

**Response to Comments Regarding Wetland Filling Allegedly Conducted in 2006 and Wetland Mitigation Provided at the Timber Shores Property in Leelanau Township, Leelanau County.**

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Several comments have been submitted to the Leelanau Township Planning Commission alleging that the Timber Shores owner filled wetlands under the permit issued by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in 2006 and neglected to construct the required wetland mitigation. These allegations are without merit.

The 2006 MDEQ permit authorized impact to 0.96 acres of wetland on the Timber Shores property and required wetlands to be created on-site to mitigate for the wetland impacts. No wetlands were filled as authorized by the MDEQ permit and, as such, wetland was not created to mitigate for impacts.

However, the Timber Shores owner did place 53 acres of high quality wetland on the west side of M-22 into a Conservation Easement granted to Leelanau Township as an additional mitigation measure, even though no wetlands were impacted due to the project being stopped at a later date. The wetland placed in the easement is a high quality wetland with some old growth wetland tree species like Northern white cedar and the wetland is the headwaters of Ennis Creek. A Conservation Easement was also granted to Leelanau Township east of M-22 to protect Ennis Creek from impacts from adjacent development. The protective corridor is 100 feet in width; 50 feet on each side of Ennis Creek from M-22 to Camp Haven Road.