



PEACOCK TOWNSHIP
4480 W. 4 MILE ROAD, IRONS, MI 49644

March 18, 2024

LMWCC
P.O. Box 52
Irons MI 49644

To the Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council

Peacock Township has listened to your presentation, visited your website for information, and has been soliciting information from our residents and property owners regarding the initiative of the LMWCC.

Our Master Plan recognizes that our township, as well as surrounding townships, are destination recreational areas that people come to for enjoyment of all the outdoor amenities our area has to offer. It is something our community is proud of and we work together as stewards of our great resources to find that balance between respecting property rights and the rights of those who visit the area.

At our Board meeting of February 28, 2024, we voted unanimously to fully oppose your initiative based on the following:

LMWCC has not identified any specific activities that precipitate the need for such drastic action and therefore, is an overreach into the rights or property owners. Conversely, it is the property owners who have to deal with litter, noise, trespassers, privacy issues, disrespect toward property owners along the Little Manistee and watershed areas, and in some cases destruction of property, as it relates to those using the waterways of and on the Little Manistee.

Our township has zoning in place to protect our natural resources that includes setbacks from shorelines. We also comply with federal and state regulations and ordinances that relate to the river and watershed areas under our jurisdiction.


Some of the feedback we have received from people who completed the survey is that it was somewhat misleading. In learning more from your presentations since the survey, landowners, have stated they would have answered the survey differently had they realized the negative impact on their property rights and extent of your efforts. Feedback we have received from those not on the river, also oppose your initiative because it takes away too much control of a landowner's property.

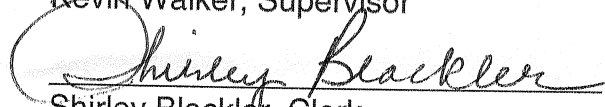
As members of the Peacock Township community and as representatives of our constituents, we believe that the land rights your organization is proposing is not in the best interest of our constituents, community, and in particular, landowners along the

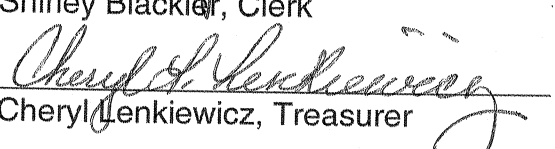
Little Manistee and its watershed area and threatens private property ownership rights in general.

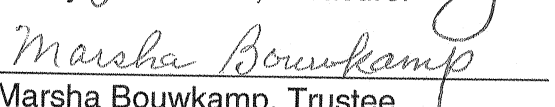
As Board members, it is our duty to protect our property owners' rights. Control of the Little Manistee River and its watershed should remain in the hands of locally elected and appointed officials who are more knowledgeable of the impact such changes have on our community.

Sincerely,
Peacock Township Board of Directors


Kevin Walker, Supervisor


Shirley Blackler, Clerk


Cheryl Lenkiewicz, Treasurer


Marsha Bouwkamp, Trustee


John Smith, Trustee

Copies to:

Scott Brown, Director
Department of Natural Resources
Executive Division
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909

Representative Joseph D. Fox
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514