



Mr. Joel Brielmaier, Ontwa Township Supervisor
Mr. Chris Marbach, Chairman, Planning Commission Board
PO Box 209
Edwardsburg, MI 49112

Mr. Brielmaier, Mr. Marbach and members of the Ontwa Township Planning Commission Board,

The Bass Federation of Michigan (TBF of MI, Inc.) asks you to support and approve the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) plan for land acquisition and public access site on Eagle Lake, including access to Christiana, Juno and Painter Lakes. TBF of MI, Inc. exists to promote conservation of our natural resources, be involved with youth incentives to fish and to preserve the sport of bass fishing.

Adequate public access to Michigan's public waters is a significant factor in providing opportunity to enjoy fishing and boating, and keep people involved in the sport of fishing. Eagle lake is one of the largest lakes in Cass County, yet is has no public boating access. The site plan provided by the MDNR fixes that unfair deficit while allowing safe, multiple-use public access for local and visiting anglers and boaters to four popular public lakes.

In reviewing the MDNR plan, the parcel appears to meet Ontwa Township zoning requirements. Site development would meet current Barrier Free Access standards providing safe boating access and dedicated parking for Eagle Lake. This new public access site location addresses lake association concerns regarding vision along the roadway, water depth at the launch and safe distance from the curve and hill on Eagle lake Road.

This new site location is less costly to purchase and develop. Plus, there are no unsafe structures to demolish. We understand the new plan includes support and a partnership with the County Road Commission. In addition, the site would act as a starting point for a Blue Water Trail for the Chain of lakes as identified in the State Trails Plan.

Providing fair, adequate public access to major public waters is very important to TBF of MI, Inc., and has also been shown to contribute to local economies through the various fishing and boating activities they provide. The location and popularity of Eagle Lake and the Chain of Lakes, with the addition of the Blue Water Trail starting point, means the MDNR plan will provide highly desirable public access to a wide range of outdoors and boating interests. This creates an attractive incentive for increased natural resources tourism for Ontwa Township and Edwardsburg.

Added benefits of providing the fair public access such popular public waters deserve are: allow MDNR Fisheries Division access for studies and possibly fish stocking; provide direct year -round access for marine safety patrols and rescue by multiple enforcement agencies; and, allow for Township park elements thru partnerships.

While this site is smaller, it is an acceptable compromise that provides more equal, fair access to all Michiganders to significant, important public waters. Please support and approve the MDNR site acquisition plan.

Thank you.

Dave Reault

Dave Reault
President, TBF of MI, Inc.
37172 Six Mile Rd
Livonia MI 48152
734-718-4711
davereault@michigantbf.com

Dan Kimmel
Conservation Director, TBF of MI, Inc.
PO Box 27424
Lansing MI 48909
810-433-2277
conservation@michigantbf.com