

# FAQs

Office of the Kent County Drain Commissioner  
Ken Yonker, Drain Commissioner  
Tel: (616) 632-7910

## NOTICE OF HEARING TO AMEND LAKE LEVEL ORDER - DEAN LAKE

### ***Why am I receiving this notice?***

You are receiving this notice because you may own lands within the proposed Lake Level Special Assessment District for Dean Lake.

### ***What is a legally established lake level?***

Part 307 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act allows circuit courts to establish lake levels for inland lakes to, among other things, benefit property owners and preserve Michigan's natural resources. The Kent County Circuit Court established a legal lake level for Dean Lake.

### ***What is a Special Assessment District?***

A Special Assessment District is an area of land designated to receive special assessments for a particular benefit received from certain public projects, like lake levels.

### ***How will this impact the legal level of Dean Lake?***

The normal level or "legal level" of Dean Lake is recommended to be raised by approximately 7.8 inches to 706.8 feet North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) after a comprehensive analysis in a report prepared by an engineering firm retained by the Drain Commissioner's Office,

### ***Why is the lake level order being revised?***

Upon receipt of a property owner petition, the County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution on September 23, 2021 that, among other things: (1) directed the Drain Commissioner to retain an engineer to update

Dean Lake's lake level order; and (2) directed the Drain Commissioner to retain legal counsel to file a petition in the Kent County Circuit Court to update the legal lake level of Dean Lake and updating the lake level over for Dean Lake to incorporate the boundaries of a lake level special assessment district.

### ***What is my assessment amount?***

The court hearing related to amending the lake level order will not consider imposing special assessments on property owners. It will only determine what properties could be subject to lake level assessments should they occur. A separate public hearing process (with mailed noticed and outside of the court hearing) is required to set any lake level special assessments.

### ***Do I have to attend the circuit court hearing?***

You are not required to attend the hearing at the Kent County Circuit Court; however, it is your right to do so. You may present testimony and evidence to the Court regarding the proposed amendments to the Dean Lake Level Order.

### ***How can I get more information?***

Please contact Kent County by calling the dedicated Dean Lake—Lake Level call-in number at **(616) 632-7910**. When leaving a voicemail, please state your name, address, and a phone number to reach you. Calls will be returned in the order that they are received.