

Wixom Lake Improvement Board (WLIB)
Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2022

Meeting called to order at Billings Township Hall by Chairman Joe Sova at 6:00 pm

Board Members Present: Carol Ayers, Joe Sova, Ray Drumright, Robert Kelley, Jeanette Snyder, Don Zakett, Terry Walters

Board Members Absent: Larry Woodard and Karen Moore

Others in Attendance: Norma Stuart from Midland County Drain Commission, Lucy Zeestraten from Gladwin County Drain Commission, Paul Hausler from Progressive AE, Casey Shoff from PLM Lake & Land Management Corp., and approximately 30 members of the public

Pledge of allegiance recited to start the meeting.

There was no correspondence for the board to review.

Minor additions to the agenda were requested by Don Zakett: In New Business section, add a 3rd sub-bullet for PLM contract update and in the Old Business section add a 2nd sub-bullet for discussion of recent news on herbicide certification for aquatic use

Board members reviewed minutes from the May 24th, 2022 WLIB meeting.

A motion to accept and file the minutes was made by Robert Kelley and seconded by Terry Walters. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

In the category of new business, Paul Hausler handed out an abbreviated version of a proposed work plan titled 'Tittabawassee River, Gladwin and Midland Counties Bottomlands Control Project', Project #55290103, revised June 28 2022'. Paul summarized the plan as arising from a determination of the desired end state of the lake bed immediately before water returns and then working backward from that point to the present to identify necessary steps and proper sequence. The work plan has been submitted to the state for review. The plan is supported by drone surveys of canals and lake bed. Paul is evaluating drone data and will update the plan as appropriate to address issues that arise. During Paul's presentation there were questions from the public which Chairman Sova allowed prior to the public comment period:

Bill Robinson, Birchwood Shores subdivision. Question - Will there be chemical use? Answer – Yes. Plan is for aerial application of a short lived herbicide that will kill woody plants followed later by removal of the dead trees. Residents may see unrelated mowing activity on the lakebed this year by the Four Lakes Task Force. The purpose of this unrelated work is to clear pathways for foreign debris removal.

Janice Colton, Red Oak Court. There is an island of slimy debris in Heron Cove impeding water flow and creating a swamp. Mosquitos are bad. Who is responsible for addressing? Answer – The WLIB is developing a plan for managing terrestrial vegetation and dredging is not in scope. Don Zakett indicated that there was a dredging operation nearby in ~2003 and thought the work was financed through a special assessment of impacted property owners.

Monty Wiseman, Venice subdivision, Pine Street. Likes having standing water in canal because it simplifies mowing and debris removal when frozen in winter. He has not observed mosquito larvae or pupae in the water.

An invoice (00188022) dated July 1, 2022 from progressive AE for \$10,500 was presented to the board. A motion to accept and pay the invoice was made by Carol Ayers and seconded by Robert Kelley. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Casey Shoff from PLM Lake & Land Management Corp. shared that permits for herbicide treatment of the lakebed are posted and are currently in the 14 day public notice period. Once approval of the permit is received, he can begin notifying property owners of impending treatment of the lake bed. The notification starts a 45 day clock for completing the treatment. A phone line supported by the veterans administration will be set-up to assist anyone suffering from PTSD aggravated by the presence of low flying helicopter applying herbicide to the lake bed. PLM will subcontract with an applicator with a helicopter. A motion supporting PLM beginning the process of identifying and securing a subcontractor now to avoid delay in making application was made by Terry Walters and seconded by Jeanette Snyder. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Casey shared a document dated July 22, 2022 from PLM detailing a tentative plan of action and estimates for unit costs of different steps of the plan (e.g. surveys, permitting, arial and ground application). The plan has applicability for areas beyond the boundaries of the WLIB but is a good guide for steps to be taken in the WLIB designated area. The anticipated herbicide to be used is from Corteva and trade named VASTLAN. Corteva has indicated that they would donate VASTLAN for the work. Although VASTLAN has the same active ingredient (Triclopyr) as others that currently have approval from the State of Michigan for use under aquatic nuisance control (ANC) permits, it is a different formulation and currently lacks this approval. Even with general approval of the workplan by the state, treatments with VASTLAN cannot begin until its use under aquatic nuisance control permits is approved by the State of Michigan. Approval from the state is under review and expected soon. If VASTLAN is not approved there are other options (Garlon 3A and Renovate 3) but there has not been an offer to donate these other herbicides and purchase would significantly increase cost of executing the work plan. During Casey's presentation there were questions from the public which Chairman Sova allowed prior to the public comment period:

Richard: Question - If helicopter can't get closer than 40 feet to shoreline, who will take care of areas close to shore? What will be done with debris at bottom of steep slopes? Don Zakett indicated that the FLTF is recommending that property owners take care of areas closer than 40 feet to shoreline.

Dallas Eichman, South Pine. Question-When will cattails be taken care of? Answer – Can't give a specific date. In general, initial focus will be on woody species. Herbaceous species like cattails can be addressed right before water comes back.

A motion to accept and file the financial statement showing an account balance of \$333,260.82 as of 6/27/2022 was made by Carol Ayers and seconded by Robert Kelley. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Sova made a statement about using the money prudently from now until the lake returns but that it will likely be necessary to re-implement a special assessment for plant control in the future to execute the full work plan.

Chairman Sova formally opened the meeting for public comment:

Phillip Tenent – Heron Cove. There is a ditch a short ways from his shoreline that is difficult to cross. Terry Walters (Gladwin County Drain Commissioner) indicated that a temporary bridge to access the other side for purposes of weed/tree management would be OK.

Doug Hill, Wixom Lake Association (WLA) president. The WLA is resuming lake clean ups and want to support property owners. He also mentioned prolific growth of trees north of the WLIB assessment area (north of Highwood Bridge). Doug would like to see more coordination across organizations involved in bottom land clean up / woody plant removal.

Monty Wiseman, Pine St in the Venice subdivision reiterated concerns about the proliferation of cattails.

Phillip Tenant, 5410 Heron Cove Dr. has concerns about tree growth and asked for clarity on permitting which was addressed by board as well as Progressive AE and PLM attendees.

Mark Mudge, Hay Township Supervisor. Property owners north of Highwood Bridge up to Howard Rd would like to be included in the WLIB assessment area in the future. Terry Walters will work with Mark to help initiate process. Current funds cannot be used for areas outside of current WLIB area.

Endre Sefcsik, resides just north of Highwood Bridge. Running for Gladwin County Commissioner District #3. Has done mitigation of weed growth on lake bed in section around his property.

Frank Legacy, Venice subdivision. Wanted clarity on whether permits for treatments had been submitted.

Ty Seeburger, Janice Lane. One bank of canal has caved in. A walking bridge spanning canal is too low. Terry Walters will check out the situation.

Tammy O'Donnel – Introduced herself as candidate for Gladwin County Commissioner District #3.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Don Zakett was seconded by Terry Walters. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. 7:30 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Drumright

Wixom Lake Improvement Board

Monday, July 25, 2022

6:00 p.m.

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