

June 24, 2011

Dear Mr. Sackley,

I have asked our riparian board of directors to make a recommendation of assessing the property owners for the aeration project. We have voted 7-1 in favor of the following strategy. For comparative purposes, I have estimated the annual costs in parentheses based on an estimated annual project cost of \$100,000

- 298 properties outside of the South Bay pay a fixed cost of \$80 annually (\$80 per owner)
- Kalamazoo County pays 2% of the total project cost (\$2,000)
- The City of Portage pays 5% of the total project cost (\$5,000)
- The remaining amount is divided equally among the 128 South Bay residents (\$540 per owner)
- Assessment of back lot owners was discussed and rejected by the riparian board
- Expenses not directly related to implementation of the improvement project should be assessed equally among all property owners. Examples of this would be educational expenses to minimize the input of organic substances into the lake and legal expenses resulting from property owners taking action against the City of Portage / Austin Lake Governmental Lake Board.
- We recommend a five-year project with an option to assess success after three years.
 - At the end of year three we would recommend terminating the project if the total muck reduction is less than 2 feet.
 - At the end of year three we would recommend continuing the project if the total muck reduction is greater than 2-1/2 feet
 - At the end of year three we would recommend a GLB evaluation and vote (including a public hearing if warranted) to move the project forward.

As stated previously, the board feels that a fair assessment strategy is needed to make this project a success. We also understand that assessment decisions are the responsibility of the Austin Lake Governmental Lake Board and that our riparian board can only make recommendations. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions.

Regards,



Kirk Wolf

President, Austin Lake Riparian Association