Wixom Lake Improvement Board (WLIB)
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2022

Meeting called to order by Joe Sova at 3:05 pm

Board Members Present: Carol Ayers, Joe Sova, Robert Kelley, Jeanette Snyder, Don Zackett, Karen Moore, Terry Walters

Board Members Absent: Ray Drumright, Larry Woodard

Others in Attendance: Norma Stuart from Midland County Drain Commission, Lucy Zeestraten from Gladwin County Drain Commission, Terry Mester – Billings Township Supervisor, and 8 members of the public.

After the pledge of allegiance, introductions were done and election of officers.

Karen Moore made a motion for Joe Sova to serve as chairman. The motion was seconded by Robert Kelley. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Don Zackett made a motion for Ray Drumright to serve as secretary. The motion was seconded by Robert Kelley. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Sova made a motion for Terry Walters to serve as treasurer. The motion was seconded by Robert Kelley Woodard. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Keith Popour – (Venice Subdivision representative) spoke regarding the letter sent to the Drain Commissioners of Midland and Gladwin County asking for the amount of assessments collected in 2019 from the landowners in the subdivision be set aside to be used on a mowing project on their canals while the lake is down so that they can clean their canal to have it ready for when the lake does come back. They have had their canals dredged twice before, approximately 15 years ago.

Karen Moore stated that the Wixom Lake Association Board has been doing some clearing of the lake bed. They started in the canal by pontoon alley and worked out from there.

Robert Kelly mentioned that the canals were a big part of the weed treatment program prior to the dam breaks.

Monty Wiseman – (Venice Subdivision representative) said he has talked to other subdivisions on the lake, that they are not worried about taking care of their canals at this time, and they believe that FLTF (Four Lakes Task Force) will take care of them.

Don Zackett said that he has had many conversations with Monty. He thinks that the plan that they have for their subdivision is a good plan, but only for work to be done in the winter months when the ground is frozen. Don said that he is working with FLTF to figure out a plan for the whole lake.

Joe Sova asked the public in attendance who do they think is responsible for taking care of the weeds on the lake. Majority response was that the WLIB is responsible for the weed management of the lake.

Jeanette Snyder thinks that the $20,000 paid in assessments should be set aside for their canal and then bids can be procured for the removal of terrestrial weeds and tree removal.

Terry Walters asked about spraying the canal before the lake comes back. Don Zackett replied that using backpack sprayers would be the only way to get through the canal at this time, which is expensive.

General Business

Monty Wiseman would like to set up a routine mowing program for the canals yearly, until the lakes come back, starting in Jan 2023. Which is why they are asking the WLIB to set funds aside and help with seeking bids and also administration of the project.

Robert Kelley was against setting the money aside, stating that all subdivisions will be asking for the same consideration.

Karen Moore thinks we could set the money aside for Venice Subdivision and if other subdivisions request the same, the board can decide on a one by one basis.

Joe Sova would like to see a yearly plan up until the lakes return. Don Zackett responded that it is very hard to plan more than 1 year at a time that we are dealing with an unprecedented situation.

Janette Snyder feels that we should do something. Terry Walters agrees with Karen Moore and Janette Snyder.

Monty Wiseman believes an assessment should still be happening even though the lakes are gone.

Don Zackett thinks that the WLIB should consult with Paul Hausler (Progressive AE) and Bre Grabill (Professional Lake Management) for more ideas about how to attack the weed/tree growth issue on the lake bottom.

Joe Sova made a motion to set another meeting in May and invite Paul Hausler and Bre Grabill , along with any other consultants that may want to come and talk to the board and public about what can be done to address the terrestrial weed and tree problems. Don Zackett seconded the motion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Don Zackett made a motion to set a meeting for April to discuss permitting and plan for aerial herbicide treatment, as the permitting process is believed to be four months, and waiting until May to decide could inhibit a 2022 application. Carol Ayers seconded the motion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Board members reviewed minutes from the July 17, 2021 meeting.
A motion to accept and file minutes was made by Terry Walters and seconded by Robert Kelley.
Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Sova presented Fahey, Schultz invoices #1489 & 2101, in the amounts of $95.00 and 84.00 respectively. Carol Ayers made a motion to pay the invoices, seconded by Robert Kelley.
Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

The Financial Report was presented. The balance is 4335,714.82. Jeanette Snyder made a motion to accept and file the report. Terry Walters seconded the motion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Keith Popour thanked the Board for the time spent on the issues of the Venice Subdivision.

There was no other public comment.

Robert Kelly made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jeanette Snyder. Meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Sova
Chairman