance	0.00	801.00	900.00	858.00	900.00	947.00	1,000.00
220-570-808.000	Website Services & Support	0.00	0.00	1,540.00	877.50	750.00	455.00	750.00
220-570-975.000	Jones Ditch Acquisition & Disposition	12,892.00	11,630.75	2,000.00	3,516.86	2,000.00	187.74	5,000.00
220-570-809.000	Water Quality/Sampling/Analysis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	550.00	1,000.00
	<b>Totals:</b>	<b>130,762.00</b>	<b>123,740.31</b>	<b>113,303.00</b>	<b>93,367.44</b>	<b>108,000.00</b>	<b>93,554.99</b>	<b>147,157.00</b>

**To:** Rex Vaughn, Chair  
Cedar Lake Improvement Board

**Date:** February 18, 2026

**From:** Mark Kieser, Senior Scientist  
Marwan Al Hinaai, Project Scientist  
Kieser & Associates, LLC

**cc:** Project Files

**RE: Shallow Groundwater Investigation Results for Areas Adjacent to Jones Ditch on Cedar Lake Conducted on November 24, 2025**

## 1. Site Overview

On November 24, 2025, K&A installed six temporary shallow groundwater wells along approximately 150 feet of shoreline on Cedar Lake, just south of Jones Ditch (Figure 1). The wells were placed along the residential shoreline beginning near the wetland transition at the northern end of this area extending south across two properties. The northern property included two wells, while four wells were installed on the adjacent southern property. The southern-most well was located approximately 35 feet from the southern property boundary. This boundary was identified by the landowner who was present during K&A siting of initial sampling locations.



*Figure 1. Six temporary shallow groundwater wells installed and sampled on November 24, 2025 in the vicinity of Jones Ditch.*

This groundwater sampling was a follow-up to recommendations from K&A's November 18, 2025 Technical Memorandum to the CLIB discussing findings of surface water testing on August 27, 2025.

One-inch diameter stainless steel well screens (one foot in length) with stainless steel riser pipe were spaced roughly 25 feet apart and manually driven to depths of approximately 1.5-2.0 feet below ground surface. All well materials were power-washed before installation. Subsequent decontamination included a 10% bleach solution rinse, followed by a deionized water rinse. Groundwater was encountered at depths comparable to the adjacent lake water elevation. All wells were positioned approximately 5-10 feet inland from the shoreline.

The southern property showed evidence of recent shoreline disturbance (beach sand regrading) across an approximately 15 to 20-foot wide strip along the length of the property. Soils appeared to have been removed and replaced with beach sand containing remnants of grass. The disturbed sandy areas showed strong evidence of recent goose activity, including visible goose footprints and fecal material. The property owner reported that approximately 50-100 geese had been congregating in this area earlier in the week.

The shoreline lacked riparian vegetation and consisted of a mowed lawn extending to the water's edge. Given the extent of goose activity, microbial source tracking via PCR analysis for goose DNA was recommended for shallow groundwater samples collected along this segment of shoreline.

## **2. Groundwater Well Performance and Sample Collection**

The northern-most well yielded limited groundwater and produced insufficient volume for PCR filtration (500 mL requirement). However, samples were otherwise collected from this well for *E. coli*, total coliforms, and soluble reactive phosphorus (SRP). The remaining five wells produced sufficient water for all analytical parameters, including PCR filtration for subsequent DNA analysis where deemed appropriate.

Options to also sample surface flows in Jones Ditch were abandoned. At the foot bridge crossing Jones Ditch from the northern residential property to the CLIB property on the north side of the ditch, no measurable flow was observed.

At the Jones Ditch CLIB property, a temporary stainless steel well screen and riser (approximately 6 feet in length) were installed roughly 15 feet lakeward from the former lawn's edge and directly downgradient of the former septic tank and drain field identified in documentation provided by the CLIB. No groundwater recovery was achieved, and therefore no samples were collected at this CLIB property location.

### 3. Groundwater Characteristics

Several shallow groundwater wells exhibited field observations of note including:

- A faint hydrogen sulfide odor was detected in select wells
- Groundwater Well #1 appeared slightly turbid during sampling
- Groundwater Well #3 exhibited a reddish coloration
- Remaining wells were generally clear

Ground surfaces on most shoreline areas were as spongy while traversing these properties indicating a high groundwater table. Additionally, luxurious green grass growth was noted north of the southern residence, suggesting localized nutrient enrichment.

### 4. Sampling Methods and Handling

All groundwater samples were collected using low-flow peristaltic pumping techniques. Each well was purged of approximately 1.0-1.5 gallons of water for approximately 15 minutes prior to sampling. Dedicated new sample tubing was used for each well to minimize cross-contamination. Decontamination procedures included:

- Silicone tubing rinsed with ~15% dilute bleach
- Followed by a distilled water rinse
- Final deionized water rinse prior to reusing

Samples were stored on ice immediately after collection and transported the same day to analytical laboratories.

### 5. Laboratory Submittals

#### *Microbial Analyses*

Samples for *E. coli* and total coliforms were submitted to Enviro Lab Services, Inc. in Oscoda, Michigan on November 24, 2025. Collection of groundwater samples occurred between approximately 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM; delivery to the lab was completed by 1:30 PM.

#### *Nutrient Analysis*

Samples for SRP were filtered within four hours of collection and submitted to Great Lakes Environmental Center (GLEC) laboratory in Traverse City, Michigan, on the same date of collection.

#### *PCR Analysis*

Five groundwater samples were filtered for PCR analysis and placed on ice for same day delivery to GLEC. GLEC then froze samples according to PCR protocol. Samples for subsequent DNA-specific determinations will be performed by GLEC on select samples based on coordination between K&A and CLIB representative, Rex Vaughn.

## 6. Groundwater Sampling Results

Table 1 summarizes SRP and bacteria testing results for groundwater sampling on November 24, 2025. (Attachment A contains copies of lab reports.) Figure 2 shows SRP results mapped for all six groundwater wells. SRP concentrations ranged from 2.9 µg/L to 30.4 µg/L. Based on recent and extensive groundwater sampling along shorelines of Black Lake (Cheboygan County), background SRP concentrations along undeveloped or unimpacted shorelines are about 2 µg/L. Thus, measured SRP levels generally above 2 µg/L may suggest a local septic system drain field source.

*E. coli* was detected in only two wells at very low levels: well #3 at 1 CFU/100 mL, and well #4 at 4 CFU/100mL. Total coliform bacteria were detected in all groundwater samples ranging from 2 to 83 CFU/100mL. The highest total coliform count and the highest SRP level were both observed in temporary groundwater well #5. Avian sourcing of bacteria cannot be ruled out based on landowner observations of large gatherings of geese at these shoreline locations.

*Table 1. Summary of nearshore groundwater sampling results from November 11, 2025 K&A monitoring.*

<b>Sample Description</b>	<b>SRP (µg/L)</b>	<b>E. coli (CFU/100ml)</b>	<b>Total Coliform (CFU/100ml)</b>
Temporary GW-1	10.2	ND	40
Temporary GW-2	5.3	ND	32
Temporary GW-3	3.5	1	30
Temporary GW-4	2.9	4	24
Temporary GW-5	30.4	ND	83
Temporary GW-6	13	ND	2

## 7. Jones Ditch and Septic System Considerations

The absence of measurable flow at the Jones Ditch foot bridge prevented direct evaluation during this event of potential surface water phosphorus and bacterial discharges. Historical data suggest the presence of *E. coli* within the ditch, though at lower concentrations than those observed near the ditch mouth. It was noted in field observations that the northern property's septic drain field (on the south side of Jones Ditch) may have potential hydraulic connectivity with Jones Ditch due to its close proximity. This transport pathway may demand further evaluation.

Conversations with the second homeowner at the southern-most shoreline property examined, indicated that the original cottage was demolished approximately two years prior to this sampling event with the new home having a drain field set back from the house towards West Cedar Lake Road. The owner described an old 6-inch corrugated drain tile he found during new construction. The tile line extend from the former structure toward a buried gravel field located between the shoreline and the original cottage. This gravel bed would have been approximately 50-75 feet from the shoreline. The drain tile

was removed by the new owner, but not the gravel bed. The highest shoreline concentrations of SRP (30.4 and 13  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) were observed downgradient of the historic gravel bed described by the current owner.



*Figure 2. SRP levels ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) at the six temporary shallow groundwater wells at Jones Ditch based on November 11, 2025 sampling.*

## 8. Wildlife Observations

No definitive evidence of beaver activity was found within approximately 50 feet of the shoreline along the CLIB property or nearby areas at the time of the November 24, 2025 sampling event. Though these observations were incidental and not part of a specific wildlife survey, beavers are mammals and shed fecal bacteria, including *E. coli*, in their waste. However, the impact level depends on population density and hydrology; therefore, in small ditches or wetlands, it is important to look for signs of wildlife sources that could contribute to bacterial signals. Such observations will continue to be considered in future 2026 bacterial and phosphorus sampling in this area of Jones Ditch.

## 9. Key Findings and Recommendations

### *Key Observations*

- Minor aesthetic indicators of reducing conditions (odor, discoloration) in select wells suggest the possible presence of degrading organic waste associated with septic system leachate.

- Shallow groundwater appears to be impacted by SRP in at least 5 of the 6 Cedar Lake shoreline locations sampled. The concentration of 30.4 µg/L in front of a former septic system gravel bed is sufficient to stimulate luxuriant *Chara* growth observed in the summer of 2025 at this shoreline location. The highest nearshore/in-lake surface water concentration at this location was 3.3 µg/L from K&A's August 27, 2025 monitoring. This abandoned gravel field may continue to leach soluble phosphorus into the near future.
- Non-detect to low level *E. coli* counts in groundwater at the shoreline suggest that previously noted bacterial levels in nearshore surface waters from August 2025 sampling are not likely associated with the two active residential septic systems.
- Strong evidence of concentrated goose activity along the disturbed sandy shoreline of the southern residence may suggest avian fecal deposits as a source of observed bacteria in groundwater (and previously in surface water sampling).

### ***Recommendations***

1. Complete PCR analyses to evaluate human contributions to microbial loading from select November 11, 2025 samples.
2. Consider additional analysis of existing PCR samples for mammalian and/or avian DNA sources.
3. Conduct follow-up sampling during periods of measurable Jones Ditch flow in the spring of 2026 for SRP, bacteria and PCR analyses.
4. Evaluate septic system proximity and potential hydrologic connectivity to surface waters along Jones Ditch.
5. Consider additional groundwater sample collection on the CLIB property in relation to the former septic system.
6. Consider PCR analysis of additional shoreline surface water samples collected in the summer of 2026.
7. Consider nearshore/in-lake groundwater testing along this shoreline in 2026.

# ATTACHMENT A

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Laboratory Reports for November 24, 2025 Groundwater  
Sampling on Cedar Lake



USEPA Lab ID: MI9885

Michigan EGLE Lab ID: 9115

Laboratory Report

Order ID: 25112404 Client: Cedar Lake Improvement Board
Sample ID: 25112404-1 Project Name: E. Coli/Coliform Testing
Client Sample ID: Temporary GW-1 Address: Cedar Lake, Greenbush Twp.
Sample Matrix: Lake Water Contact: Mark Kieser
Sample Date/Time: 11/24/2025 10:30 Reporting To: mkieser@kieser-associates.com
Received Date/Time: 11/24/2025 13:31
Sample Collected By: Mark Kieser Phone #: 269-344-7117
Read Date/Time: 11/25/2025 14:35 Report Date: 11/26/2025

TEST: E. coli / Total Coliforms Analyst: Travis Kirin Analysis Date: 11/24/2025 2:35:00 PM

Table with 8 columns: Analyte, CAS #, Method, Result, Units, Reporting Limit, MCL^A, MCLG^A. Rows include Total Coliforms (N/A, mColiBlue-24, 40, CFU/100mL, 1, 0, 0) and E. coli (N/A, mColiBlue-24, ND, CFU/100mL, 1, 0, 0).

Definitions:

ND = Not detected
POS = Analyte detected in sample above reporting limit
MCL = Maximum contaminant level
MCLG = Maximum contaminant level goal

Comments:

FINAL APPROVAL

APPROVED BY: [Signature] Lab Director Date: 11/26/2025

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Enviro Lab Services, Inc.
4150 Arrow Street, Oscoda, MI 48750
Phone: (248)882-1245



USEPA Lab ID: MI9885

Michigan EGLE Lab ID: 9115

Laboratory Report

**Order ID:** 25112404 **Client:** Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
**Sample ID:** 25112404-2 **Project Name:** E. Coli/Coliform Testing  
**Client Sample ID:** Temporary GW-2 **Address:** Cedar Lake, Greenbush Twp.  
**Sample Matrix:** Lake Water **Contact:** Mark Kieser  
**Sample Date/Time:** 11/24/2025 10:35 **Reporting To:** mkieser@kieser-associates.com  
**Received Date/Time:** 11/24/2025 13:31  
**Sample Collected By:** Mark Kieser **Phone #:** 269-344-7117  
**Read Date/Time:** 11/25/2025 14:40 **Report Date:** 11/26/2025

TEST: E. coli / Total Coliforms Analyst: Travis Kirin Analysis Date: 11/24/2025 2:40:00 PM

Analyte	CAS #	Method	Result	Units	Reporting Limit	MCL <sup>A</sup>	MCLG <sup>A</sup>
Total Coliforms	N/A	mColiBlue-24	32	CFU/100mL	1	0	0
E. coli	N/A	mColiBlue-24	ND	CFU/100mL	1	0	0

Definitions:

- ND = Not detected
- POS = Analyte detected in sample above reporting limit
- MCL = Maximum contaminant level
- MCLG = Maximum contaminant level goal

Comments:

FINAL APPROVAL

APPROVED BY:		Lab Director	Date:	11/26/2025
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USEPA Lab ID: MI9885

Michigan EGLE Lab ID: 9115

Laboratory Report

Order ID: 25112404 Client: Cedar Lake Improvement Board
Sample ID: 25112404-3 Project Name: E. Coli/Coliform Testing
Client Sample ID: Temporary GW-3 Address: Cedar Lake, Greenbush Twp.
Sample Matrix: Lake Water Contact: Mark Kieser
Sample Date/Time: 11/24/2025 11:10 Reporting To: mkieser@kieser-associates.com
Received Date/Time: 11/24/2025 13:31
Sample Collected By: Mark Kieser Phone #: 269-344-7117
Read Date/Time: 11/25/2025 14:45 Report Date: 11/26/2025

TEST: E. coli / Total Coliforms Analyst: Travis Kirin Analysis Date: 11/24/2025 2:45:00 PM

Table with 8 columns: Analyte, CAS #, Method, Result, Units, Reporting Limit, MCL^A, MCLG^A. Rows include Total Coliforms and E. coli.

Definitions:

- ND = Not detected
POS = Analyte detected in sample above reporting limit
MCL = Maximum contaminant level
MCLG = Maximum contaminant level goal

Comments:

FINAL APPROVAL

APPROVED BY: [Signature] Lab Director Date: 11/26/2025

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USEPA Lab ID: MI9885

Michigan EGLE Lab ID: 9115

Laboratory Report

Order ID: 25112404 Client: Cedar Lake Improvement Board
Sample ID: 25112404-4 Project Name: E. Coli/Coliform Testing
Client Sample ID: Temporary GW-4 Address: Cedar Lake, Greenbush Twp.
Sample Matrix: Lake Water Contact: Mark Kieser
Sample Date/Time: 11/24/2025 11:40 Reporting To: mkieser@kieser-associates.com
Received Date/Time: 11/24/2025 13:31
Sample Collected By: Mark Kieser Phone #: 269-344-7117
Read Date/Time: 11/25/2025 14:50 Report Date: 11/26/2025

TEST: E. coli / Total Coliforms Analyst: Travis Kirin Analysis Date: 11/24/2025 2:50:00 PM

Table with 8 columns: Analyte, CAS #, Method, Result, Units, Reporting Limit, MCL^A, MCLG^A. Rows include Total Coliforms and E. coli.

Definitions:

- ND = Not detected
POS = Analyte detected in sample above reporting limit
MCL = Maximum contaminant level
MCLG = Maximum contaminant level goal

Comments:

FINAL APPROVAL

APPROVED BY: [Signature] Lab Director Date: 11/26/2025

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USEPA Lab ID: MI9885

Michigan EGLE Lab ID: 9115

Laboratory Report

Order ID: 25112404 Client: Cedar Lake Improvement Board
Sample ID: 25112404-5 Project Name: E. Coli/Coliform Testing
Client Sample ID: Temporary GW-5 Address: Cedar Lake, Greenbush Twp.
Sample Matrix: Lake Water Contact: Mark Kieser
Sample Date/Time: 11/24/2025 12:05 Reporting To: mkieser@kieser-associates.com
Received Date/Time: 11/24/2025 13:31
Sample Collected By: Mark Kieser Phone #: 269-344-7117
Read Date/Time: 11/25/2025 14:55 Report Date: 11/26/2025

TEST: E. coli / Total Coliforms Analyst: Travis Kirin Analysis Date: 11/24/2025 2:55:00 PM

Table with 8 columns: Analyte, CAS #, Method, Result, Units, Reporting Limit, MCL^A, MCLG^A. Rows include Total Coliforms (N/A, mColiBlue-24, 83, CFU/100mL, 1, 0, 0) and E. coli (N/A, mColiBlue-24, ND, CFU/100mL, 1, 0, 0).

Definitions:

ND = Not detected
POS = Analyte detected in sample above reporting limit
MCL = Maximum contaminant level
MCLG = Maximum contaminant level goal

Comments:

FINAL APPROVAL

APPROVED BY: [Signature] Lab Director Date: 11/26/2025

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Phone: (248)882-1245



USEPA Lab ID: MI9885

Michigan EGLE Lab ID: 9115

Laboratory Report

**Order ID:** 25112404 **Client:** Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
**Sample ID:** 25112404-6 **Project Name:** E. Coli/Coliform Testing  
**Client Sample ID:** Temporary GW-6 **Address:** Cedar Lake, Greenbush Twp.  
**Sample Matrix:** Lake Water **Contact:** Mark Kieser  
**Sample Date/Time:** 11/24/2025 12:30 **Reporting To:** mkieser@kieser-associates.com  
**Received Date/Time:** 11/24/2025 13:31  
**Sample Collected By:** Mark Kieser **Phone #:** 269-344-7117  
**Read Date/Time:** 11/25/2025 15:00 **Report Date:** 11/26/2025

TEST: E. coli / Total Coliforms Analyst: Travis Kirin Analysis Date: 11/24/2025 3:00:00 PM

Analyte	CAS #	Method	Result	Units	Reporting Limit	MCL <sup>A</sup>	MCLG <sup>A</sup>
Total Coliforms	N/A	mColiBlue-24	2	CFU/100mL	1	0	0
E. coli	N/A	mColiBlue-24	ND	CFU/100mL	1	0	0

Definitions:

ND = Not detected  
 POS = Analyte detected in sample above reporting limit  
 MCL = Maximum contaminant level  
 MCLG = Maximum contaminant level goal

Comments:

FINAL APPROVAL

APPROVED BY:		Lab Director	Date:	11/26/2025
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Enviro Lab Services, Inc.  
 4150 Arrow Street, Oscoda, MI 48750  
 Phone: (248)882-1245

Client Name: Cedar Lake Improvement Bd. Contact/Report To: Mark Kiser  
 Street Address: Greenbush Twp. Phone #: 269-344-7117  
 E-Mail: mkiser@kiser-associates.com  
 Cc E-Mail:

Customer Project #: Cedar Lake E. coli  
 Project Name: Cedar Lake E. coli  
 Site Collection Info/Facility ID (as applicable):  
 Invoice to: Kex Vaughn CLIB  
 Invoice E-mail:

Time Zone:  AK  PT  MT  CT  ET  
 Collected: Alcona, MI  
 County / State origin of sample(s):

Data Deliverables:  
 Level II  Level III  Level IV  
 EQUIS  EDUIMS  
 Other

Regulatory Program (DW, RCRA, etc.) as applicable: \_\_\_\_\_ Reportable:  Yes  No  
 Rush (Pre-approval required):  
 Same Day  1 Day  2 Day  3 Day  
 Date Results Requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DW (PWSID # or WW Permit # as applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Field Filtered (if Analysis):

\* Matrix Codes (insert in Matrix box below): Drinking Water (DW), Ground Water (GW), Wastewater (WW), Product (P), Soil/Solid (SS), Oil  
 \*\* Sample Type (insert in Sample Type box below): Routine, Repeat, Raw, Process, Special, Repair, New Main, Grab, Composite

Customer Sample ID	Sample Type **	Matrix *	Comp / Grab	Collected Start		Collected End		# Cont	Residual		Bacteriology (E. coli/Coliform)	Partial Chemistry	Heavy Metals (EPA 200.8)	Volatile Organic Chemicals (EPA 8250)	PFAS (EPA 537-1)	PFAS (EPA 1033)	Proj. Mgr:	AcctNum / Client ID:	Order ID #:	Profile / Template:	Prelog / Bottle Ord.	Lab Sample ID	
				Date	Time	Date	Time		Result	Units													
Temporary GW-1	GW		Grab	11-24-25	10:30	11-24-25	1:00	1			X												25112404-1
" -2	"	"	"	"	10:35	"	"	1			X												25112404-2
" -3	"	"	"	"	11:10	"	"	1			X												25112404-3
" -4	"	"	"	"	11:40	"	"	1			X												25112404-4
" -5	"	"	"	"	12:05	"	"	1			X												25112404-5
" -6	"	"	"	"	12:30	"	"	1			X												25112404-6

Customer Remarks/Special Conditions/Possible Hazards: \_\_\_\_\_ Collected By: Print Name Mark Kiser Thermometer ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Obs. Temp. (°C): \_\_\_\_\_  
 On Ice

Relinquished by: Mark Kiser Date/Time: 11-24-25 13:31 Received by: [Signature] Date/Time: 11/24/25 13:31 Tracking #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Relinquished by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Delivered by:  In-Person  FedEX  UPS   
 Relinquished by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Page: of

Submitting a sample via this chain of custody constitutes acknowledgment and acceptance of Enviro Lab Services Terms and Conditions found attached to the document packet.

Preservative not-conformances identified for sample.



Great Lakes Environmental Center

**Project Number: 2592-B10**

**December 5, 2025**

**Kieser & Associates-Cedar Lake  
536 E. Michigan Ave., Suite 300  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007**

**Attention: Mark Kieser**

**Project Description: Water Quality Sampling**

**Dear Client,**

**Enclosed is a copy of your laboratory report relating to samples, as they were received. All tests were performed within the maximum holding times and have met or exceeded QC criteria. Test results are in compliance with The NELAC Institute Standards. Visit our web site for a full list of tests for which GLEC (Lab 2059) is accredited through the New Hampshire Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NH ELAP).**

**Please don't hesitate to call if you have questions or require further information.**

**Sincerely,**

**Michelle A. Moore  
Laboratory Coordinator and Research Scientist/Nutrient Chemistry**



# Great Lakes Environmental Center

739 Hastings St., Traverse City MI 49686 - (231) 941-2230 - FAX: (231) 941-2240

Client ID: 2592-B10

Kieser-Cedar Lake

## REPORT OF ANALYSIS

Soluble Reactive Phosphorus

<u>Lab ID</u>	<u>Sample Description</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Rep Limit</u>	<u>MDL</u>	<u>Qualifier</u>	<u>Analysis Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Initials</u>
3K112400056	Temporary GW-1	11/24/2025	0.0102	mg/L	0.001	0.00047		11/26/2025		BSC
3K112400057	Temporary GW-2	11/24/2025	0.0053	mg/L	0.001	0.00047		11/26/2025		BSC
3K112400058	Temporary GW-3	11/24/2025	0.0035	mg/L	0.001	0.00047		11/26/2025		BSC
3K112400059	Temporary GW-4	11/24/2025	0.0029	mg/L	0.001	0.00047		11/26/2025		BSC
3K112400060	Temporary GW-5	11/24/2025	0.0304	mg/L	0.004	0.00188		11/26/2025		BSC
3K112400061	Temporary GW-6	11/24/2025	0.0130	mg/L	0.001	0.00047		11/26/2025		BSC

---

### LabQualifiers:

*U - Analyte not detected.*

*J - Result between MDL and RL should be considered estimated.*

*Page 1 of 1*

*Friday, December 05, 2025*

*Method:*

SM 4500-P F



**GREAT LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER, INC.**

Traverse City, MI - Laboratory  
739 Hastings Street  
Traverse City, MI 49686

[www.glec.com](http://www.glec.com)  
Phone (231)941-2230  
Fax (231)941-2240

**CHAIN OF CUSTODY RECORD**

<b>Section I.</b> Submitting Company: <u>Kieser Associates, Inc</u> Report Results To: <u>mkieser@kieser-associates.com</u> Address: <u>536 E. Michigan Ave. Ste. 300, Kalamazoo</u> Phone: <u>269-344-7117</u> E-mail: <u>(see above)</u>			<b>Section II.</b> Project Name: <u>Cedar Lake</u> Project Number: P.O.#: Sampled by: (initials) <u>A Client <u>MSK</u></u> <input type="checkbox"/> GLEC			<b>Section IV.</b> Requested Analysis <table border="1" style="width:100%; height: 100px;"> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </table>																																																																																																																							
<b>Section III. Sample Information at Collection</b>																																																																																																																													
#	GLEC No.	Sample Information				Grab or Composite	Preservative	Filtered Y or N	Sample Containers			pH of Sample Upon Receipt																																																																																																																	
		Date	Time	Matrix	Type				Size	No.																																																																																																																			
1		Temporary GW-1	11-24-25	10:30	GW	Grab	—	Y	Plastic	125	1	✓																																																																																																																	
2		" GW-2	"	10:35	"	"	—	Y	"	"	1	✓																																																																																																																	
3		" GW-3	"	11:10	"	"	—	Y	"	"	1	✓																																																																																																																	
4		" GW-4	"	11:40	"	"	—	Y	"	"	1	✓																																																																																																																	
5		" GW-5	"	12:06	"	"	—	Y	"	"	1	✓																																																																																																																	
6		" GW-6	"	12:30	"	"	—	Y	"	"	1	✓																																																																																																																	
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<b>Client Notes:</b> Received above temp, but received same day as sampled. bsc 120525																																																																																																																													
RELEASED BY / ORGANIZATION				DATE	TIME	RECEIVED BY / ORGANIZATION				DATE	TIME																																																																																																																		
Print Name & Organization: <u>Mark Kieser K.A</u>				11-24-25 4:30		Print Name & Organization																																																																																																																							
Signature: <u>Mark O. Kieser</u>						Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>				11/24/25 16:30																																																																																																																			
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<b>FOR LAB USE ONLY</b>																																																																																																																													
Temperature of Samples: <u>11.6</u> °C Initials: <u>CTG</u> Bottle ID #, if applicable <u>GW-4</u>																																																																																																																													
Notes/Anomalies/Discrepancies: <u>Samples filtered by client</u>																																																																																																																													
<input type="checkbox"/> Received on Wet Ice																																																																																																																													
GLEC may subcontract out analyses that we do not perform.																																																																																																																													
<b>MATRIX CODES:</b>			S = SEDIMENT SW = SURFACE WATER			E = EFFLUENT GW = GROUNDWATER			SL = SLUDGE AO = AQUATIC ORGANISM																																																																																																																				

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] MGLP Small Grant Application Update - Cedar Lake  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 10:45:25 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Rex Vaughn <rvaughn@tir.com>  
**To:** Chiotti, Justin <justin\_chiotti@fws.gov>  
**CC:** Mark Kieser <mkieser@kieser-associates.com>

Justin:

Thanks for the update.

Kindest Regards,

Rex Vaughn

---

**From:** "Chiotti, Justin" <[justin\\_chiotti@fws.gov](mailto:justin_chiotti@fws.gov)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 10:04 AM  
**To:** Rex Vaughn <[rvaughn@tir.com](mailto:rvaughn@tir.com)>  
**Cc:** Mark Kieser <[mkieser@kieser-associates.com](mailto:mkieser@kieser-associates.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] MGLP Small Grant Application Update - Cedar Lake

Good morning Rex,

I checked on the status of your award this morning. The approval status is "Returned to Approval Coordinator (Director Approved)". So the USFWS Director's Office has approved your award, now we are waiting for review at the DOI level. Last month we heard of some changes to the Financial Assistance approval process, but we haven't been notified of the change. Unfortunately, we are in a waiting game right now until your project is approved. I know this is likely causing challenges for starting your project.

All of my FY25 awards are in the same status right now, just waiting for approval.

Sorry for the lack of news, let me know if you have any other questions. I will let you know as soon as I hear anything.

Thanks,  
Justin

--

Justin Chiotti  
Habitat Biologist  
USFWS - Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program  
Region 3 - Midwest Regional Office  
Phone: (248) 891-0087 | [justin\\_chiotti@fws.gov](mailto:justin_chiotti@fws.gov)

---

**From:** Rex Vaughn <[rvaughn@tir.com](mailto:rvaughn@tir.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2026 8:40 AM  
**To:** Chiotti, Justin <[justin\\_chiotti@fws.gov](mailto:justin_chiotti@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mark Kieser <[mkieser@kieser-associates.com](mailto:mkieser@kieser-associates.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] MGLP Small Grant Application Update - Cedar Lake

Justin:

I have a Cedar Lake Improvement Board meeting on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, and one of the agenda items is an update on the status of the grant. Is there any "new" news I can report?

Please let me know.

Kindest Regards,



536 E. Michigan Avenue  
 Suite 300  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49007

# Invoice

DATE	INVOICE #
2/4/2026	26-211

**BILL TO:**

Cedar Lake Improvement Bd.  
 C/o Rex Vaughn  
 PO Box 53  
 Greenbush, MI 48738

P.O. NO.	TERMS
2025-2026 Budget	Net 30

DESCRIPTION	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
Field Manager - Task 5b	1	80.00	80.00
Professional Engineer - Task 5f	2	165.00	330.00
Field Manager - Task 5f	13.5	80.00	1,080.00
<p>This invoice is for professional services rendered through Jan. 31, 2026, as related to Cedar Lake Improvement Board, 2025-2026 Services.</p>			

Please remit payment to Kieser & Associates, LLC  
 For questions, please contact Becky Hough.

<b>Total</b>	USD 1,490.00
--------------	--------------

Phone #	Fax #
(269) 344-7117	(269) 344-2493

**Kieser & Associates, LLC**  
**Time by Job Detail**  
January 2026

<b>Cedar Lake Improvement Bd. (2025-2026)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Cedar Lake Improvement Bd. (2025-2026): Task 5b - Hydrology- Jones Ditch Analysis</b>					
	01/19/2026	Kieser, Josh	1.00	80.00	Assessment of 2025 Jones Creek flows against historic flow calcs.
<b>Total Cedar Lake Improvement Bd. (2025-2026): Task 5b:</b>			<b>1.00</b>	<b>80.00</b>	
<b>Cedar Lake Improvement Bd. (2025-2026): Task 5f-Hydrology- Annual Reporting</b>					
	01/07/2026	Jacobson, John	2.00	330.00	Hydraulic calculation of Jones Ditch flows correction
	01/02/2026	Kieser, Josh	1.25	100.00	Preparing figures for annual report.
	01/05/2026	Kieser, Josh	1.00	80.00	Drafting annual report and figures.
	01/06/2026	Kieser, Josh	1.75	140.00	Drafting annual report and figures.
	01/07/2026	Kieser, Josh	2.00	160.00	Working with J Jacobson to update Jones Ditch hydrology analyses.
	01/07/2026	Kieser, Josh	3.25	260.00	Drafting 2025 report and figures including data QA/QC.
	01/12/2026	Kieser, Josh	0.75	60.00	Data qa/qc.
	01/19/2026	Kieser, Josh	1.25	100.00	Updates to draft hydrology report & initial list of questions for review.
	01/21/2026	Kieser, Josh	2.25	180.00	Preparing report narrative and past flow comparisons for analyses.
<b>Total Cedar Lake Improvement Bd. (2025-2026): Task 5f:</b>			<b>15.50</b>	<b>1,410.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL: CEDAR LAKE IMPROVEMENT BD. (2025-2026):</b>			<b>16.50</b>	<b>1,490.00</b>	

Cedar Lake Improvement May 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026 Budget									
Task/Description	Total 2025 Authorized Task Budget	INV# 25-135 to 7/31/25	INV# 25-146 to 8/31/25	INV# 25-165 to 9/30/25	INV# 25-187 to 11/30/25	INV# 25-207 to 12/31/25	INV# 26-211 to 1/31/26	TOTAL INVOICED TO DATE	Total Remaining Task \$s
Task 1a - CLIB Meetings	2,196.00							0.00	2,196.00
Task 1b - CLIB Meetings - Direct Costs	400.00							0.00	400.00
Task 2a - CLIB Coordination	3,802.00				122.50	1,230.00		1,506.25	2,295.75
Task 2b - CLIB Coordination - Direct Costs	200.00							0.00	200.00
Task 3a - Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Updates (Remaining Contract Budget)	1,565.00	307.50	1,423.75					4,782.50	-3,217.50
Task 4a - Fisheries Habitat Analysis of Lake and Tributary (Remaining Contract)	341.73	322.50						701.25	-359.52
Task 5a - Annual Hydrology Monitoring Program - Standard Logger Maint. +2 Ex Visits	6,057.00				3,905.59			3,905.59	2,151.41
Task 5b - Annual Hydrology Monitoring Program - Jones Creek Data Analysis/Options	1,560.00						80.00	1,508.75	51.25
Task 5c - Annual Hydrology Monitoring Program - Ongoing Sherman Creek Analysis	1,560.00							698.75	861.25
Task 5f - Annual Hydrology Monitoring Program - Annual Reporting	7,571.00			297.50		1,040.00	1,410.00	3,706.25	3,864.75
Task: Nearshore Sampling:	16,396.75	2,707.50	3,764.25	1,120.75	8,804.25			16,396.75	0.00
Task: Shallow GW Sampling	5,000.00				3,775.81	242.50		4,018.31	981.69
<b>Total Budget:</b>	<b>46,649.48</b>	<b>3,337.50</b>	<b>5,188.00</b>	<b>1,418.25</b>	<b>16,608.15</b>	<b>2,512.50</b>	<b>1,490.00</b>	<b>37,224.40</b>	<b>9,425.08</b>

536 E. Michigan Avenue  
 Suite 300  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49007

# Invoice

DATE	INVOICE #
12/31/2025	25-207

**BILL TO:**

Cedar Lake Improvement Bd.  
 C/o Rex Vaughn  
 PO Box 53  
 Greenbush, MI 48738

DESCRIPTION	QTY	P.O. NO.	TERMS
		2025-2026 Budget	Net 30
		RATE	AMOUNT
Senior Scientist/ Principal - Task 2	6	205.00	1,230.00
Field Manager - Task 5f	13	80.00	1,040.00
Senior Scientist/ Principal - Task: Shallow GW Sampling	0.5	205.00	102.50
Project Scientist III - Task: Shallow GW Sampling	2	70.00	140.00
<p>This invoice is for professional services rendered in December 2025, as related to Cedar Lake Improvement Bd., 2025 - 2026 Budget.</p>			
<b>Total</b>			USD 2,512.50

Please remit payment to Kieser & Associates, LLC  
 For questions, please contact Becky Hough.

Phone #	Fax #
(269) 344-7117	(269) 344-2493

**Kieser & Associates, LLC**  
**Time by Job Detail**  
December 2025

Cedar Lake Improvement Bd. (2025-2026)	Date	Name	Duration	Cost	Notes
<b>Cedar Lake Improvement Bd. (2025-2026): Task 2 - CLIB Coordination</b>					
	12/02/2025	Kieser, Mark	0.50	102.50	Meeting coord.
	12/07/2025	Kieser, Mark	0.25	51.25	CLIB meeting coord.
	12/08/2025	Kieser, Mark	1.00	205.00	P gw results review
	12/09/2025	Kieser, Mark	2.50	512.50	Compilation of GW sampling results table to Rex
	12/12/2025	Kieser, Mark	1.50	307.50	CLIB call
	12/19/2025	Kieser, Mark	0.25	51.25	Coord. with Rex on grant schedule start-up/ needs
<b>Total Cedar Lake Improvement Bd. (2025-2026): Task 2:</b>			<b>6.00</b>	<b>1,230.00</b>	
 <b>Cedar Lake Improvement Bd. (2025-2026): Task 5f-Hydrology- Annual Reporting</b>					
	12/22/2025	Kieser, Josh	4.75	380.00	Processing data and drafting figures for hydrology report.
	12/23/2025	Kieser, Josh	4.50	360.00	Processing data into figures in preparation for report writing.
	12/16/2025	Kieser, Josh	3.75	300.00	Data processing and begin drafting hydrology data graphs.
<b>Total Cedar Lake Improvement Bd. (2025-2026): Task 5f:</b>			<b>13.00</b>	<b>1,040.00</b>	
 <b>Cedar Lake Improvement Bd. (2025-2026): Task- Extra - Shallow GW Sampling \$5K</b>					
	12/09/2025	Kieser, Mark	0.25	51.25	Review of field sample conductivity results
	12/19/2025	Kieser, Mark	0.25	51.25	GLEC coord.. on DNA sampling
	12/09/2025	Alhinaai, Marwan	2.00	140.00	Reporting
<b>Total Cedar Lake Improvement Bd. (2025-2026): Task- Extra - Shallow GW:</b>			<b>2.50</b>	<b>242.50</b>	
 <b>TOTAL: CEDAR LAKE IMPROVEMENT BD. (2025-2026):</b>			<b>21.50</b>	<b>2,512.50</b>	

Cedar Lake Improvement May 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026 Budget								
Task/Description	Total 2025 Authorized Task Budget	INV# 25-135 to 7/31/25	INV# 25-146 to 8/31/25	INV# 25-165 to 9/30/25	INV# 25-187 to 11/30/25	INV# 25-207 to 12/31/25	TOTAL INVOICED TO DATE	Total Remaining Task \$s
Task 1a - CLIB Meetings	2,196.00						0.00	2,196.00
Task 1b - CLIB Meetings - Direct Costs	400.00						0.00	400.00
Task 2a - CLIB Coordination	3,802.00				122.50	1,230.00	1,506.25	2,295.75
Task 2b - CLIB Coordination - Direct Costs	200.00						0.00	200.00
Task 3a - Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Updates (Remaining Contract Budget)	1,565.00	307.50	1,423.75				4,782.50	-3,217.50
Task 4a - Fisheries Habitat Analysis of Lake and Tributary (Remaining Contract)	341.73	322.50					701.25	-359.52
Task 5a - Annual Hydrology Monitoring Program - Standard Logger Maint. +2 Ex Visits	6,057.00				3,905.59		3,905.59	2,151.41
Task 5b - Annual Hydrology Monitoring Program - Jones Creek Data Analysis/Options	1,560.00						1,428.75	131.25
Task 5c - Annual Hydrology Monitoring Program - Ongoing Sherman Creek Analysis	1,560.00						698.75	861.25
Task 5f - Annual Hydrology Monitoring Program - Annual Reporting	7,571.00			297.50		1,040.00	2,296.25	5,274.75
Task: Nearshore Sampling:	16,396.75	2,707.50	3,764.25	1,120.75	8,804.25		16,396.75	0.00
Task: Shallow GW Sampling	5,000.00				3,775.81	242.50	4,018.31	981.69
<b>Total Budget:</b>	<b>46,649.48</b>	<b>3,337.50</b>	<b>5,188.00</b>	<b>1,418.25</b>	<b>16,608.15</b>	<b>2,512.50</b>	<b>35,734.40</b>	<b>10,915.08</b>

Alcona County Review  
 P.O. Box 548 111 Lake St.  
 Harrisville, MI 48740  
 989-724-6384

**Invoice**

Bill To

Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
 P.O. Box 53  
 Greenbush, MI 48738

Date	Invoice #
12/31/2025	30505

Terms: Due upon receipt.

P.O. No.

Date	Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
12/24/2025	2026 Meeting Schedule Sales Tax	8	7.25 6.00%	58.00 0.00
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$58.00</b>


# Affidavit of Publication

*In the Matter of* 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule ~ *Cedar Lake Improvement Board*

STATE OF MICHIGAN, SS  
COUNTY OF ALCONA

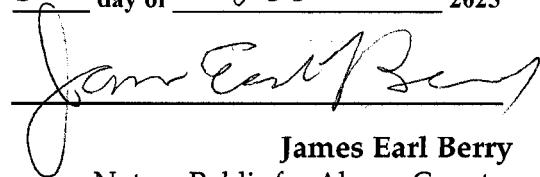
Cheryl L. Peterson being first duly sworn, says that she is the publisher of the Alcona County Review, a newspaper published in Alcona County, Michigan, in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character and legal news, which is a duly qualified newspaper, and that annexed hereto is a copy of a certain order taken from said newspaper, in which the order was published on:

December 24, 2025

  
Cheryl L. Peterson

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

24<sup>th</sup> day of Dec. 2025



James Earl Berry  
Notary Public for Alcona County,  
Acting in Alcona County  
My Commission Expires 7-24-2031

## CEDAR LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD 2026 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Cedar Lake Improvement Board (CLIB) will hold Regular Public Meetings in 2026 according to the following schedule:

Friday, Feb. 20, 2026  
Friday, April 10, 2026  
Friday, July 10, 2026  
Friday, Oct. 9, 2026  
Friday, Dec. 11, 2026

These meetings will be held at 10:00 AM at the Greenbush Township Hall, 5039 Campbell Street, Greenbush, MI 48738. If the date, location, or time of the meeting must be changed or the meeting cancelled, notice will be given according to the Open Meetings Act.

Pursuant to ADA, individuals with disabilities may request aids/services within a reasonable time to participate in a meeting by contacting the CLIB Chairman at (810) 516-6686.

For further information, please contact the CLIB Chairman at (810) 516-6686.

110 W State St.  
P.O. Box 72  
East Tawas, MI 48730

BILLING DATE	TERMS OF PAYMENT
12/31/2025	27 days

BILLED ACCOUNT
Cedar Lake Improvement Board c/o Treasurer P.O. Box 53 Greenbush, MI 48738

BILLED ACCOUNT NO.	AGENCY/CLIENT
99203325	99203325
NAME OF AGENCY/CLIENT	
Cedar Lake Improvement Board c/o Treasurer	

DATE	TRANS #	DESCRIPTION	INS	SAU	INCHES	RATE	AMOUNT	TOTAL
11/30/2025		Balance Forward					0.00	0.00
12/03/2025	304350462	NOTICE OF PUBLIC	1	2 x 6.5	13.00	0.00	189.75	189.75
12/23/2025	402276820	Payment Check 1866 1866 /					-189.75	0.00
12/24/2025	304350907	DISPLAY AD - 01180773	1	2 x 3.75	7.50	0.00	116.88	116.88

CURRENT	AGING			
	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	91 - 120
\$ 116.88	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

TOTAL NET AMOUNT DUE
\$ 116.88

We impose a surcharge of 3.99% on credit cards that is not greater than our cost of acceptance.. PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR REMITTANCE

If you desire to charge this amount to your credit card, please complete the following information and return to the address below: [ ] Visa [ ] Mastercard [ ] Discover [ ] American Express

Acct# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ CIV \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

BILLED ACCOUNT NO.	BILLED ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT REMITTED
99203325	Cedar Lake Improvement Board c/o	

REMIT TO
Iosco County News Herald/Oscoda Press  P.O. Box 616 West Frankfort, IL 62896  Phone: 989-362-3456 Fax: 989-362-6601

Payment in full is due upon receipt of the statement. A service charge on all balances over 30 days will be computed by a 'Periodic Rate' of 1-1/2% per month, which is an ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE OF 18%, this applies to the previous balance after deducting current payments and credits appearing on your statement.

Remittance Advice

TAW9920332500000000000011688

# Bloom Sluggett, PC

161 Ottawa Ave NW, Ste. 400  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
(616) 965-9340

January 13, 2026

Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
Attn: Rex Vaughn, Chairperson  
PO Box 53  
Greenbush, MI 48738

Re: 19627-001  
Cedar Lake Improvement Board

Enclosed is invoice 27639, which covers services through 12/31/2025. This invoice, dated 1/13/2026, is for \$774.00. Prompt payment of your total balance is appreciated and is due 30 days from invoice date.

## Billing Summary

Total for services rendered	\$774.00
Total expenses	\$0.00
Total previous balance	\$1,140.00
Total payments and other transactions	(\$1,140.00)
<b>Balance Due</b>	<b>\$774.00</b>

If you have questions, please call us at (616) 965-9340. Thank you.

Enclosure

**Bloom Sluggett, PC**

161 Ottawa Ave NW, Ste. 400  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
(616) 965-9340

February 5, 2026

Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
Attn: Rex Vaughn, Chairperson  
PO Box 53  
Greenbush, MI 48738

Re: 19627-001

~~Cedar Lake Improvement Board~~

Enclosed is invoice 27792, which covers services through 1/31/2026. This invoice, dated 2/5/2026, is for \$102.00. Prompt payment of your total balance is appreciated and is due 30 days from invoice date.

Billing Summary

Total for services rendered	\$102.00
Total expenses	\$0.00
Total previous balance	\$774.00
Total payments and other transactions	\$0.00
<b>Balance Due</b>	<b>\$876.00</b>

If you have questions, please call us at (616) 965-9340. Thank you.

Enclosure

# Straley Lamp & Kraenzlein P.C.

Certified Public Accountants

2106 U.S. 23 South  
 P.O. Box 738  
 Alpena, MI 49707  
 Telephone: (989) 356-4531  
 Facsimile: (989) 356-0494  
 www.silcpa.com

Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
 PO Box 53  
 Greenbush, MI 48738

Invoice: 43573  
 Date: 12/31/2025  
 Due Date: 02/02/2026

**Cedar Lake Improvement Board**

Budget assistance \$750.00

Billed Time & Expenses \$750.00  
 Invoice Total \$750.00

Date	Type	Reference	Debit	Credit	Balance
12/01/25	Beginning Balance				\$0.00
12/31/25	Invoice #43573		750.00		750.00
12/31/25	Amount Due				\$750.00

**\*PAYMENTS RECEIVED AFTER INVOICE DATE ARE NOT REFLECTED IN BALANCE DUE\***

**\* Please return this portion with payment \***

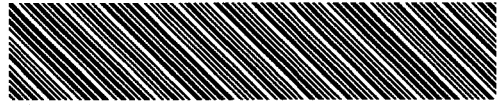
ID: 25840  
 Cedar Lake Improvement Board

Invoice: 43573  
 Date: 12/31/2025  
 Due Date: 02/02/2026  
**Amount Due: \$750.00**  
**Amount Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_



**Dec 17, 2025**

Order 10380447395



**Shipping items(1)**

**REX VAUGHN**

6295 PINECROFT CT

FLINT, MI 48532

Epson EcoTank 502 Ink Bottles Value Club Pack	Qty 1	\$58.37
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<b>Subtotal</b>		\$58.37
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Shipping		Free
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<b>Sales tax</b>		\$3.50
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<b>Total</b>		<b>\$61.87</b>
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*9746		\$61.87
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Credit cards aren't charged until your order ships or you pick it up at the club. If you see a pending charge before this, it's an authorization hold to ensure the funds are available

**Subject:** Grant Opportunity from Consumers Energy  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 5:05:54 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Rex Vaughn <rvaughn@tir.com>  
**BCC:** Carolyn Brummund <cbrummund@alconacounty.gov>, Jesse Campbell <manager@alconacrc.com>, Pat & Dave Dailey <patndave@charter.net>, Fred Strauer <ioscodrain2@ioscocoounty.org>, Terry Dutcher <tdutcher300@gmail.com>, Terry Dutcher <tdutcher@ioscocoounty.org>, Adam Kline <Manager@oscodatowshipmi.gov>, Mark Kieser <mkieser@kieser-associates.com>  
**Attachments:** 2026 Planet Awards Timeline and Summary\_Final[2].pdf, 2026 Planet Awards Detailed Handout Final[3].pdf, image001.png

To All:

A few days ago, Carolyn sent me a notice (copy below) from Consumers Energy announcing the Consumers Energy 2026 Planet Award. The grant could be worth up to \$250,000 to a single entity like the CLIB. Because the deadline for a letter of intent is 5 PM on February 4, 2026, I asked Mark Kieser to review the grant and make a recommendation on whether it was worth our while to apply. He answered in the affirmative.

This led to a 3-way call today with Rich Castle, Consumers Community Affairs Manager - Northeast Michigan, Mark Kieser, and me. Our first concern was would a lake board qualify for the grant based on the descriptions included in the grant documentation. Rich stated that since the CLIB is a governmental body composed of elected officials (and one volunteer) from 2 counties and 2 townships in northeast Michigan, we do qualify. We then presented a project concept to him that advances the second phase of the Jones Ditch project. It was warmly received, and Rich encouraged us to submit a letter of intent ASAP.

Mark has agreed to prepare the letter of intent, and if we make the first cut, to prepare the formal grant application. Those professional services will be provided at no cost to the CLIB.

Since there is no risk to the CLIB, I have asked Mark to proceed. Please let me know if you disagree.

Kindest Regards,

Rex Vaughn

---

**From:** Richard D. Castle <[RICHARD.CASTLEJR@cmsenergy.com](mailto:RICHARD.CASTLEJR@cmsenergy.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 22, 2026 8:24:33 AM  
**Cc:** Richard D. Castle <[RICHARD.CASTLEJR@cmsenergy.com](mailto:RICHARD.CASTLEJR@cmsenergy.com)>  
**Subject:** Consumers Energy 2026 Planet Award LOI CRM:0943635

**Caution:** CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

Consumers Energy is excited to announce it is currently seeking letters of intent from nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and tribal governments for the 2026 Planet Awards! The Planet Awards will provide as much as \$250,000 to two or more Michigan organizations aiming to make a positive impact on the State's land, water, or air. The letter of intent is the first step in a two-step application process that will result in the award of up to \$250,000 in funding per recipient (\$500,000 total).

This year, we are accepting letters of intent to support projects improving Michigan's environment in the following categories:

- **Land.** The Consumers Energy Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that aim to protect, preserve, and restore land in Michigan, which includes protecting and improving Michigan's natural beauty and wildlife habitat.
- **Water.** Our freshwater and lakes demand great care. Therefore, we support nonprofit organizations seeking to preserve and improve water quality in our Great Lakes, and our freshwater bodies that flow into them.
- **Air.** We support nonprofit organizations seeking to reduce carbon in Michigan's air and improve air quality.

The Consumers Energy Foundation's Planet Awards are the first of three \$500,000 grant rounds in 2026, totaling \$1.5 million. Examples of previous Planet Award recipients include:

- 2025 - [City of Eastpointe, City of Parchment & MSU IPF](#)
- 2024 - [Muskegon County Parks & Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy](#)
- 2023 - [The Nature Conservancy Genesee Conservation District](#)

The attached documents include additional information. Applicants can access the letter of intent on our website at [www.ConsumersEnergy.com/community/foundation/planet](http://www.ConsumersEnergy.com/community/foundation/planet).

Please note that the deadline for submitting a letter of intent for the 2026 Planet Awards is **5:00 PM on February 4, 2026.**

Thank you for your help in ensuring the protection, preservation, and restoration of Michigan's natural resources.

Good luck and lets bring another award to northeast Michigan!

# Rich Castle

**Community Affairs Manager - Northeast Michigan**

Mobile: (231)735-3619

Email: [richard.castlejr@cmsenergy.com](mailto:richard.castlejr@cmsenergy.com)



**Subject:** Your Consumers Energy Foundation Application Submission  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 11:25:13 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Consumers Energy Foundation <mail@grantapplication.com>  
**To:** rvaughn@tir.com <rvaughn@tir.com>

Thank you for your submission. Your application has been submitted successfully, and the tracking number is 68867. Once an internal review process has taken place, grant proposals are reviewed by the Consumers Energy Foundation's board of directors on a quarterly basis, generally at the end of each quarter. Once a decision has been made, applicants will be notified whether their grant proposal has been accepted or declined. To access your applications, please click on the link below.

[https://www.grantrequest.com/SID\\_1482/?SA=AM](https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_1482/?SA=AM)

For your records, here is a copy of the contents of your application.

2026 \$500,000 Planet Awards Letter of Intent

**Organization Information**

**Please note: this program will automatically log you out after 2 hours. Click "Save" often to avoid losing your work.**

Organization Name			Organization Legal Name		
Cedar Lake Improvement Board			Cedar Lake Improvement Board		
Tax ID					
38-3268769					
Mailing Address					
PO Box 53					
City		State		Zip Code	
Greenbush		MI		48738	
Phone			Website		
810-516-6686			<a href="https://cedarlakeib.org">https://cedarlakeib.org</a>		
Social Media Handles					
If you are active on social media, please list the platforms and corresponding handles.					
Please provide a brief statement of your organization's mission and background.					
The Cedar Lake Improvement Board (CLIB) was formed by township (Greenbush & Oscoda) and county (Alcona & Iosco) governments under Part 309 of Michigan Public Act 451 in the mid-nineties. The Board's mission is to undertake any lake					

improvement projects that provide a public benefit (exclusive of legal lake levels, dams, & augmentation wells). The CLIB manages aquatic invasive species control, implemented improvements projects in the wetlands supporting the lake, and developed an EPA approved watershed management plan in 2011, and a 2025 update presently under state review.

**The Consumers Energy Foundation understands and appreciates that building an organization or program centered around valuing differences, fairness, inclusivity, and accessibility is an ongoing process. We are interested in learning more about your organization's commitment to these principles. In a few sentences, please describe your organization's commitment to a culture of inclusion and belonging and how you demonstrate that commitment.**

As a governmentally appointed body through Part 309 of Michigan Public Act 451, most board members are formally appointed local township or county governmental elected officials or employees and follow prevailing programs of their respective jurisdictions. The at-large member of the CLIB is a lake riparian, not representing organizations on the board other than those associated with other riparian owners such as the Alcona/Iosco Cedar Lake Association (AICLA). The AICLA is a 501c3 that is comprised of a board and membership consisting of lakeshore residents and any interested member of the public. Since 2010, this organization has led watershed management planning efforts with the CLIB that have intentionally engaged the public in such plans. Watershed "stakeholders" representing the lake, township and county community have always been publicly invited to engage in the process, as well as local and state officials and conservation organizations over the years. Also on the lake are two neighborhood membership organizations (Property Owner Associations) with well over 1,000 members that offer shared lake access amenities to off-lake owners and their guests. There is one public beach on the lake maintained by Greenbush Township, and several platted lake access locations for off-lake resident use. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources maintains a public boat launch on the eastern shore of Cedar Lake in Iosco County where no boat launch fees are required. As such, there is unlimited public access and involvement in Cedar Lake uses and management.

Annual Budget

147157.00

How did you hear about the Planet Awards?

Promotional email from CE.

#### Contact Information

Please note: this program will automatically log you out after 2 hours. Click "Save" often to avoid losing your work.

Prefix	First Name	MI	Last Name	
<None>	Rex	R	Vaughn	
Pronouns				
Title				
Board Chairman				
Office Phone	Extension	Office Fax	Cell Phone	E-mail
810-516-6686			810-516-6686	<a href="mailto:rvaughn@tir.com">rvaughn@tir.com</a>

No Check this box if the contact for this request is the same as the contact listed above.

Prefix	First Name	MI	Last Name	
<None>	Mark	S	Kieser	
Pronouns				
Title				
Senior Scientist				
Office Phone	Extension	Office Fax	Cell Phone	E-mail
269-344-7117			269-217-6372	<a href="mailto:mkieser@kieser-associates.com">mkieser@kieser-associates.com</a>

#### Proposal Summary

**Please note: this program will automatically log you out after 2 hours. Click "Save" often to avoid losing your work.**

Amount Requested:
The Amount Requested should be between \$100,000 and \$250,000.
250000
Project Budget:
The Amount Requested should be more than 50% of the total Project Budget.
460000

**Name of project or program:**

Supporting Cedar Lake Wetland and Habitat Restoration by Overcoming Challenging Impediments with Railroad Culvert Hydraulic Barriers in Alcona County, MI

**Project Goal**

In one sentence, describe the goal of the program/project.

Develop a collaborative strategy with the local railroad to replace or improve failing culverts to restore full hydrologic and ecological connectivity between Cedar Lake and up to 1,500 acres of directly upstream wetlands as a model to overcome railroad culvert restoration barriers.

**Project Summary**

In a few short sentences, please describe the overall purpose and desired outcomes of the program/project.

The 1,075-acre Cedar Lake spans Alcona and Iosco Counties in Northern Lower Michigan. It suffers from insufficient summer water volume to maintain desired ecologically and recreationally balanced water levels. Transportation infrastructure associated with roadways and a railroad, have for more than half a century, substantially disconnected the lake from its wetland-dominated watershed. Full hydrologic reconnection with its watershed is critical for Cedar Lake level and ecological management. The last twenty years of lake restoration efforts with roadways have addressed traditional road culvert challenges. Six railroad culverts, some likely 70 years old, remain as barriers to full hydrologic reconnection to wetland drainage reaching the lake, splitting in half the 3,035 acres of forested wetlands in the 3,613-acre watershed. The challenges of working with railroads to improve stream crossings greatly diminishes stream and habitat restoration opportunities not only for Cedar Lake, but for thousands of crossings in the upper Midwest and Pacific Northwest based on compiled research. This often relates to federal access limitations, other capital infrastructure priorities, and stringent engineering requirements. The proposed project will support local watershed management efforts to effectuate railroad culvert improvements and/or replacements to improve Cedar Lake. Lessons learned will be transformed for strategy applications in Michigan.

**Purpose of Funding:**

In a few short sentences, please describe how the funding from this specific Foundation grant will be used.

Grant funding will directly support Lake State Railroad project collaboration, conceptual engineering design of all six railroad culverts, and re-construction of potentially up to two railroad culverts over a proposed 2-year project timeframe. A parallel, U.S. Fish & Wildlife-approved Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MWGLP) grant will fund the restoration of 200 feet of Jones Ditch in the northwest Cedar Lake watershed rehabilitating a degraded ditch and connecting the lake with approximately 500 acres of upstream wetland pike spawning habitat. Restoration improvement of railroad culverts will eventually reconnect the lake to nearly 1,500 acres of watershed wetlands, tripling spawning habitat and delivering clean wetland flows to the lake year-round. Monitoring will ensure measurable hydrologic and ecological objectives in the Cedar Lake Watershed Management Plan.

**What Michigan counties will your project impact?**

Alcona and Iosco Counties

**Project Start Date:**

5/4/2026

**Project End Date:**

If your project or program is only one day long, please re-enter the start date.

4/28/2028

OPTIONAL: Attach any supporting documentation.

Remember to click Upload after selecting your file.

[Attachment.pdf](#)

#### Project Impact

**Please note: this program will automatically log you out after 2 hours. Click "Save" often to avoid losing your work.**

### **How does your project align with our priority to protect/preserve or restore land, freshwater bodies, or air quality in Michigan?**

Preference is given to projects that include clear, measurable outcomes that improve or protect air, land, or water resources.

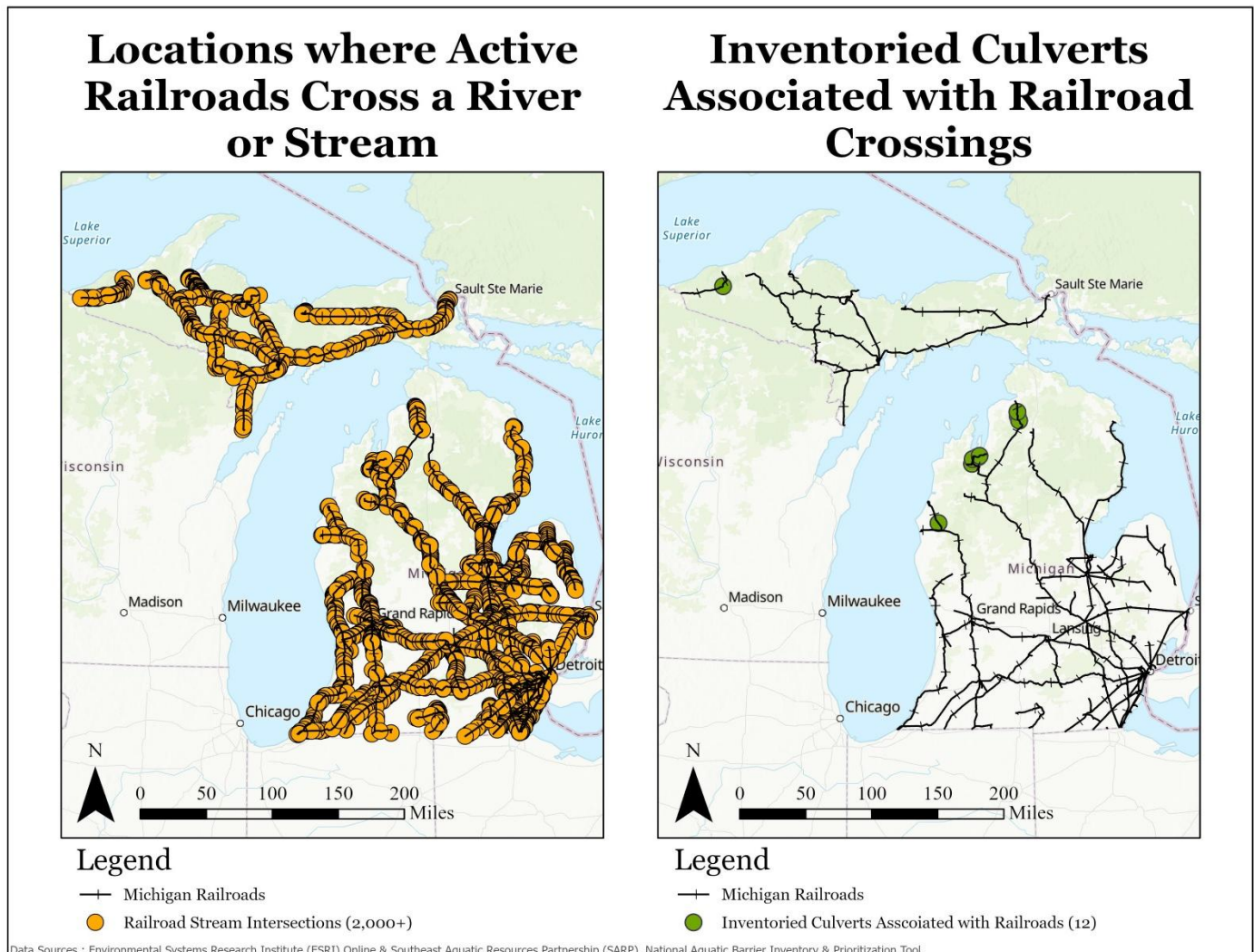
The project directly protects and improves Michigan's water quality by restoring natural hydrologic function between Cedar Lake and its upstream wetlands. This will in turn, enhance nutrient retention, move wetland water volumes to the lake to help naturally maintain ecologically and recreationally balanced water levels and provide vast fisheries spawning habitat once reconnected to the lake. By addressing legacy infrastructure barriers and restoring natural stream morphology, the project advances long-term protection of freshwater resources, fish populations, and recreational water quality in northern Michigan. Naturally stabilized flows with restored wetland hydrology will help potentially avoid multi-million \$ investments in augmentation wells that may otherwise be necessary to artificially maintain Cedar Lake levels.

Importantly, the challenging barrier of working with railroads will be explored with Lake State Railroad where strategic outcomes recognize both constraints and benefits of infrastructure management that flow to all parties and the environment. For Cedar Lake, this would result in reconnection of nearly one-half of the wetland-dominated watershed. In Michigan, it is estimated that over 94,000 road-related aquatic barriers exist throughout the state; only 3,606 such culverts have been inventoried. A smaller proportion (0.3%) of inventoried culverts are associated with railroad crossings, despite there being over 2,000 railroad-stream crossings throughout in Michigan. These estimates not only display a lack of culvert inventory throughout the state, but also the importance of assessing railroad culvert restoration needs that otherwise go unaddressed because of challenges with infrastructure access. This project will collaboratively work with the Lake State Railroad to determine how such barriers can be strategically overcome at Cedar Lake to serve as a model for other stream restoration efforts in Michigan.

# ATTACHMENT

## Supporting Information for the CLIB Consumers Energy Proposal

Barriers working with railroad corridors are replete in the literature. In Michigan, it is clear from the following K&A data compilation, that addressing associated hydrological and ecological connectivity is, and may remain elusive. We find this a compelling opportunity to engage a private railway company with over 340 miles of rail in southern Michigan to discover how to overcome real or perceived barriers with this transportation sector. The Lake State Railway Company is committed to working with the CLIB team on this project. Thus, it would behoove us as potential grant recipients, to share learnings.



### Supplemental Project Information

K&A provides the following information to supplement this grant submission. Figure 1 identifies the areas flown for a drone topographic survey of the Jones Ditch wetlands in late 2022. (Pink lines are 5-foot contours.) This mapping provides finite details to carefully assess hydrologic responses and subsequent wetland habitat conditions with potential culvert improvements at the two northern-most Lake State Railroad culverts 5 and 6.

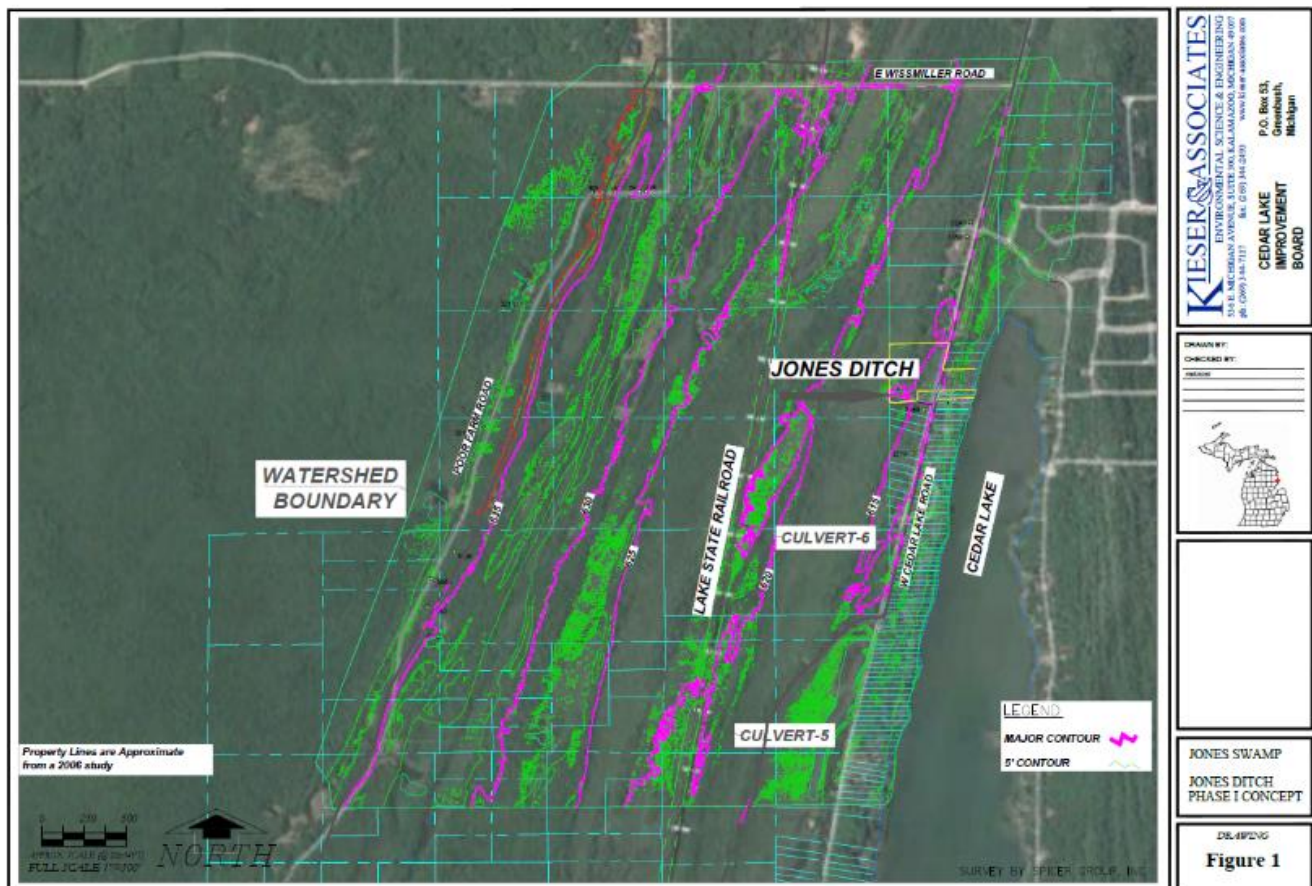
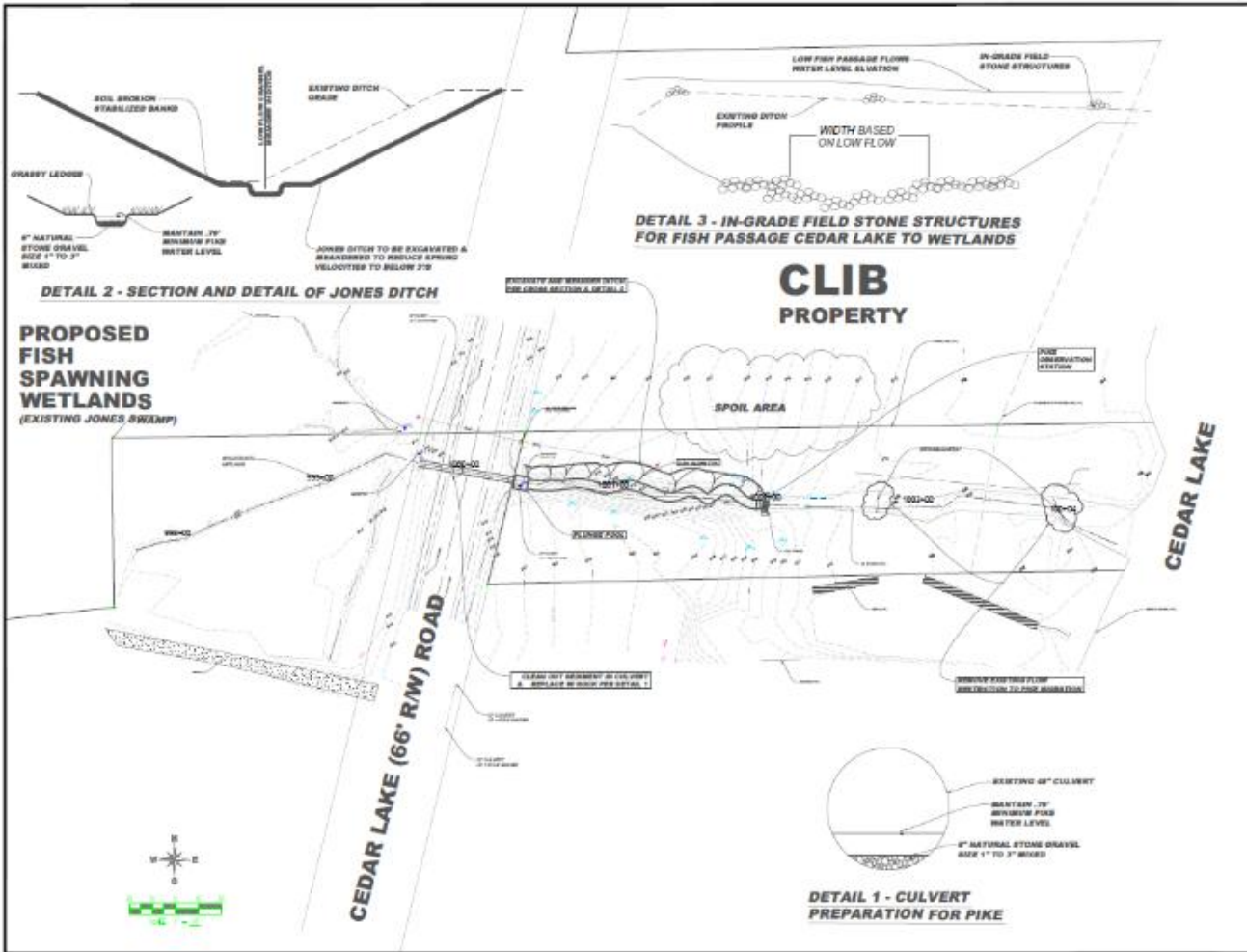


Figure 2 is a preliminary site design drawing for the Jones Ditch channel reconstruction effort. This was compiled by John Jacobson of K&A to ensure sufficient site characteristics to reconstruct the channel to meet project objectives. This will advance final design considerations and permit application needs considering agency reviews for the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership grant. These efforts confirm that the project is constructible on the CLIB-owned Jones Ditch property.



**KIESER ASSOCIATES**  
 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING  
 535 E. MICHIGAN AVENUE, SUITE 300, KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49007  
 PH: (269) 344-2117  
 WWW.KIESER-ASSOCIATES.COM

P.O. Box 87,  
 Greenbush,  
 Michigan  
**CEDAR LAKE  
 IMPROVEMENT  
 BOARD**

DRAWN BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHECKED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**JONES DITCH  
 PHASE I CONCEPT**

DRAWING  
**Figure 2**

The effectiveness and success of this project rely upon the participation of the Lake State Railroad. The following letter of commitment from the railroad in these regards is as follows.



## Lake State Railway Company

---

750 N Washington Ave • Saginaw, MI 48607  
Phone 989.393.9800 • Fax 989.757.2134

January 19, 2024

Mr. Rex Vaughn, Chair  
Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
PO Box 53  
Greenbush MI 48738

RE: Letter of Commitment for Collaboration with the Cedar Lake Improvement Board for a Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Grant entitled, "Acre for Acre Restoration of Lake Hydrology and Pike Spawning Habitat for the 1,075-acre Cedar Lake (Iosco/Alcona Counties, MI)"

Dear Mr. Vaughn:

The Lake State Railway Company (LSRC) is aware of your interest in examining the two most northern culverts under the northern section of our rail line from Kings Corner Road to E. Wissmiller Road in Greenbush Twp, Alcona County, MI. It is LSRC's understanding that other waterway improvements have been undertaken within the watershed that shown improvement to hydrology and fish habitat. LSRC's track bisects the watershed and wetlands. As expressed by your consultant, lake hydrology and fish habitat improvements could be realized if the culverts beneath LSRC's track crossings were improved.

Lake State Railway Company understands that these potential culvert improvements would be a part of Cedar Lake Improvement Board's proposed Phase 2 efforts to develop conceptual engineering options for these potential culvert replacements. LSRC has a permitting process for working on railroad property. You will need to complete a "Right of Entry Application" with a site drawing and insurance certificate for the CLIB and engineering representatives to further examine design options for suitable culverts. LSRC commits to collaborating with the CLIB to provide permitted access with a compliant access application, and review culvert options with the CLIB that meet your interests for improved lake conditions and conform to our prevailing "Contractor Instructions" for right-of-way work.

We recognize that if the CLIB is successful in their grant application, that Phase 2 would likely be initiated in 2025 with potential culvert design options completed for this grant-funded project in 2026. We further recognize that through your proposed collaboration with LSRC, funding for a Phase 3 culvert replacement project could be sought in the future if culvert improvements meet both parties needs.



## Lake State Railway Company

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750 N Washington Ave • Saginaw, MI 48607  
Phone 989.393.9800 • Fax 989.757.2134

As such, LSRC commits to collaborating with the CLIB and their representatives for assessing culvert replacement options under your proposed Phase 2 grant project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TK", is positioned above the typed name.

Thomas Klemm  
Chief Engineer  
Lake State Railway Company

## Submit a Letter of Intent

### Mission & Purpose

The Consumers Energy Foundation is the charitable arm of Consumers Energy, Michigan's largest energy provider. The Consumers Energy Foundation helps communities thrive and grow by investing in what's most important to Michigan – its people, our planet and Michigan's prosperity.

The Consumers Energy Foundation's Planet Awards are the first of three \$500,000 grant rounds in 2026, totaling \$1.5 million. Additional requests for proposals will be announced later in the year for the People Awards and Prosperity Awards.

The 2025 recipients of the Planet Awards were [City of Eastpointe, City of Parchment, & MSU IPE](#).

The Planet Awards will provide as much as \$250,000 to two or more Michigan nonprofits aiming to make a positive impact on the State's land, water, or air. The Consumers Energy Foundation is currently accepting letters of intent for the 2026 Planet Awards. Let's make a positive impact in Michigan together!

### Impacting the Planet by Supporting Michigan's Land, Water and Air

The Consumers Energy Foundation is dedicated to ensuring Michigan has world-class natural resources by funding programs that strengthen environmental education/stewardship, preserve Michigan's natural beauty, and reduce environmental impact when natural resources are used.

This year, the Foundation is seeking letters of intent to support projects improving Michigan's environment in the following categories:

#### Land

The Consumers Energy Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that aim to protect, preserve, and restore land in Michigan, which includes protecting and improving Michigan's natural beauty and wildlife habitat.

#### Water

Our freshwater and lakes demand great care. Therefore, we support nonprofit organizations seeking to preserve and improve water quality in our Great Lakes, and our freshwater bodies that flow into them.

#### Air

We support nonprofit organizations seeking to reduce carbon in Michigan's air and improve air quality.

The Consumers Energy Foundation is funded by company donations, not included in customer rates.

## FOUNDATION

### Request for Letters of Intent – Deadline: 5:00 PM on Wednesday, February 4, 2026

The Consumers Energy Foundation invites Michigan nonprofits to submit a letter of intent to express their interest in applying for a 2026 Planet Award. The Consumers Energy Foundation will evaluate all letter of intent submittals and select the top projects that meet the program and eligibility criteria. Organizations that make the list through the letter of intent process will be invited to submit a full application. If invited, full applications are due on or before Wednesday, March 11, 2026. Preference will be made in support of projects that seek to secure permanent and quantifiable results. **The deadline for submitting a letter of intent is 5:00 PM on Wednesday, February 4, 2026.**

### Award Requirements / Eligibility Criteria

The letter of intent is the first step in a two-step application process that will result in the award of up to \$250,000 in funding per recipient (\$500,000 total). If your project/program request is for less than \$100,000 or our grant will be less than 51% of the project/program budget, we ask that you submit a grant request using our regular PLANET grant application on our [website](#).

To be eligible, all applicants for the Planet Awards must meet the following criteria:

- Candidates must be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization OR municipality OR federally recognized Indian Tribal Government described in IRC Section 7701(a)(40);
- Candidates must operate in Michigan or have a project that benefits Michigan;
- The project must impact a territory that is [served by Consumers Energy](#);
- Candidates must submit a letter of intent by 5:00 PM on February 4, 2026;
- Funds cannot be used to enhance or improve Consumers Energy property;
- Funds cannot be used for energy-related projects or costs;
- The Consumers Energy Foundation must be the majority contributor (51% or more) to overall funding for the proposed project;
- Grantees are expected to attend any required check presentation event or grant announcement at the Consumers Energy Foundation's discretion;
- Grantees must provide data illustrating positive impact to Michigan's environment on an annual basis until completion of the project or beyond; and
- Candidates must provide information on any ongoing maintenance requirements necessary to maintain project benefits and how those needs will be met.

### Letter of Intent Process

To submit a Letter of Intent for a 2026 Planet Award, please visit <https://www.consumersenergy.com/community/foundation/planet>.

If prompted, please sign in or otherwise create a login to begin. Select "2026 Planet Awards Letter of Intent" in the dropdown menu.

For more information about the Consumers Energy Foundation, visit [www.ConsumersEnergy.com/Foundation](http://www.ConsumersEnergy.com/Foundation).

# 2026 Planet Awards

Consumers Energy

FOUNDATION

Have a project to improve Michigan's land, water or air? Submit a letter of intent (LOI) for as much as \$250,000 from the Consumers Energy Foundation. Here's how:

## ***Submit an LOI online by February 4***

Visit [ConsumersEnergy.com/Foundation](https://ConsumersEnergy.com/Foundation) to learn more about the 2026 Planet Awards and submit your LOI. LOIs are due by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, February 4, 2026.

## ***Receive notification by February 23***

The Consumers Energy Foundation will review LOIs for projects focused on preserving, protecting, or enhancing Michigan's land, water, or air. Applicants will be notified of the status of their LOI by February 23, 2026.

## ***Submit full application by March 11***

Top applicants will be invited to submit a full application that will be due by March 11, 2026. The 2026 Planet Award winners will be announced this Spring.

## Protecting Michigan's Environment

Consumers Energy is dedicated to ensuring Michigan has world-class natural resources by funding programs and organizations that strengthen environmental stewardship, preserve the natural beauty of Michigan and reduce environmental impact when natural resources are used.

As part of this commitment, the Consumers Energy Foundation—[the charitable arm of our company](#)—awards grants to nonprofit organizations dedicated to protecting Michigan's land, water and air.

Although we provide grants year-round to support environmental efforts, once per year we award our largest grants through a signature program known as the Planet Awards. These awards provide as much as \$250,000 to two or more Michigan nonprofits, municipalities, or tribal governments committed to improving the environment through projects and programs that have long-term benefits.

### Inside Story

Since launching the program in 2019, we've provided more than \$3.5 million in grants to Planet Awards winners. Let's look at a past winner:

The **Muskegon County Parks** was awarded a **Planet Award in 2024** to support its ***Dune Harbor Park Restoration and Community Engagement project*** to restore sensitive coastal dune and nearshore habitats along Lake Michigan while strengthening long-term community stewardship.

The project supports restoration of native dune and forest vegetation, stabilization of eroded areas, and removal of invasive species that threaten habitat quality and biodiversity. Restoration activities are paired with volunteer stewardship opportunities and educational programming designed to connect residents and visitors to the ecological importance of the park.

In 2025, the project achieved significant on-the-ground results including the planting of 16,400 American dune grass culms to stabilize dunes and reduce erosion and the planting of 4,386 native trees and shrubs to restore forest habitats.



**From:** Jeff Linderman <[jlinderman437@gmail.com](mailto:jlinderman437@gmail.com)>

**Date:** Friday, October 31, 2025 at 3:36 PM

**To:** Rex Vaughn <[rvaughn@tir.com](mailto:rvaughn@tir.com)>

**Subject:** Formal Freedom of Information Act Request — Communications Regarding High E. coli Test Results in Cedar Lake, Alcona County

**Jeffrey Linderman**

**Via Email & USPS**

7729 Cedar Lane  
Greenbush, MI 48738  
734.957.4264

**Date:** October 31, 2025

**Cedar Lake Improvement Board**

Attn: FOIA Coordinator  
PO Box 53  
Greenbush, MI 4873

Dear FOIA Coordinator,

This is a **formal request** made under the **Michigan Freedom of Information Act (MCL 15.231 et seq.)**. As a citizen and riparian owner, I am invoking my right to inspect and receive copies of **all written and electronic communications** in the possession or control of the **Cedar Lake Improvement Board (CLIB)** relating to the discovery of **excessively high *E. coli* and total coliform levels** in **Cedar Lake, Alcona County, Greenbush Township**, as identified during the **Cedar Lake Summer Vegetation Survey conducted in early July 2025**.

This request specifically includes, but is not limited to, all records, correspondence, memoranda, notes, text messages, and email communications exchanged **from April 1, 2025, through the present date** between CLIB and any of the following entities or their representatives:

- **Kieser & Associates (K&A)**
- **District Health Department No. 2 (DHD2)**
- **Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)**
- **Greenbush Township**
- **Alcona County**
- **Iosco County**
- **Oscoda Township**
- **Any laboratories involved in testing**, including Great Lakes Environmental Center and Enviro Lab Services in Oscoda

This includes, but is not limited to:

1. All documents and communications referring to or discussing the **July 2, 2025 water sampling** and field screening results conducted by Kieser & Associates;
2. All communications regarding the **August 27, 2025 follow-up sampling and testing**;

3. Any correspondence, discussions, or reports regarding **the source of contamination, potential causes, or remedial actions**;
4. Any communication regarding the **pending second Kieser & Associates report** or the **authorization for DNA testing**;
5. Any internal or external communications concerning **public notification, risk to human health, or coordination with property owners or governmental agencies**.

Please note: this request seeks **all responsive materials regardless of format or device**, including official or personal email accounts, text messages, and other digital communications used for public business.

Under **MCL 15.235(2)**, you are required to respond to this request **within five (5) business days** of receipt. Should additional time be necessary, a one-time extension of not more than ten (10) business days is permitted, provided that written notice of the extension and its reason is issued as required by law.

If you contend that any portion of a record is exempt from disclosure, **you must redact only the exempt portions** and release the remainder, providing the specific legal exemption relied upon and an explanation consistent with **MCL 15.244(1)**.

Please provide the requested records in **electronic format (PDF or other searchable digital file)** and deliver them via email to [jlinderman437@gmail.com](mailto:jlinderman437@gmail.com).

If there are any associated costs exceeding \$50, please provide a detailed **itemized written cost estimate** before processing, in compliance with **MCL 15.234**.

This request concerns a matter of public health significance affecting Cedar Lake residents and users. Delays or incomplete responses will be viewed as a **potential violation of Michigan's FOIA statute** and may result in further formal action to compel compliance, as permitted under **MCL 15.240**.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please confirm receipt of this request and indicate the statutory response date.

Sincerely,

**Jeffrey Linderman**

Riparian Owner on Cedar Lake

7729 Cedar Lane

Greenbush, MI 48738

Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
P.O. Box 53  
Greenbush, Michigan 48738

November 6, 2025

Mr. Jeffrey Linderman  
7729 Cedar Lane  
Greenbush, MI 48738  
(734) 957-4264  
Jlinderman437@gmail.com

Re: *Notice of 10-Business-Day Extension*

Dear Mr. Linderman:

The Cedar Lake Improvement Board ("the Board") is in receipt of your FOIA request dated October 31, 2025. This letter is to advise you that, pursuant to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), PA 442 of 1976, as amended, the Board is invoking the 10-business-day extension to respond to your FOIA request, as permitted by Section 5(2)(d) of FOIA, MCL 15.235(2)(d).

The Board requires additional time to determine the scope of the records in its possession that it may need to review to process this request, and the Board requires additional time to determine what, if any, FOIA exemptions might apply to the records which may be responsive to this request. The Board will respond to your request on or before Friday, November 21, 2025.

Sincerely,



Rex R. Vaughn  
Chairman, Cedar Lake Improvement Board

cc: Via Email to Jlinderman437@gmail.com

Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
P.O. Box 53  
Greenbush, Michigan 48738

November 20, 2025

Mr. Jeffrey Linderman  
7729 Cedar Lane  
Greenbush, MI 48738  
(734) 957-4264  
Jlinderman437@gmail.com

Re: *Response to the FOIA Request (October 31, 2025)*

Dear Mr. Linderman:

The Cedar Lake Improvement Board (the "Board") received your written request, dated October 31, 2025, under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), PA 442 of 1976, as amended. This letter responds to your FOIA request. As you will recall, the Board previously invoked the 10-business-day extension as permitted under FOIA. Specifically, the Board responds to your FOIA request as follows:

**Request: As a citizen and riparian owner, I am invoking my right to inspect and receive copies of all written and electronic communications in the possession or control of the Cedar Lake Improvement Board (CLIB) relating to the discovery of excessively high E. coli and total coliform levels in Cedar Lake, Alcona County, Greenbush Township, as identified during the Cedar Lake Summer Vegetation Survey conducted in early July 2025.**

**This request specifically includes, but is not limited to, all records, correspondence, memoranda, notes, text messages, and email communications exchanged from April 1, 2025, through the present date between CLIB and any of the following entities or their representatives:**

- **Kieser & Associates (K&A)**
- **District Health Department No. 2 (DHD2)**
- **Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)**
- **Greenbush Township**
- **Alcona County**
- **Iosco County**
- **Oscoda Township**
- **Any laboratories involved in testing, including Great Lakes Environmental Center and Enviro Lab Services in Oscoda**

**This includes, but is not limited to:**

1. **All documents and communications referring to or discussing the July 2, 2025, water sampling and field screening results conducted by Kieser & Associates;**

2. **All communications regarding the August 27, 2025, follow-up sampling and testing;**
3. **Any correspondence, discussions, or reports regarding the source of contamination, potential causes, or remedial actions;**
4. **Any communication regarding the pending second Kieser & Associates report or the authorization for DNA testing;**
5. **Any internal or external communications concerning public notification, risk to human health, or coordination with property owners or governmental agencies.**

**Response:** This request is GRANTED in part and DENIED in part. This request is granted in part, to the extent the Board possesses any non-exempt public records that are reasonably responsive to this request. This request is denied in part to the extent that the Board does not possess any public records that are reasonably responsive to one or more of the specific line items set forth in the request, but the specific line items for which no responsive public records exist will not be known until the Board's records have been assembled and examined—at which time the Board will certify to the lack of responsive public records. This request is further denied in part to the extent that any one or more responsive public records are covered (in whole or in part) by any exemption under the FOIA, including but not limited to the personal privacy exemption (MCL 15.243(1)(a)), the attorney work-product exemption (MCL 15.243(1)(d)), the attorney-client privilege exemption (MCL 15.243(1)(g)), and the advisory communications exemption (MCL 15.243(1)(m)). The Board reserves the right to rely upon all such additional exemptions when all the responsive public records have been identified and examined.

Some of the public records responsive to your request can be found (at present) on the Board's websites, at: <https://cedarlakeib.org/meetings/> and at <https://cedarlakewmp.net/monitoring-reports>.

Given the broad nature of your request and the fact that the Board does not employ any paid staff members capable of fulfilling this request, it will take the Board a significant amount of time to compile and review the documents responsive to this request, including the separation of any exempt from non-exempt public records. Therefore, the Board estimates that it will take the Board until approximately January 31, 2026, to fulfill your FOIA request.

### **Notice of Rights**

If you disagree with the Board's response regarding this matter, pursuant to FOIA, you are hereby advised and put on notice of your rights to do either of the following:

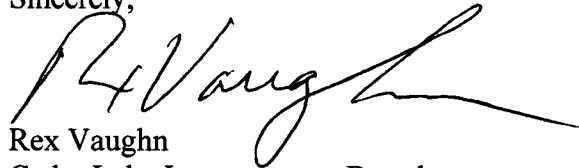
- (1) You can submit a written appeal to the Lake Board. That appeal must be in writing, must contain the word "appeal," and must identify the reason or reasons for the reversal of the disclosure denial.

(2) You may seek judicial review of the denial under Section 10 of FOIA. You are further advised of the right to receive attorney fees and damages as provided in Section 10 of FOIA if, after judicial review, the Circuit Court determines that the Board has not complied with Section 5 of FOIA and orders disclosure of all or a portion of a public record.

Section 5(8) of FOIA also states that if the Board denies in whole or in part a request to inspect or receive a copy of a public record or portion of a public record, the requesting party may do either of the following:

- (a) Appeal the denial to the head of the public body pursuant to Section 10 of FOIA.
- (b) Commence an action in Circuit Court, pursuant to Section 10 of FOIA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Vaughn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rex Vaughn  
Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
Chairman & FOIA Coordinator

cc: Via Email to [Jlinderman437@gmail.com](mailto:Jlinderman437@gmail.com)

**Subject:** FOIA APPEAL – Improper Partial Denial / Failure to Provide Required Fee Estimate and Certification  
**Date:** Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 10:38:21 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Jeff Linderman <jlinderman437@gmail.com>  
**To:** Rex Vaughn <rvaughn@tir.com>  
**CC:** Carolyn Brummund <cbrummund@alconacounty.gov>, manager@alconacrc.com <manager@alconacrc.com>, patndave@charter.net <patndave@charter.net>, manager@oscodatownshipmi.gov <manager@oscodatownshipmi.gov>, tdutcher@ioscocounty.org <tdutcher@ioscocounty.org>, ioscodrain2@ioscocounty.org <ioscodrain2@ioscocounty.org>

**Jeffrey Linderman**

7729 Cedar Lane  
Greenbush, Mi 48738  
[jlinderman437@gmail.com](mailto:jlinderman437@gmail.com)  
734.957.4264  
Date: **December 21, 2025**

**Cedar Lake Improvement Board (CLIB)**

Attn: **Entire CLIB Board**  
P.O. Box 53  
Greenbush, MI 48738

To the Members of the Cedar Lake Improvement Board:

This letter serves as a **formal appeal under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), MCL 15.240**, regarding the Board’s written response dated **November 30, 2025**, concerning my FOIA request for records related to the activities, expenditures, decisions, communications, and reports of the Cedar Lake Improvement Board.

This appeal is directed to each current member of the CLIB:

- **Carolyn Brummund – Alcona County Commissioner**
- **Jesse Campbell – Alcona County Drain Commissioner**
- **David Dailey – Greenbush Township Representative**
- **Adam Kline – Oscoda Township Manager**
- **Terry Dutcher – Iosco County Commissioner**
- **Fred Strauer – Iosco County Drain Commissioner**
- **Rex Vaughn – Citizen Riparian Representative**

**Basis of Appeal**

**1. The Response Constitutes a Denial Without a Legally Required Fee Estimate**

The Board’s response states that production will not occur until **January 31, 2026**, yet no **itemized cost estimate** was provided as required by **MCL 15.234(4)**.

A public body may not delay production beyond the statutory acknowledgement period **without issuing a written fee estimate** and requesting a deposit if applicable.

The lack of an itemized fee estimate constitutes a **constructive denial** under FOIA.

## **2. Exemptions Cannot Be Claimed in Advance Without Specific Application**

The response preemptively cites exemptions, including privacy, attorney-client, and attorney work product.

Under **MCL 15.235(5)(a)** and **MCL 15.244(1)**, each individual withheld record must be:

- identified,
- described, and
- justified with a specific exemption.

Blanket preemptive exemption claims are **not permissible under FOIA**.

## **3. The Board Must Certify Nonexistent Records**

The Board asserted that certain requested records “may not exist.” FOIA requires that if a document is not in the public body’s possession, **a written certification must be immediately issued** under **MCL 15.235(5)(b)**.

Further, many requested records are **required to exist**, including minutes, documents presented at meetings, and board actions, under the **Open Meetings Act (OMA), MCL 15.269**.

If required records do not exist, this matter may warrant **OMA enforcement review**.

## **4. All Members Must Be Included in Records Searches**

Because CLIB business is conducted by all listed board members, including a civilian representative, the FOIA obligation covers **all locations where records are kept**, including:

- personal email accounts,
- personal cellular devices,
- files held at home related to CLIB duties,
- engineering, consultant, or vendor documents received by individual board members.

Michigan law (*Howell Education Ass’n v. Howell Public Schools*, 2016) establishes that records used to perform public duties are subject to FOIA **regardless of storage location or ownership of the device**.

## **Requested Action Under Appeal**

Pursuant to **MCL 15.240(1)(b)**, I request the following:

**A.** A complete **written itemized fee estimate** pursuant to **MCL 15.234(4)**.

**B.** Immediate **written certification of any public records that do not exist**, under **MCL 15.235(5)(b)**.

**C.** Written assurance that a **full search** will be conducted of all records held by every CLIB member listed above.

**D.** Agreement that no exemptions will be applied without specific identification and justification for each document withheld, per **MCL 15.235(5)(a)** and **MCL 15.244(1)**.

### **Reservation of Rights**

If the Board does not respond to this appeal within **10 business days** as required by **MCL 15.240(2)**, I will seek additional enforcement remedies, including but not limited to:

- Complaint to the Michigan Attorney General
- Referral to the County Prosecutors for potential OMA violations
- Civil litigation seeking disclosure, with attorney fees, costs, and punitive damages under **MCL 15.240(7)**

### **Conclusion**

This appeal is submitted to support transparency and lawful compliance by a public body funded by Cedar Lake taxpayers. The public is entitled to accurate documentation, financial accountability, and timely access to public records.

I look forward to your lawful response.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jeffrey Linderman-FOIA Requester**

Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
P.O. Box 53  
Greenbush, Michigan 48738

December 30, 2025

Mr. Jeffrey Linderman  
7729 Cedar Lane  
Greenbush, MI 48738  
(734) 957-4264  
Jlinderman437@gmail.com

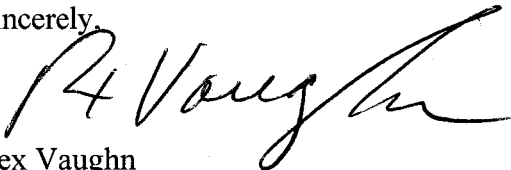
*Re: Receipt of FOIA Appeal Submission (December 21, 2025)*

Dear Mr. Linderman:

This letter is to acknowledge the Cedar Lake Improvement Board's (the "CLIB") receipt of your Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") Appeal, submitted via email on December 21, 2025, concerning your FOIA request dated October 31, 2025. Please note that the governing Lake Board for the CLIB is considered the "head of the public body" for purposes of hearing and deciding an appeal brought under FOIA, pursuant to MCL 15.240 and MCL 15.240a. Therefore, a FOIA appeal filed with the CLIB is considered "received" as of the first regular meeting of the board responsible for ruling on the appeal. See MCL 15.240(3) and MCL 15.240a(3).

Accordingly, your appeal will be added as an agenda item for the Lake Board's next regularly scheduled meeting on February 20, 2026. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Rex Vaughn  
Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
Chairman & FOIA Coordinator

cc: Via Email to:

Jeff Linderman, Jlinderman437@gmail.com  
Carolyn Brummund, cbrummund@alconacounty.gov  
Jesse Campbell, manager@alconacrc.com  
Dave Dailey, patndave@charter.net  
Fred Strauer, ioscodrain2@ioscocoounty.org  
Terry Dutcher, tdutcher@ioscocoounty.org  
Adam Cline, Manager@oscodatowshipmi.gov

Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
P.O. Box 53  
Greenbush, Michigan 48738

February 13, 2026

Mr. Jeffrey Linderman  
7729 Cedar Lane  
Greenbush, MI 48738  
(734) 957-4264  
jlinderman437@gmail.com

Re: Final Response to the FOIA Request

Dear Mr. Linderman:

You submitted a request to the Cedar Lake Improvement Board (the "Board") under Michigan's Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") on October 31, 2025. The Board is responding to your request pursuant to the FOIA, Public Act 442 of 1976, accordingly. The Board is providing the responsive public records to you electronically via a Dropbox download link (delivered by email), to save expenses for your benefit. If you would like paper copies of the responsive records provided to you, please let me know and the Board can provide you with paper copies for a charge.

Your request has been granted in part and denied in part. The Board has granted your request in part and is responding with all non-exempt public records in its possession that are reasonably responsive to your request. This request is denied in part to the extent that some public records have been redacted in part to protect the personal privacy of certain individuals who are unaffiliated with the Board, as their privacy interests outweigh the interests of the public disclosure in this instance, pursuant to MCL 15.243(1)(a). Information about private individuals' names, personal addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, and tax parcel identification numbers have been redacted from twenty-three (23) emails and four (4) text messages, on this basis. Should the Board discover any additional records which may be responsive to your request in the future, the Board reserves its rights to review any such additional records for possible exemptions before disclosing them in response to this request.

Furthermore, some of the public records that are responsive to your request are available on the Board's public website(s). Meeting minutes and related information responsive to your request is available at the following web address: <https://cedarlakeib.org/meetings/>. Water monitoring and quality reports are available at the following web address: <https://cedarlakewmp.net/monitoring-reports>.

The Board is not charging you to respond to this FOIA request. The letter constitutes the Board's final response to your request, and the Board will consider your request of October 31, 2025, to be complete.

## Notice of Rights

If you disagree with the Board's response regarding this matter, pursuant to FOIA, you are hereby advised and put on notice of your rights to do either of the following:

- (1) You can submit a written appeal to the Lake Board. That appeal must be in writing, must contain the word "appeal," and must identify the reason or reasons for the reversal of the disclosure denial.
- (2) You may seek judicial review of the denial under Section 10 of FOIA. You are further advised of the right to receive attorney fees and damages as provided in Section 10 of FOIA if, after judicial review, the Circuit Court determines that the Board has not complied with Section 5 of FOIA and orders disclosure of all or a portion of a public record.

Section 5(8) of FOIA also states that if the Board denies in whole or in part a request to inspect or receive a copy of a public record or portion of a public record, the requesting party may do either of the following:

- (a) Appeal the denial to the head of the public body pursuant to Section 10 of FOIA.
- (b) Commence an action in Circuit Court, pursuant to Section 10 of FOIA.

Sincerely,



Rex Vaughn  
Cedar Lake Improvement Board  
Chairman & FOIA Coordinator

cc: Via Email to: Jeff Linderman, [Jlinderman437@gmail.com](mailto:Jlinderman437@gmail.com)

**From:** Jeff Linderman <[jlinderman437@gmail.com](mailto:jlinderman437@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 4:42 AM

**Subject:** Subject: Summary of Cedar Lake Water Quality Testing, Governance Process Considerations, and Recommendations for Independent Review

**Caution:** CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

### **Township and County representatives with representation on the Cedar Lake Improvement Board (CLIB):**

This correspondence is submitted to provide a consolidated and factual summary of water quality testing conducted on Cedar Lake near Jones Ditch during 2025, to clarify the governance and procedural context under which that testing occurred, and to outline considerations for further evaluation. This communication is offered for situational awareness and policy consideration only.

### **Background and Governance Structure**

The Cedar Lake Improvement Board (CLIB) is composed of seven (7) members. Six (6) members are appointed by their respective governmental units, and those six appointees elect one (1) riparian lake representative to complete the Board. The CLIB does not meet monthly and typically convenes approximately five (5) times per year.

The testing discussed herein was conducted by Kieser & Associates, the CLIB's long-retained watershed consulting firm. Mr. Mark Kieser, the Lake Scientist referenced in CLIB meeting minutes, is employed by Kieser & Associates and serves as the CLIB's retained scientific consultant.

### **Summary of Water Quality Testing**

On July 2, 2025, Kieser & Associates collected nearshore water samples at the request of the CLIB Chairperson following the observation of unusually dense filamentous algae and Chara growth in the northwest portion of Cedar Lake near Jones Ditch. This testing revealed a **positive *E. coli* result exceeding 1,000 MPN/100 ml**, with an **upper 95% confidence level of 94,351 MPN/100 ml**, indicating a statistically significant and elevated bacterial presence.

Subsequent sampling conducted in August 2025 included laboratory analysis for *E. coli* and total coliform. Results documented in the Kieser & Associates report dated **November 18, 2025** identified:

- *E. coli*: **380 CFU/100 ml**
- Total coliform: **9,020 CFU/100 ml**

While the August results reflected lower *E. coli* concentrations than the July screening, they remained elevated relative to recreational water quality benchmarks and continued to suggest the presence of fecal indicator bacteria in the area.

The July and August testing activities were conducted by Kieser & Associates with formal acknowledgment and approval of the CLIB Chairperson only and were later ratified by Board action. However, it was stated during CLIB proceedings that **other CLIB Board members were not made aware of the magnitude of the *E. coli* and phosphorus findings until the October 10, 2025 CLIB meeting.**

## **Agency Involvement**

According to CLIB meeting records, the CLIB Chairperson contacted District Health Department No. 2 (DHD2) and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) regarding the elevated *E. coli* findings. DHD2 inspected nearby septic systems and reported them to be compliant with local standards but did not conduct nearshore lake water testing due to site conditions. EGLE similarly indicated limited authority to intervene. No public advisory or notification was issued by either agency based on the information presented.

## **Procedural and Funding Considerations**

Concerns have been raised that ***Special Assessment District (SAD) funds may have been expended for initial testing activities prior to full CLIB Board notification***, approval, or discussion. Given the CLIB's limited meeting frequency, this timing may have constrained broader Board oversight during the early stages of the response.

This correspondence is submitted by an individual **with no affiliation, appointment, or role within the CLIB or its Board**, and is offered solely to document procedural observations and factual matters derived from public records and meeting minutes.

## **Independence of Review and Data Completeness**

Although the testing was performed by the CLIB's retained Lake Scientist and long-standing consultant, an **independent evaluation may be beneficial** to enhance objectivity, public confidence, and intergovernmental transparency, particularly given the elevated *E. coli* concentrations identified near Jones Ditch.

Based on information presented during CLIB meetings:

- Shallow groundwater testing was only conducted on residential properties **south of Jones Ditch by Kieser & Associates;**
- **No shallow groundwater or surface water testing was conducted on the CLIB-owned property immediately north of Jones Ditch**, despite its proximity to the elevated *E. coli* findings.

It is further noted that the **CLIB-owned parcel immediately north of Jones Ditch previously contained a residential structure with an associated private well and septic system**, which were **demolished or removed approximately two (2) years ago by the CLIB.** The manner in which the septic system and drain field were abandoned has not been documented in materials reviewed to date.

Given the former presence of this infrastructure and the parcel's location within the area of concern, **independent sampling of the CLIB-owned property may assist in addressing potential data gaps** and ensuring that all proximate parcels are evaluated consistently.

## **Closing**

This summary is provided to support informed discussion among the participating governmental units, which have elected representatives on the CLIB, regarding environmental conditions, governance practices, and potential next steps. No conclusions are offered as to causation, responsibility, or regulatory compliance.

Please feel free to request additional clarification or supporting documentation from your CLIB representative if helpful. Attached are the following documents for your review, which were referenced in this communication:

- October 10, 2025 CLIB Minutes-Approved December 12, 2025
- December 12, 2025 CLIB Agenda
- Kieser & Associates E Coli Report Dated July 14, 2025
- Kieser & Associates E Coli Report Dated November 18, 2025

**Jeffrey Linderman-Riparian Cedar Lake**  
**7729 Cedar Lane**  
**Greenbush, MI 48738**  
[jlinderman437@gmail.com](mailto:jlinderman437@gmail.com)

**BCC:** Iosco County Board of Commissioners  
Alcona County Board of Commissioners  
Greenbush Township Board  
Oscoda Township Board

**Subject:** Formal Notice and Request for Written Response Regarding July 2025 Unsafe *E. coli* Contamination Event in Cedar Lake

**Date:** Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 2:19:45 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Jeff Linderman <jlinderman437@gmail.com>

Dear Cedar Lake Improvement Board and Alcona-Iosco Cedar Lake Association Board Members,

I am writing to formally notify both governing bodies of a documented unsafe *E. coli* contamination event in Cedar Lake during the summer recreational season of 2025, and to ensure that all board members and the AICLA membership have a complete and accurate understanding of the laboratory findings, the confirmed timeline of knowledge, and the chronology of subsequent disclosure.

This communication is based exclusively on contemporaneous laboratory reports, consultant correspondence, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) records, and documented public meeting proceedings.

In my capacity as a member of the Alcona-Iosco Cedar Lake Association and as a riparian property owner on Cedar Lake, I respectfully request a formal written response addressed to the AICLA Board and its membership concerning the matters described below. Specifically, I request an explanation from the CLIB civilian representative, who also serves on the AICLA, as to why no notification, advisory, or alert was issued to the AICLA membership or the broader Cedar Lake riparian community following receipt of laboratory-confirmed unsafe *E. coli* test results during the peak recreational season.

## **I. Laboratory Confirmation of Unsafe Recreational Water Conditions**

Water samples collected from Cedar Lake on July 2, 2025, were analyzed on July 7, 2025.

On July 7, 2025, Kieser & Associates staff member Evan Wahmhoff transmitted an email to Mark Kieser and other Kieser personnel stating:

*“Both sites tested at levels considered Unsafe by the WHO (according to the procedure document, this is based on the MPN/100 mL and Upper 95% Confidence Level/100 mL).”*

This statement confirms that Cedar Lake contained *E. coli* concentrations meeting internationally recognized thresholds for unsafe recreational water exposure.

Elevated *E. coli* concentrations of this magnitude are associated with an increased risk of gastrointestinal illness, skin infection, and other waterborne disease exposure, particularly during periods of active recreational use.

## **II. Confirmed Transmission of Unsafe Results to CLIB Civilian Representative**

The July 7, 2025 email containing laboratory-confirmed unsafe *E. coli* findings was transmitted by CLIB's retained lake scientist, Mark Kieser, directly to CLIB Chairperson Rex Vaughn on July 7, 2025.

This transmission establishes that the CLIB civilian representative had direct knowledge of laboratory-confirmed unsafe bacterial contamination on that date.

Based on email records subsequently obtained through FOIA, there is no documented evidence that any notification, advisory, or public communication disseminating this unsafe water quality information was provided to the full Cedar Lake Improvement Board, the Alcona-Iosco Cedar Lake Association Board or its membership, riparian property owners generally, local governmental bodies, or the public after the CLIB civilian representative received the laboratory-confirmed unsafe results on July 7, 2025.

The contamination event was publicly acknowledged for the first time during the Cedar Lake Improvement Board's regular meeting held on October 10, 2025.

The period between July 7, 2025, and October 10, 2025, encompassed the peak summer recreational season, during which Cedar Lake experienced routine recreational use.

### **III. Chronology of Detection, Knowledge, and Public Disclosure**

#### **July 2, 2025**

Water samples collected from Cedar Lake for bacterial analysis.

#### **July 7, 2025 (12:56 PM)**

Kieser & Associates staff member Evan Wahmhoff transmitted laboratory findings internally stating both testing sites were at levels considered unsafe.

#### **July 7, 2025 (same date)**

The unsafe laboratory findings were transmitted by Mark Kieser directly to CLIB Chairperson Rex Vaughn, establishing confirmed receipt of unsafe contamination results.

#### **August 10, 2025**

CLIB Chairperson Vaughn transmitted an email to Alcona County Commissioner Brummund stating:

*“Please note that I have not yet shared this water quality event to anyone other than the 2 homeowners and the two state regulatory agencies responsible for water quality (DHD2 & EGLE).”*

This written statement confirms that broader stakeholder and community notification had not occurred as of that date.

#### **October 10, 2025**

The Cedar Lake Improvement Board publicly acknowledged the *E. coli* contamination event for the first time during its regular board meeting.

#### **IV. Public Health and Governance Implications**

Laboratory-confirmed unsafe bacterial contamination represents a material water quality event with direct implications for:

- Public health and recreational safety
- Risk awareness for lake users and riparian property owners
- Individual decision-making regarding recreational exposure
- Lake monitoring and mitigation response
- Governance transparency and stakeholder awareness

Timely notification of unsafe water quality conditions enables riparian property owners, residents, and recreational users to make informed decisions to protect their health and safety.

#### **V. Formal Request for Written Response to the AICLA Board and Membership**

As a member of the Alcona-Iosco Cedar Lake Association and a riparian property owner directly affected by these events, I formally request that the CLIB civilian representative who also serves on the AICLA provide a written response to the AICLA Board and its membership addressing the following:

1. Why the laboratory-confirmed unsafe *E. coli* results received on July 7, 2025, were not communicated to the AICLA Board or its membership.
2. Why no notification, advisory, or alert was issued to riparian property owners or the broader Cedar Lake community during the peak recreational season.
3. What criteria, policies, or decision-making process governed the determination not to notify the AICLA membership or the broader riparian community.
4. What procedures or protocols will be implemented to ensure that the AICLA membership and riparian community are promptly notified of unsafe water quality conditions in the future.

This written response is requested to ensure that the AICLA Board and its membership have a complete factual understanding of this matter and to support informed stewardship and protection of Cedar Lake.

#### **VI. Purpose of This Formal Notice**

The purpose of this communication is to ensure that all CLIB and AICLA board members, and the AICLA membership, have direct knowledge of:

- The July 7, 2025 laboratory confirmation of unsafe *E. coli* levels in Cedar Lake

- The documented transmission of those results to the CLIB civilian representative on that same date
- The documented scope and timing of subsequent disclosure
- The October 10, 2025 public acknowledgement of the contamination event
- The absence of notification to the AICLA membership and riparian community during the peak recreational season

Supporting documentation, including laboratory reports, consultant correspondence, FOIA records, and public meeting references, can be provided upon request.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Linderman  
Cedar Lake Riparian Property Owner  
Member, Alcona-Iosco Cedar Lake Association  
Oscoda Township, Michigan

**BCC:** AICLA Board of Directors

CLIB Board of Directors

**Subject:** Formal Inquiry Regarding Failure to Notify Riparian Owners of Unsafe *E. coli* Levels – Summer 2025

**Date:** Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 4:41:32 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Tammi Bennett <tntbennett@live.com>

**To:** cbrummund@alconacounty.gov <cbrummund@alconacounty.gov>, manager@alconacrc.com <manager@alconacrc.com>, patndave@charter.net <patndave@charter.net>, manager@oscodatowshipmi.gov <manager@oscodatowshipmi.gov>, tdutcher@ioscocounty.org <tdutcher@ioscocounty.org>, ioscodrain2@ioscocounty.org <ioscodrain2@ioscocounty.org>, rvaughn@tir.com <rvaughn@tir.com>

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing as a riparian property owner to formally request an explanation regarding the Board's failure to notify affected landowners of unsafe *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) levels identified during the summer of 2025.

As riparian owners, we have a direct and foreseeable exposure to conditions affecting the waterway, including risks to human health arising from contamination. Timely disclosure of known health hazards is essential to allow property owners to take appropriate precautions for the protection of their families, guests, and others who may reasonably come into contact with the water.

At no point during the relevant period were we provided notice of elevated *E. coli* levels or advised of any associated health risks. The absence of such notification effectively deprived us of the ability to make informed decisions regarding water use and exposure. By withholding this information, the Board assumed a decision-making role that properly belongs to the affected property owners—namely, whether and to what extent to accept the risk to personal and family safety.

Accordingly, we request a written response addressing the following:

1. The dates on which unsafe *E. coli* levels were identified;
2. The standards or thresholds used to determine that such levels posed a health risk;
3. What notification measures, if any, were undertaken during the summer of 2025;
4. The rationale for not providing direct notice to riparian property owners; and
5. What policies or procedures will be implemented going forward to ensure timely and adequate disclosure of similar health risks.

Transparency, accountability, and timely communication are fundamental to public trust and to the Board's responsibility to those affected by its oversight. We expect a full and candid explanation, along with assurances that future health-related information will be promptly communicated so that property owners may exercise their right to make informed decisions regarding personal and family safety.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,  
Todd & Tammi Bennett  
4350 E. Cedar Lake Dr

**Subject:** E. coli Test Results and Lack of Notification

**Date:** Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 5:46:20 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** April Zaitshik <azaitshik@gmail.com>

**To:** cbrummund@alconacounty.gov <cbrummund@alconacounty.gov>, manager@alconacrc.com <manager@alconacrc.com>, patndave@charter.net <patndave@charter.net>, manager@oscodatowshipmi.gov <manager@oscodatowshipmi.gov>, tdutcher@ioscocoounty.org <tdutcher@ioscocoounty.org>, ioscodrain2@ioscocoounty.org <ioscodrain2@ioscocoounty.org>, rvaughn@tir.com <rvaughn@tir.com>

Dear Members of the CLIB Board,

I am writing to request clear answers regarding the recent E. coli test results for Cedar Lake, taken on July 2, 2025, and the Board's decision not to inform riparian property owners, especially given that elevated levels were discovered over a major holiday weekend.

E. coli contamination poses a real public health risk. By not notifying property owners and lake users in a timely manner, many people — including families, children, pets, guests, and neighbors — were unknowingly exposed to potentially unsafe water conditions. This lack of communication is unacceptable and raises serious concerns about how the Board manages water-quality issues and protects the community.

To understand what happened, I am requesting responses to the following questions:

**1. When were the E. coli test results received?**

Please provide specific dates and times.

**2. Who on the Board or staff was notified of the results, and when?**

Identify by name or title.

**3. Why were riparian property owners not informed immediately upon receipt of the results — particularly given that this occurred over a major holiday when lake use would be high?**

What justification was used for withholding this information?

**4. Were any local health authorities or regulatory agencies contacted? If so, who and when?**

**5. What is the Board's official policy for handling public health or water safety risks such as E. coli?**

If a written policy exists, please provide a copy.

**6. If no such policy exists, why not?**

What standard does the Board use to decide when and how to notify property owners or the public?

**7. Who made the decision not to notify property owners and on what basis?**

By failing to communicate this information promptly, the Board put residents, their families, and

their guests at unnecessary risk. Property owners have a right to know when hazards are present, and the Board has a responsibility to act transparently.

I am requesting a thorough and prompt written response to each of the questions above, along with all relevant documentation and communications that explain the Board's actions.

Thank you — I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,  
April Zaitshik  
4356 East Cedar Lake Drive  
Riparian Owner