

NOTTAWA TOWNSHIP

ISABELLA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

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Dec. 18, 2023

Subject: Informational Overview of Coldwater Lake Public Sewer Project

Hello,

As a property owner in the Coldwater Lake public sewer project special assessment district, we want to share the enclosed informational overview to help answer questions about this very complex endeavor. Our hope is to create a common understanding of the project including its history, benefits, cost and next steps.

As your township board, our goal has always been to provide a sustainable, long-term solution for the benefit of all property owners. In fact, it is our responsibility to engage in long-term planning related to public infrastructure, including public sewer.

We recognize some people have questions about why this project is so important. We hope the enclosed overview provides that clarity. In a nutshell, here's a portion of the township's rationale:

- With Beal City and Weidman both receiving violations, we believe it's only a matter of time before Coldwater Lake would be in the same boat, costing the township and property owner more money if we aren't proactive.
- Nearly 150 homes within the 410-parcel Coldwater Lake special assessment district do not have drain field permits on file with the Health Department. Some properties lack sufficient space or have other limiting factors such as poor soils or high groundwater that would impede building a new drain field once theirs fails.
- Hoping the remaining private systems never fail is not a sound strategy or long-term solution, especially with the changing regulatory environment and the challenging parcel sizes and soil conditions within the district.

With encouragement from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and support from the Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD), we developed a regional public health solution that leverages USDA funding – a low-interest, 2.375% loan spread over 40 years, State-funded grants, and the economies provided by the mandated Beal City sewer system.

We understand that concerns may arise regarding costs and the obligation to connect to the public sewer system. It may help to understand that property owners in the special assessment district will not incur any charges until at least February 2025.

I encourage you to review the enclosed information. The board is earnestly striving to fulfill its obligation to ensure adequate infrastructure for the collective health, safety and welfare of our community for the long term.

Sincerely,

Nottawa Township Board

Enclosure