

September 10, 2015

**Christine Crissman, Executive Director**

The Watershed Center  
Grand Traverse Bay  
13272 S. West Bay Shore Drive  
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

**RE: The Watershed Center Letter 8-25-15  
Village at Grand Traverse (VGT) Stormwater Collection & Treatment System**

I am writing in response to your letter regarding the above referenced development located in Acme Township that was sent to the Acme Township Supervisor and Planning Commission. Recently the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians' (GTB) Economic Development Corporation (EDC) invested in this development as a partner. We are very concerned that the development follows all applicable codes and ordinances while protecting the surrounding environment and natural resources which is vital for wildlife, local businesses and tourism. Before becoming a partner we thoroughly reviewed and analyzed the overall development especially how it would impact the surrounding properties. As a Tribal Nation we will do everything in our power to protect the environment as well as restoring a creek that has been in poor condition for decades.

The EDC Executive Staff consulted with our Corporate Architect, Steve Feringa, AIA, who is also an EDC Executive Staff member, a member of GTB's Natural Resources and Environmental Committee, and an Acme Township Planning Commissioner. Mr. Feringa has been involved with this development for over 10 years, is serving his second term as a commissioner for Acme's Planning Commission, and negotiated a water agreement between VGT and GTB (prior to becoming an Acme Township Planning Commissioner).

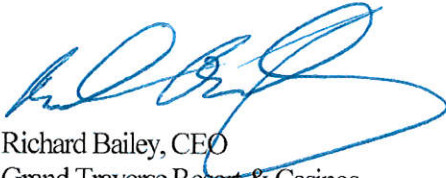
Mr. Feringa provided plans and a narrative on the innovative design utilizing constructed wetlands to naturally filter and process the stormwater onsite before the water returns to the aquifer. Constructing this stormwater management system is a complex process from schematic design, engineering and implementation. From all the information presented and what was explained all of the comments presented in your letter were previously adequately addressed by the Township's consultants and Planning Commission which I understand included several independent engineering and environmental firms that specialize in stormwater control measures.

Based on all the facts and data we reviewed leads us to disagree with most of your opinions in your letter with the exception of the importance of protecting the bay from stormwater run-off, protecting Acme Creek, and utilizing Best Management Practices and innovative designs in development of stormwater systems.



Throughout this development process there has been a great deal of political agendas in the Acme area; putting these agendas aside, if the main concern is stormwater reaching the creek and bay then the real focus should be with the direct run-off of the stormwater from other sources such as the adjacent road systems (M72, US31 along East Bay, and the Boardman River as examples). If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact us. We would be more than willing to meet and discuss the stormwater system for this development and ways to protect the bay and restore Acme Creek.

Sincerely,



Richard Bailey, CEO  
Grand Traverse Resort & Casinos  
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Economic Development Corporation

cc: Acme Township Supervisor  
Acme Township Board of Directors  
Acme Township Planning Commission  
Beckett & Raeder, Inc.