

Local County Commissioners

www.RestoreTheLakes.org

The purpose of this guide is to provide contact information for key elected officials. While their email addresses are included, please also consider sending your written comments in a letter format via US Mail. There is something about a letter that helps emphasize your message.

You can do both, email your thoughts and then mail a letter with them as well. A stamp cost 55 cents and is a powerful means to be heard. A book of stamps is \$11 and enough to mail 20 letters.

To write your letter, start from a place in your heart, share a memory or a story. Then ask for their assistance to secure financial support to restore the lakes. We provide suggested key points for your letter to help you frame your thoughts. While we each think about “our lake”, **the government views this as the Tittabawassee water system (be sure to reference this into your request for restoration help). In the subject line please type: RESTORE THE LAKES**

There is a sample letters available below for your review and consideration.

You can revise these to make them your own. Note: If you live in Gladwin County, please write the Gladwin Commissioners / if you live in Midland County, those Commissioners are included for your use.

Thanks for taking time to write and mail your letters. You can help restore the lakes; restore property values; restore the local economy and keep the lakes alive for generations to come.

GLADWIN COUNTY BOARD of COMMISSIONS	Suggested Key Points of Your Letter
<p style="text-align: center;">Mailing Address for all: 401 W Cedar Ave #8, Gladwin, MI 48624</p> <p>Kyle Grove District #1 Butman, Clement, Gladwin & Sherman Townships kgrove@gladwincounty-mi.gov</p> <p>Ron Taylor District #2 Sage Township & Gladwin City 989.426.4367 rtaylor@gladwincounty-mi.gov</p> <p>Michael Szuch District #3 Bourret, Billings, Bentley, Grim and Secord Townships mszuch@gladwincounty-mi.gov</p> <p>Karen Moore District #4 Buckeye, Hay & Tobacco Townships kmoore@gladwincounty-mi.gov</p> <p>Rick Grove District #5 Beaverton City, Beaverton & Grout Townships 989.239.5314 rgrove@gladwincounty-mi.gov</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The May 2020 failure of the mid-Michigan dams was caused by the failure of federal regulators to hold a private dam owner in compliance. • Is not fair to hold property owners, who did nothing wrong, with footing the entire bill to restore the lakes. • While a local special assessment may be necessary to help restore the lakes, I am also writing letters to seek state and federal assistance. • I support the FLTF plan to restore the lakes. This is the ONLY plan, no one has put forth a Plan B to restore the lakes. I seek your support of the FLTF plan. • Doing nothing is NOT AN OPTION. To keep the local economy, property values and tax base in place, the lakes must be restored. • Restoring the Lakes will restore the local economy, restore property values, keep the local tax base from collapse and create jobs for our area. • We need your help to secure state and federal funds. • What can I do to help you secure funding?

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MIDLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	Suggested Key Points of Your Letter
<p>Jeanette M. Snyder District #1 City of Coleman, Edenville, Geneva & Jerome Twps, Village of Sanford & Warren Township 4740 N. Anna Lane Sanford, MI 48657 Bd. Office 989.832.6381 Cell 989.430.1020 jsnyder@co.midland.mi.us</p> <p>Mark Bone District #2 Hope, Larkin, Lincoln & Mills Townships 3644 Coyote Ridge Circle Midland, MI 48642 Bd. Office 989.832.6382 Work 989.631.3511 mbone@co.midland.mi.us</p> <p>Steve Glaser District #3 Greendale, Homer, Jasper, Lee & Porter Townships 1186 Meadowlark Lane Midland, MI 48640 Bd. Office 989.832.6383 Home 989.832.4417 Cell 989.264.4933 sglaser@co.midland.mi.us</p> <p>Gaye Terwillegar District #4 City of Midland, Ingersoll, Midland & Mount Haley Township 2636 Freeland Rd Freeland, MI 48623 Bd. Office 989.832.6386 Cell 989.430.5507 gterwillegar@co.midland.mi.us</p> <p>James Geisler District #5 City of Midland 5813 Sturgeon Ave. Midland, MI 48640 Bd. Office 989.832.6387 Work 989.839.7117 jgeisler@co.midland.mi.us</p> <p>Eric A. Dorrien District #6 City of Midland 3207 Dawn Drive Midland MI 48642 Bd. Office 989.832.6388 Home 989.615.1982 Cell: 989.948.3654 edorrien@midland.mi.us</p> <p>Scott Noesen District #7 City of Midland 2006 Eastman Avenue Midland MI 48640 Bd. Office 989.832.6389 Home 989.839.9765 snoesen@co.midland.mi.us</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The May 2020 failure of the mid-Michigan dams was caused by the failure of federal regulators to hold a private dam owner in compliance. • Is not fair to hold property owners, who did nothing wrong, with footing the entire bill to restore the lakes. • While a local special assessment may be necessary to help restore the lakes, I am also writing letters to seek state and federal assistance. • I support the FLTF plan to restore the lakes. This is the ONLY plan, no one has put forth a Plan B to restore the lakes. I seek your support of the FLTF plan. • Doing nothing is NOT AN OPTION. To keep the local economy, property values and tax base in place, the lakes must be restored. • Restoring the Lakes will restore the local economy, restore property values, keep the local tax base from collapse and create jobs for our area. • We need your help to secure state and federal funds. • What can I do to help you secure funding?

Thanks for your support. Please send us a copy of the letters sent to RestoreTheLakes@gmail.com We want to keep track of letters and will post some of the best ones we receive for others to see.

[DATE]

Re: RESTORE MID-MICHIGAN LAKES

Dear Commissioner [NAME]:

As a property owner and taxpayer, I am writing to express my **SUPPORT for restoring the lakes**. The plan of the Four Lakes Task Force (FLTF) as the Designated Authority is the best path forward and has my support. Speaking for myself and my neighbors, **we want our lakes back!**

With the special assessment being pushed back a year, this allows more time to secure additional funding from other sources to alleviate some of the financial burden on property owners and local government. **My friends and I are also writing letters to our State and Federal Representatives seeking financial support for the FLTF plan.** We want to help you, as our local official, to Restore The Lakes.

Great progress has already been made by the FLTF on behalf of the lakes. In less than one year, they have raised more than \$52 Million with \$5 Million from private donations. This money has helped with the clean-up and stabilization of the dams and is expected to be enough to fund the engineering and design studies required for all the lakes.

They also worked with the state of Michigan to change a law to allow for a Special Assessment to be paid back over 40 years. This brings down the annual assessments to make it more affordable to homeowners. They worked with the USDA to secure commitments for long-term, low-interest financing.

The recent announcement of bipartisan bills within the Michigan State Legislature to provide significant funding to rebuild our dams offers encouragement. You have my commitment to write letters to key legislators over the summer to move this through Committee, to the floor for a passing vote in both the House and Senate, then to the Governor's desk for approval. Passage of these bills, with significant funding to Restore The Lakes will reduce the financial burden to property owners. This is good for all of us.

My family and friends enjoy coming to the lake to take advantage of all the area has to offer including the local restaurants, shops, and businesses. The restoration of the lakes is good for our property values, the local economy, the environment, and our well-being.

We do not want anything to slow the progress of restoring our lakes. We ask for your SUPPORT of the FLTF plan forward. There is no other viable alternative.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[PROPERTY ADDRESS]

[CITY, STATE, ZIP]