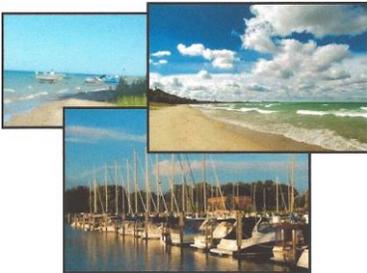


‘THE SEPTIC QUESTION’ REPORT

BY: Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council & Community Health of Northwest Michigan.

“Executive Summary.” . . . “The goal of the project is to closely examine septic system policies for the entire watershed, identify any problems, and examine potential ways to solve them. . . .”



“Statement of the Problem:”

Most on-site septic systems in the state are never inspected again, once installed. Michigan is the only state in the nation without uniform standards for how on-site septic systems are sited, designed, built, installed and maintained. Public health officials in Michigan **believe** reported septic system failures represent only a fraction of the total number of failures statewide, and many go undetected or remain unreported for years. . . . **emphasis added**



“Key Findings:” . . . “A simple analysis that demonstrates **potentially** one third of the aging septic systems in Charlevoix County have not been replaced. Consider that typical septic systems usually have a lifespan of 25 to 30 years, those older systems still in use may have already failed, or could be on the verge of failing soon. We want to see changes that require additional oversight, to ensure failing systems are discovered before they fail completely. Research and data collection point to warning signs that we can take into account, in support of making changes to oversight requirements.”

2017 TNN ANNUAL FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

11th year of progress with your donations

Vigilance to keep septic waste out of local waters in and around the ‘Island’

Redirect human waste disposal away from our water-rich townships.

A Voice-of-the-Customer on the ‘Septic Question’ Policy Report

Insist on numerical facts – Septic Question Report overestimates failures 8 fold.

More natural range of water levels – for beaches, wise grooming and less erosion

Analyze Townships government spending and taxes. Press for less overhead.

TNN is an active voice, publishes quarterly TNN News, and speaks up

Please stretch to donate \$25, \$75, \$100, \$200, \$500 (form attached)

SEPTIC QUESTION PROJECT REPORT (See Side-bar)

BY: Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and Community Health of NW Michigan

SUMMARY OF TNN PUBLIC COMMENT

TNN applauds this report for L. Charlevoix as an excellent beginning point – some TNN public comment has reportedly been included into the Elk River – Chain of Lakes (ERCOL) Report to be aired in public soon. Please attend one of these meetings as the Report has costly implications for home-owners:

- Oct. 18, 7:00 PM Torch Lake Township Hall.
- Oct. 25, 6:00 PM Elk Rapids Government Center.

The Report looked only for potentially leaking septic tanks – no mention of transporting all pumped human waste to a sewage treatment plant – or an end to local land disposal of human waste. DEQ data proves land disposed human waste ran-off near Bay-front homes.

- Conclusions must be based on quantitative facts, not unsupported guestimates (e.g. ‘Septic system failures at 5.5%’ - Milton shows 0.67%).
- Refers to ‘septic systems’ only as on-site tank and field. It should include maintenance and proper treatment of pumped waste - which it does not.
- Teach homeowners to maintain septic tanks and fields. Up to 50 years of trouble-free operation In sandy soils with 1978 or later concrete tanks.

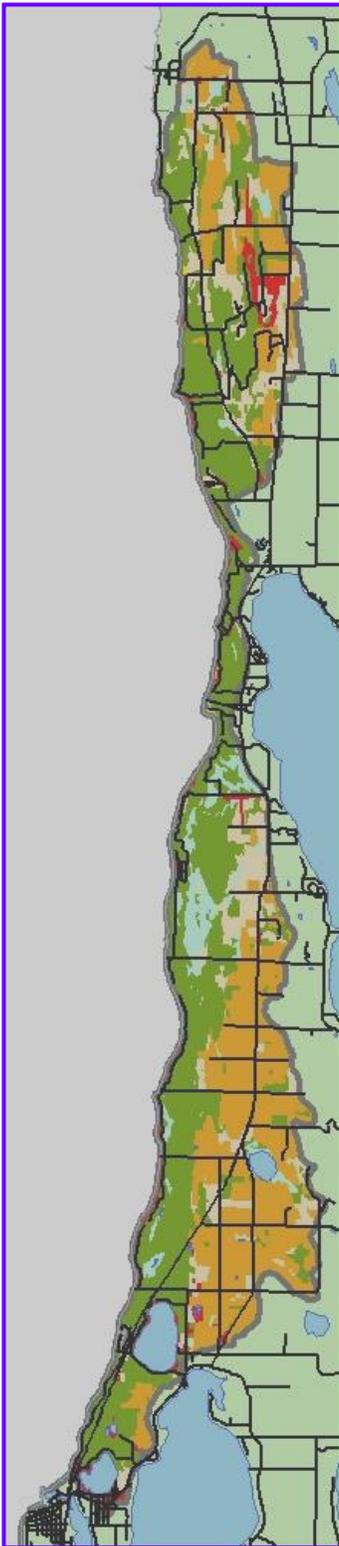
Continuous improvement: Tree root control (Copper Sulfate) and enzymes enable fewer pump-outs, extend the life of a septic tank and field, cuts homeowner cost, and reduces land disposal run-off. Frequent pumping kills enzymes.

Find and fix and inspection cannot systemically improve septic quality.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:
 TNN Calls for Quality Improvement Professionals to volunteer. The overall septic system process must be re-examined using hard won experience and results for industrial processes and products.
TNN.Mich@gmail.com

E.A.S.T Sub-Watershed
Of the 'Island' between East Bay and the Chain of Lakes.



6th ANNUAL TNN TRI-TOWNSHIP FISCAL COMPARISON

Elk Rapids, Milton, and Torch Lake Townships

TNN Estimates: Three Townships Spent \$3.52 Million for FY 2015-16 (UP 12%)

12 Month Est. 2015-16	Elk Rapids Twp	Milton Twp	Torch Lake Twp	3 Townships
OVERHEAD COST	\$334,073	\$424,369	\$257,852	\$1,016,294
Overhead % of Total	38%	27%	24%	29%
Building Related	31,928	38,348	15,952	86,228
Discretionary Expenses	6,252	16,425	12,247	34,924
Elected Officials	83,040	113,268	79,336	275,644
Gen Admin & Personnel	109,721	150,166	79,533	339,420
Professional Support	57,554	17,928	20,147	95,629
Taxation Related	45,578	88,234	50,637	184,450
PUBLIC SAFETY/SERVICE	\$484,263	\$944,075	\$727,205	\$2,155,543
Safety/Service % of Total	55%	60%	69%	61%
EMS	242,099	225,000	350,583	817,682
Fire	160,322	159,977	312,557	632,856
Roads, Parks, Elections	81,842	559,098	64,064	705,005
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$57,259	\$217,619	\$74,862	\$349,740
Capital Exp. % of Total	7%	14%	7%	10%
Fire	57,259	24,820	-	82,079
Mortgage	-	110,000	74,862	184,862
Land Purchase	-	82,799	-	82,799
GRAND TOTAL	\$875,595	\$1,586,064	\$1,059,919	\$3,521,577

How This Study Was Done: All Townships supplied data in Excel by E-mail for this report. The 12 month TNN Estimate differs from Townships actuals because of reporting variances.
Analyst: Jim Welsh – Data: Mike Szymanski, Elk Rapids Township; Liz Atkinson, Milton Township; Kathy Windiate, Torch Lake Township

Please see [Cash on Hand Report](#) for each Township Below

Goal: More Output per \$ for Direct Public Benefit Without Increased Spending

6th ANNUAL TNN TRI-TOWNSHIP FISCAL COMPARISON
TOWNSHIPS CASH ON HAND

FY 2015-16 - CASH	ER Township	Milton Twp	TL Township
April 1, 2015 - Start	\$980,217	\$1,835,731	\$1,860,378
General Fund	-17,832	-108,260	85,585
Fire	78,368	+115,541	-5,119
Ambulance	0	0	10,543
Parks	0	+282,085	47
Other Funds	990	-51,477	31,192
FY INCREASE	+\$61,526	+\$ 237,890	+\$122,248
Mar 31, 2016- End	\$1,041,743	\$2,073,620	\$1,982,627
Months to spend-down	14.3 Months	15.7 Months	22.4 Months



TNN Annual Fund Raising Campaign. Vigilance is the price of paying forward our wonderful heritage on the 'Island' between East Bay and the Chain of Lakes. TNN weighs in on the environment by land, alongshore and in the water .