

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE 1st CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF HILLSDALE

NOTICE OF HEARING TO AMEND LAKE LEVEL ORDER

LAKE SOMERSET

DATE: December 18, 2024

TIME: 8:30 AM

LOCATION: Hillsdale County Circuit Court
29 N Howell Street
Hillsdale, MI 49242

QUESTIONS: (517) 225-3398
Hillsdalecdc@gmail.com
See Webinar and Shared Document Link Below

Hearing to Amend Lake Level Order

A petition dated October 10, 2024 was filed with the Hillsdale County Circuit Court to amend the lake level order for Lake Somerset. The Hillsdale County Circuit Court will review the petition on the above date, time, and location to receive evidence to amend the lake level order for Lake Somerset, located in Somerset Township, Hillsdale County, Michigan, consistent with the provisions of MCL 324.30707.

Submitting Testimony and Evidence

The public may submit written testimony and provide evidence regarding the petition and this matter to the Court. The public may also attend the hearing on the above date, time, and location to provide oral testimony and/or evidence. The Court will accept written testimony and evidence addressed to: **Hillsdale County Circuit Court, 29 N Howell Street, Clerk's Office, Hillsdale, MI 49242, with the subject-line "Lake Somerset – Lake Level Hearing (Case No. 24-690-CZ)."** Please call the Court at **(517) 437-4321 (please direct other inquiries to the other phone number on this notice)** with any questions regarding submitting written materials.

For additional information regarding the hearing, please call (517) 225-3398 or email Hillsdalecdc@gmail.com.

A recorded webinar about the lake level order and the court hearing will also be posted at <https://fsbrlaw.box.com/v/HillsdaleLakeLevels>.

Hearing Accommodations

Persons with disabilities who need accommodations to attend the hearing should call the Court at **(517) 437-4321 (please direct other inquiries to the other phone number on this notice)** or by using the Michigan Relay Service at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing to coordinate accommodations. All property owners affected may participate in this hearing by either submitting written testimony and/or evidence for consideration by the Court or by attending the court hearing to present testimony.

Matt Word
Hillsdale County Drain Commissioner
on behalf of the Lake Somerset – Lake Level District



FAQs

NOTICE OF HEARING TO AMEND LAKE LEVEL ORDER LAKE SOMERSET

Why am I receiving this notice?

You are receiving this notice because you own lands within the current or proposed lake level special assessment district for Lake Somerset.

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. Lake Somerset has a court ordered lake level under Part 307.

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.

Will this impact the level of Lake Somerset?

No. The intent of the proposed amendments is **not** to impact the physical lake level that property owners are used to seeing on Lake Somerset.

Why is the lake level order being amended?

The Hillsdale County Drain Commissioner conducted a comprehensive review of the historical lake level orders in Hillsdale County and found that some require revisions to be consistent with state law and the current operation of the lake level control structures. The lake level order for Lake Somerset was identified as requiring amendments.

Specifically, the proposed amendments would update the survey datum to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) and clarify that the lake level is subject to temporary variations due to things like weather and natural conditions. The amendments would also update the special assessment district boundaries to ensure they accurately reflect the properties that benefit from the legal lake level.

What is my assessment amount?

The court hearing to amend the lake level order will **not** consider lake level special assessments. A separate public hearing process is required to impose any lake level special assessments on property owners, and all property owners will be mailed notice of the subsequent hearing.

Do I have to attend the Circuit Court hearing?

You are not required to attend the Circuit Court hearing; however, it is your right to do so. You may also present testimony and evidence to the Court regarding the proposed amendments to the lake level order.

How can I get more information?

A recorded webinar about the lake level order and the court hearing will be posted at: <https://fsbrlaw.box.com/v/HillsdaleLakeLevels>. You may also call **(517) 225-3398** or email Hillsdalecdc@gmail.com. When contacting us, please include your name, address, phone number, and the lake name. We will be glad to answer any questions, and all calls and emails will be returned in the order in which they are received.