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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Lake Residents Unite to Oppose The Cove at Woodland Lake PUD Proposal by Developer Mitch Harris Building Company

Brighton Township, MI —December 16, 2025 — The Organization of Woodland Lake (OWL) representing the owners of 331 parcels and other local Brighton Township residents have joined together to oppose the proposed 40-unit PUD known as The Cove at Woodland Lake (RZ #25/01), submitted by developer **Mitch Harris Building Company**.

Like many inland lakes across Michigan and the Midwest, Woodland Lake is experiencing increased pressure from runoff, nutrient loading, recreational use, and regional growth. These trends are not unique, but residents believe that **placing a high-density PUD on a steep, environmentally sensitive 43 acres parcel would intensify those pressures** and undermine years of restoration efforts.

“Like many lakes across Michigan, Woodland Lake faces modern environmental pressures,” said **John Boland**, Chair of the Woodland Lake Water Quality Committee. **“Every decision should strengthen the lake’s resilience. This proposal would increase runoff and stress at a time when we should be improving conditions.”**

Residents also emphasize that they are **not anti-development**. They believe it is about **doing the right thing** by protecting long-term natural features rather than allowing short-term individual profit to guide decisions. The proposal **conflicts with the Brighton Township Master Plan, the PUD ordinance, and the Natural Features Overlay District**, all of which were created to **guide responsible land use**.

The plan includes **41 to 46% impervious surfaces**, which is significantly higher than the recommended 10 to 15% for sensitive lake systems. In addition, when the sewer system was installed in the early 2000s, approximately **16 units** were considered a reasonable expectation for this parcel, far fewer than what is proposed today.

“We are not opposed to development. We are opposed to irresponsible development,” continued Boland. **“The density and environmental impacts of this proposal do not match the community’s character or the lake’s sensitive condition.”**

This topic will be discussed during the next Livingston County Planning Commission meeting on Dec 17 at 6:30 pm. Many OWL and other local residents are likely to attend and strongly encouraging the Livingston County Planning Commission to **vote down the current PUD proposal** and request that the Township **follow the Master Plan, the PUD ordinance, and the Natural Features Overlay District when evaluating any future development on this parcel. A revised and environmentally responsible plan that meets Township planning standards is entirely achievable.**
