



April 13, 2020

Dear OLG Member:

It has been said that: These are times that try men's souls. That is very true as I write this letter. There is a virus going around with an impact on humanity that has not been seen for almost a millennium. Associated with that is a rapidly developing economic crisis, that is tied to the necessary restrictions on our movement. And as all lakefront property owners know, lake levels will again hit a new all-time high this year. It seems that we have been getting a new all-time-high each of the last several years.

At this time of year, I typically announce the date and place of the annual meeting. Given the restrictions being placed upon us by the virus and most people's desire to remain at home (certainly not go to large meetings), we are cancelling this year's annual meeting. When churches are cancelling worship services, gatherings such as our annual meeting should be cancelled as well.

At the annual meetings, I give a recap of the past year's activities. Although we won the lawsuit, it does not mean that our work is done in that regard or in other areas. ODNR is still not acting appropriately. In a very limited fashion ODNR is following the dictates of the Courts by choosing which parts of the Courts' Orders it will follow and which parts it will ignore. We have been trying to remedy this situation, but another lawsuit is not out of the question.

Green Algae is still a problem and a concern to all of us as it impacts our quality of life along the lakefront. As demonstrated at previous annual meetings, we are following the situation and staying in contact with groups that are primarily focused on the issue.

While there is nothing that OLG can do to lower the lake levels, but we have been working to provide help with respect to constructing shoreline protection. A couple of years ago, OLG was successful in getting ODNR to utilize a Temporary Permit mechanism (like the Army Corp of Engineers) for a much faster permitting process. Unlike the Army Corps though, ODNR wants the full permit application within 2 years of the date that the temporary permit is issued.

OLG has been looking into "good" financing opportunities for the construction of shoreline protection. One such mechanism is the creation of a Special Improvement District (SID). SID's have been recently used for downtown improvement, energy efficiency and other projects. Recently enacted legislation now allows a SID for shoreline improvement. A SID can get you 20 and possibly 30-year financing. At present, the interest rate would be about the same as you could get on a second mortgage. The one major advantage of a lakefront SID is that the payments for the financing are assessed on the property tax bill—not you directly. This means that if you move after 5-10 years, the new owner will pay for the remaining years of the loan.

Of course nothing is free. The process of creating a SID and levying special assessments on a property for a Project requires cooperative action amongst the property owner, the Local Community in which the property is located, and the SID after it is formed. For example, the process for a Project would generally include the steps set forth below:

1. The property owner identifies a Project on their property and determines the costs of the Project;
2. The source of funding for the Project is identified;
3. The property owner submits a petition and plan related to the Project to the Local Community;
4. The Local Community approves the petition, plan, and the levy of special assessments on the property by resolution or ordinance;
5. The SID board of directors (after the SID is created) approves the petition and plan by resolution;
6. The property owner receives the requested funding for their Project;
7. The special assessments are included on a property owner's tax bill in the amount specified in the petition; and
8. The property owner pays the special assessments included on their tax bill for the duration of the special assessment term, which amounts are transferred to the lender or investor that provided the initial funding for the Project.

Property owners and Local Communities have the flexibility to form a SID to serve the property owners in a single Local Community or in contiguous Local Communities. Following the creation of a SID, additional property owners in the same or contiguous Local Communities can join the SID at any time. Property owners can also utilize different lenders or investors for financing their Projects within a given SID to find the best terms for their Project. Through a SID, property owners can work collaboratively with each other and with their Local Community to create a tool for financing Projects and protecting their property.

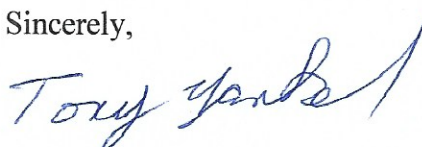
At this time, OLG has no recommendations with respect to SID's. We will keep our members advised. **If you have an interest in a SID, please let us know by sending your name, address, county, and phone number to [www.ohiolakefrontgroup.com](http://www.ohiolakefrontgroup.com).**

At our annual meetings, we elect Board Members. There has never been one vote against any of the candidates put forward. Because the meeting is being canceled, we will continue with the same Board that has been in place for at least the past 5 years.

You might recall that because we settled our lawsuit, the Board reduced annual membership dues. The dues structure is now \$50 per year for those who have (cumulatively) contributed less than \$1,000, and \$25 per year for those who have (cumulatively) contributed \$1,000 or more. Given the economic impact that the virus has had or is expected to have on individuals, annual dues will be waived for this year. Of course, contributions are welcome, but not requested at this time.

I hope you and yours are all well, and stay healthy.

Sincerely,



Tony Yankel