

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS OF PRACTICABILITY AND ASSESSMENT

MORRISON LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD

TAKE NOTICE that public hearings of the Morrison Lake Improvement Board will be held on **Saturday, July 27, 2024 at 9:00 AM at the Campbell Township Hall, 331 S. Main Street, Clarksville, Michigan 48815**. The purpose of these public hearings is to: (1) consider the practicability of a continued lake improvement project that consists of aquatic plant control on Morrison Lake as well as various other related activities also intended to improve the lake ("lake improvement project"); and (2) to consider an assessment roll for the proposed lake improvement project. More information and documents associated with the proposed lake improvement project such as an assessment roll will be available at the public hearings or upon request to the Office of the Ionia County Drain Commissioner at (616) 527-5373. The proposed lake improvement project proposes annual assessments for five years in the approximate annual amounts of \$585.00 for front-lot parcels and \$390.00 for back-lot parcels. Although the Board proposes assessment increases for these annual assessments to sufficiently pay for cost increases for the lake improvements, please know that there has not been an increase in assessments for ten years.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that pursuant to Part 309 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, the Morrison Lake Improvement Board will determine the practicability of continuing the lake improvement project and will review a corresponding special assessment roll for the project, hear any property owner objections to the lake improvement project and the proposed assessment roll, and make a determination of whether or not to confirm said assessment roll. The hearing may be adjourned from time-to-time without further notice.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at the assessment hearing is required to appeal your special assessment. Property owners and those concerned may attend the public hearings and offer comment. Any person or entity objecting to the assessment roll may attend the public hearings **and/or** file his or her objection in writing with the Morrison Lake Improvement Board. Any such person or entity can file an appearance and protest by letter addressed to the **Morrison Lake Improvement Board at 100 W. Main Street, Ionia, MI 48846**. Protest letters received by the Lake Improvement Board by no later than the assessment hearing shall be given the same effect as attendance and protest at the assessment hearing. The Morrison Lake Improvement Board shall maintain a record of parties who appear to protest at the hearings. If the hearings are terminated or adjourned before a party is provided the opportunity to be heard, a party whose appearance was recorded shall be considered to have protested the special assessment in person.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the owner or any person having an interest in property within the district and having protested such special assessment may file a written appeal of their special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal or other court of competent jurisdiction within thirty (30) days after published notice of confirmation of the special assessment roll. Please review MCL 211.746 and MCL 324.30913 regarding assessment appeals.

Proceedings conducted at these public hearings will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and you are further notified that information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Ionia County Drain Commissioner's Office at **(616) 527-5373**. Persons with disabilities or otherwise needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Drain Commissioner's Office at **(616) 527-5373** or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the Ionia County Drain Commissioner's Office.

Morrison Lake Improvement Board

Tel: (616) 527-5373

100 W. Main Street

Ionia, MI 48846

FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about the Notice of Public Hearings of Practicability and Assessment

Why am I receiving this notice?

You are receiving this notice because you may own lands within a Special Assessment District historically used to fund a lake improvement project for the purposes of aquatic plant control and other related activities intended to improve Morrison Lake ("Lake Improvement Project").

What is a special assessment district?

A special assessment district is an area of lands designated to receive special assessments for a particular benefit that they receive from certain lake improvements like aquatic plant control.

What are the public hearings about?

The Morrison Lake Improvement Board is considering the practicability of continuing the Lake Improvement Project. The Morrison Lake Improvement Board will also consider a proposed assessment roll associated with the Lake Improvement Project.

Why are you holding two public hearings for these activities?

The statute that governs lake improvement board projects, Part 309 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, requires two public hearings. Additionally, the Morrison Lake Improvement Board wants to be as transparent as possible and solicit any input from impacted property owners.

Do I have to attend the public hearings?

You are not required to attend the public hearings. However, you must protest in person or by writing to reserve your right to appeal the special assessment.

What is my assessment amount?

Assessment amounts will be discussed at the public hearings as referenced on the legal notice. For those unable to attend the public hearings, do not hesitate to call the number below to inquire about proposed assessment amounts.

When would I receive my special assessment?

If approved, assessments will appear on your winter tax bills beginning in 2024.

How can I get more information?

Call **(616) 527-5373**. Please leave a detailed message including your name and address. All phone calls will be returned in the order in which they were received.