ERIC D. WILLIAMS
ATTORNEY AT LAW

524 NORTH STATE ST. BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307

LEGAL ASSISTANTS
JANE M. WILLIAMS
JANET L. COUSINEAU

Tel. (231) 796-8945 Fax (231) 796-9933 edw1@att.net March 6, 2023 OFFICE ASSISTANT
ELIZA J. ANDERSON

Mr. David Meister PO Box 458 Onekama, MI 49675-0458

Re: Two Lakes Collaborative Sewer Authority

Dear Mr. Meister:

You requested my opinion on the letter from "Two Lakes Sewer Concerned Citizens" that included a document with the heading of "Written Objection Letter & Table" with the following statement in it:

We, the property owners within the Two Lakes Collaborative Sewer Authority's proposed sewer special assessment district, are submitting this objection to the proposed special assessment district and related sewer project. We each certify that: our property is, or properties are, located within the proposed district; we are opposed to the formation of the sewer special assessment district and the construction of the related sewer project; we have voluntarily signed this Written Objection on our own accord; the information that we provided herein is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge; and we have completed this Written Objection concerning our respective property or properties to the best of our ability.

In my opinion, the Objection Letter is of no legal consequence at this stage of the sewer project, because the procedure for creating the special assessment district(s) for the sewer project has not been implemented formally. This is the information gathering stage in which the Authority and each municipal jurisdiction within it are gathering and assembling cost projections and plans for the improvement.

Therefore, the objections by property owners will not be counted toward any particular total that legally stops, blocks, or halts the sewer project.

However, the Authority Board and the Board of each municipal member should take notice of the number of property owners who sign and submit written objections. At some point there may be such a large number of property owners objecting to the sewer project (like 60% or more) that it will be unwise to continue with the sewer project.

In addition, the illustrative figure of \$108,604,474.00 is an inaccurate and exaggerated special assessment cost total for two parcels.

In the letter to property owners it says "the total cost of the system [is] at \$108,604,474.00" which "works out to more than \$108,000 apiece." These figures appear exaggerated or overstated, which may prompt property owners to file objection letters that they would not file if they had more accurate information.

In summary, the objection letters that are received should be counted and reviewed by each affected municipal Board as well as the Authority Board to make sure that the local affected citizenry remains generally supportive of the project to continue with the next step of obtaining reactions from the USDA on funding.

Very truly yours,

Eric D. Williams

EDW/eja

Cc: Shelli Johnson