

December 5, 2016

Dear Brad Hopwood and the Arcadia Township Planning Commission,

The Safe Water Collective is a group of Arcadia, Bear Lake, and Onekama Township residents who are deeply concerned about the potential impact that the development of 350 acres east of M22 to the north of 13 Mile Road into South Course at Arcadia Bluffs could have on ground water purity and quantity. We have come together in commonality to assist in the stewardship of this invaluable natural resource that belongs to all of us.

The Safe Water Collective's concern is protecting the drinking water supply for current and future residents. While we have no idea at this point in time if the new South Course will in fact impact the water supplies for those residents sharing the aquifers with the South Course, we are writing you to express our obvious concerns and to see what kinds of measures can be put in place to protect residents if in fact adverse impacts to our water supply do arise, both in its quantity and quality. We feel that ignoring potential effects on our water is simply unwise for all of us. We look forward to a harmonious community relationship with the South Course. We would rather be vocal now about our concerns than wish we had been, when it is too late. It is best for all concerned to address the water supply questions openly and responsibly.

The main issues are:

- 1) **Water quantity:** The Pierport water ecosystem has numerous natural artesian springs, including the famous "Old Faceful" which delights children as well as adults. The huge amounts of water that are needed to keep the golf course green will be drawn from the same aquifers that residents down slope get their water. Residents are very concerned that our wells will be impacted and that we won't have enough water for our homes due to excessive pumping from our shared aquifers.
- 2) **Water quality:** Golf course lawns are known to be toxic due to fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides applied to maintain lawns. Residents worry about these fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides leaching into the water table and contaminating our community's water supply.
- 3) **Water quality:** Impact from sewage system from the development of a lodge and hotel.

- 4) **Insuring water quantity and quality:** Does the golf course have a means of insuring that our water supply will not be negatively impacted? What protection will residents of Pierport, the 13 Mile Road corridor, Erdman Road, Norconk Road, etc. have if water quantity and quality are in fact impacted, even if these problems develop a number of years in the future?

The Master Plan for Arcadia Township expresses the township's sense of responsibility as stewards to protect and preserve the natural beauty and health of the land in Arcadia. We thank the Arcadia Township Planning Commission for supporting economic growth in Arcadia while protecting Arcadia Township's natural resources as outlined in the Master Plan.

Respectfully,

The 70 members of the Safe Water Collective

Submitted December 7, 2016 to the Arcadia Planning Commission²
By, Armond Schaefer, Pierport

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December 5, 2016

Honorable Patrice C. Wisner
Arcadia Township Clerk
3422 Lake Street
Arcadia, MI 49613

Re: Arcadia Bluffs South Course

Dear Clerk Wisner,

Please provide a copy of this letter to the Township Supervisor, as well as Brad Hopwood and members of the Township Planning Commission. Additionally, please feel free to read this letter into the record at the upcoming Planning Commission Meeting.

My wife and I are home owners in the unincorporated hamlet of Pierport, located relatively adjacent to the new Arcadia Bluffs South Course, which will be built on the northeast side of the intersection of M-22 and CR 600. We are aware of the well-intentioned but nevertheless misinformed efforts of some of the residents in the community to raise water quality and quantity issues relative to the new Arcadia Bluffs South Course. We write to express our support for the construction of the Course and to assure Arcadia Township and its Planning Commission that many of our fellow residents in Pierport similarly support Arcadia Bluffs in this regard.

The new golf course concerns us not one bit. I am an infrastructure, finance, and environmental lawyer, licensed in Michigan, with significant experience in these matters. There is no way that Arcadia Bluffs could get financing to build the new course without first having proof of necessary permits. Second, modern golf course design requires that stormwater and irrigation water be contained or ameliorated within the property, and that nutrients from phosphate, etc. not migrate off site. Third, we see no danger to our water source. We have a good aquifer that is not in jeopardy of being impacted by the course. We have no doubt but that the MDEQ

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regulators will monitor this situation carefully, and will not grant water use permits for the South Course without proof that the water source will not be adversely impacted by new withdrawal demands. Simply put, there are more important issues than this facing our communities, not the least of which is unaddressed blight.

Finally, taking property currently taxed as AG and converting it to an income producing golf course will raise significant tax revenues for the Township and County, which, in our opinion, is beneficial to all concerned.

Respectfully,



Wm. E. Sundstrom

WES/brf

cc: Michigan Dept. of Env. Quality
Manistee Co. Dept. of Soil & Erosion

Brad,

My wife Renee and I agree totally with the letter sent by Bill Sundstrom to Arcadia Township regarding the expansion of the Arcadia Bluff Golf Course. We believe we are very fortunate to have such a gem adjacent to our Pierport community. We too, support the project and totally trust that it will meet or exceed all environmental requirements which seem to be the concern of some other members of our Pierport community.

Regards,

Ralph and Renee Veazey