

**East Bay Charter Township – SPR 12-21 SLU 4-21 GO-REC PUD
Public Hearing Update – January 4, 2022**

The Rennie Lake Association - Board of Directors - Position Statement Comments

My name is Ralph Bednarz. I'm a lakefront property owner on Rennie Lake at 1380 Autumn Trail. I am representing the Rennie Lake Association, Inc. (RLA) as its current president and my comments convey the position of the RLA.

First, I would like to request a correction to the minutes of the December 16, 2021 Public Hearing regarding my comments at that meeting. The minutes state: "Ralph Bednarz, 1380 Autumn Trail, stated he represented the older, existing Rennie Lake Association." It further states: "He stated the settlement agreement was reached between Go-Rec and the newer Rennie Lake Association, Inc."

Allow me to clarify:

- There is only one Rennie Lake Association, which I represent. As an association, RLA is a membership organization that has a voting membership, elected Board of Directors and approved bylaws.
- The organization that entered into the "settlement agreement" with Rotary Camps and Services of Traverse City is named Protect Rennie Lake, Inc. (PRL). The PRL is not a voting membership association. To my knowledge, it was formed by a couple of individuals for the purpose of pursuing a lawsuit against GO-REC and solicited donors to fund the lawsuit.

While RLA and PRL may share similar goals regarding the protection of the lake, and some of our members may have been donors to PRL, the Rennie Lake Association has no affiliation with the Protect Rennie Lake organization.

Second, I would like to reiterate the RLA position detailed in our comments presented at the December 16, 2021 Public Hearing.

The RLA Board has reviewed the updated GO-REC PUD application. Other than the large venue event uses which have expanded in the updated application, in general, we do not object to the land use aspects of the PUD under the requirements of the Camp Greilick Conservation Easement so long as the required permits, licenses and inspections are in place and all safety, public health and nuisance requirements are monitored and enforced. **The RLA continues to disagree with the updated PUD application and the "settlement agreement" regarding public watercraft access to Rennie Lake via the GOREC waterfront.**

Given the historical use as well as the risks of aquatic invasive species (AIS) infestation from the proposed public access of watercraft on Rennie Lake, the RLA asks the Planning Commission to:

- 1) Limit all watercraft access to Rennie Lake via the GO-REC waterfront to only GO-REC's fleet of watercraft to be used exclusively on Rennie Lake.**
- 2) Require wash station procedures to include drying.**

3) Require GO-REC to sponsor an independent watercraft carrying capacity study before making any decision on the PUD Application permitting public watercraft to be launched from GO-REC property.

I would like to inform you of the recently reported AIS infestations in the upper Manistee River and Shanty Creek. Didymo, or rock snot, is a microscopic algae (diatom) that has been identified in the upper Manistee River, Kalkaska County. The invasive New Zealand Mudsail has been found in Shanty Creek, a tributary to the Grass River, as well as the Upper Manistee, Au Sable, Pere Marquette, Pine and nearby Boardman River. These invasive species could easily be transported from a river system to a lake via kayaks and canoes.

Once a lake is infested with AIS, the burden of managing and financing the mitigation usually rests with the lakefront property owners - not the State, county or local units of government. The introduction and spread of AIS in a lake can become a significant and expensive annual control issue for the riparians, decrease the riparian's enjoyment of the lake, and negatively impact lakefront property values.

Rennie Lake is a shared resource of riparian properties of significant value that could be harmed from AIS infestation if public watercrafts are allowed on Rennie Lake via the GOREC waterfront. In the regrettable event that the Planning Commission denies our request to prohibit public watercraft from entering Rennie Lake through the GO-REC waterfront, the RLA asks that the Commission stipulate GO-REC conduct annual AIS monitoring in the GO-REC bay and adjacent Rennie Lake waters and require GO-REC post a surety bond in the amount of \$100,000 to ensure any manifestations of AIS as a result would be identified early, and funding would be available to assist in its eradication before spreading.

The risk of harm from public use of the GO-REC private upland property is protected by the Camp Greilick Conservation Easement. The risk of harm from public access and use of Rennie Lake via the GO-REC waterfront is not protected by the Conservation Easement or any other formal agreements.

The RLA Board appreciates the opportunity to comment on the updated GO-REC PUD application in front of you. We request that you vote **no** on the PUD application or postpone your vote until our concerns are addressed as well as all of the concerns of the Rennie Lake community regarding GOREC's plan to open to the public as a commercial operation.

The RLA thanks the Commissioners for listening to our comments tonight and for your service to East Bay Township and the residents of the Forest Lakes District.