



Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc.

Environmental Quality Analyst | Water Resources Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
120 West Chapin Street, Cadillac, MI 49601 | 231-429-5244

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September 17, 2021

Dear Neil Schock or whom it may concern,

MLSA has several inquiries regarding the proposed new artificial canal/channel that a property owner desires to construct from Long Lake into their boathouse or other building. It is MLSA's understanding that the property owner has adequate lake frontage, such that no new artificial canal/channel is necessary and that the proposed project is one of personal desire only.

MLSA fails to envision how a new or expanded canal or channel in any Michigan lake would be desirable, from either an environmental, policy or general riparian standpoint. If the property owner in the current case on Long Lake is able to create a new artificial canal/channel, it is difficult to see how any other riparian landowner on any body of water in the state could be denied the same option.

It is MLSA's understanding that the local township government could enact a police power or regulatory ordinance that would prohibit the digging or creation of a new channel or canal or the expansion, widening, deepening, etc. of any existing canal or channel (except for cleaning out an existing lawful channel or canal so long as it is not enlarged, extended, deepened, etc.). Such an ordinance could be adopted and put in place relatively quickly. Furthermore, until the ordinance could become effective, the township could adopt an emergency moratorium ordinance prohibiting the creation of a new canal or channel on any body of water within the township or any expansion of an existing canal or channel. Furthermore, no property owner would have a "vested right" to a new or expanded channel or canal unless and until they receive all required state permits and the canal or channel is under substantial construction.

With all due respect to the property owner and the property owner's experts, MLSA strongly disagrees that "following the science" would ever justify the creation of a new canal or channel or the expansion or extension of an existing one.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa DeSimone".

Melissa DeSimone, MLSA Executive Director