

Upper Straits Clean Lake Association

c/o City of Orchard Lake Village

3955 Orchard Lake Rd.

Orchard Lake, MI 48323

October 3, 2020

Dear Upper Straits Lake Resident,

You've most likely experienced — and been frustrated by — our extremely low lake levels this year. Many of us have had serious difficulties getting our boats and jet skis off hoists and have even run aground on the lake, damaging props and more. Obviously low rainfall this summer is part of the problem, but not the whole story.

Here is why ...

The new dam is working well; it has retained our lake's pure spring-fed water -- while also preventing backflow from Middle & Lower Straits Lakes which are level-maintained by an augmentation pump. Exacerbated by the shortage of rain, the potential for this situation was predicted by the Oakland County Water Resources Commission (WRC) at the public hearing about the new dam's impact which was held in October 2019.

At that meeting, the WRC suggested a dedicated Upper Straits Lake augmentation well to better maintain our lake at its 930.8' legal level. Since an augmentation well would have delayed the dam replacement, a decision was made by the WRC to replace the dam but hold off on the well.

We can no longer wait.

Given the alarming low-water situation, your Upper Straits Clean Lake Association (USCLA) Board has been working closely with the WRC to pursue just such an augmentation well for the Lake. **We are soliciting your immediate support and urgently ask that you sign the attached petition.** This petition will require signatures from 2/3rds of the lake & canal front parcel owners in order to facilitate the process of designing and installing an augmentation well on Upper Straits Lake to maintain the lake level.

Our lake's useability, safety and property values depend on our taking action now and as such, the USCLA Board has authorized up to \$20,000 of your lake-protection organization's funds to jump-start this effort by underwriting the preliminary survey and engineering costs for this needed augmentation well.

The cost is small, the benefit is great.

Continues

Assessments to fund the well are projected as follows:

- \$1900 for lakefront parcels
- \$1425 for canal front parcels
- \$190 for off-lake parcels
- 70% of the dam assessment for the various park association parcels.

The same Special Assessment District used last year to fund the new dam would be utilized for the proposed augmentation well. An installment financing option structured similar to the dam will again be offered. These assessments will yield \$500,000 to fund the well, but could be well reduced if excess funds of \$130,000 from the dam cost under-run can be applied and/or a viable site can be identified for the well with pre-existing power and accessed via easement, instead of outright purchase. Since the timing for augmentation well design and installation is estimated to take 18 months, there is no time to lose.

How does this work?

Once the signed petitions are validated, you will be invited to participate in a virtual public hearing to discuss the proposed augmentation well. To fund the on-going operating and maintenance expenses of the well, the WRC projects the current annual special assessment on winter tax bills would not increase during a wet year when the pump isn't operated but could increase modestly during a dry year like 2020.

Please review the attached petition as soon as possible, complete and sign near the bottom, then mail to the City of Orchard Lake Village, 3955 Orchard Lake Rd., Orchard Lake, MI 48323. Please leave the notary section blank; current COVID guidelines allow the City to perform that function once all the petitions are accumulated before submitting to Oakland County.

Should you have any questions regarding this proposal or the petition itself, please contact USCLA Board member Dave Boerger (248-875-7120) or dhboerger@hotmail.com), who's coordinating efforts on behalf of the Board with the WRC.

Best regards,



David Silver
President, Upper Straits Clean Lake Association

P.S. Please review the attached petition, complete and sign near the bottom, then mail to the City of Orchard Lake Village or email your Adobe® e-signed petition to:
admasst@cityoforchardlake.com