

**Wixom Lake Improvement Board  
Meeting Minutes  
December 14, 2022**

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Joe Sova at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance, followed by board member roll call.

- Board Members Present: Joe Sova, Robert Kelley, Jeanette Snyder, Don Zackett, Karen Moore, Terry Walters
- Board Members Absent: Ray Drumright, Larry Woodard, Carol Ayers
- Others in Attendance: Norma Stuart from Midland County Drain Commission, Lucy Zeestraten from Gladwin County Drain Commission, Tim Mester – Billings Township Supervisor, Paul Hausler from Progressive AE and approximately (12) members of the public.

Approval of Agenda: Don Zackett asked to add discussion of the potential of dredging the canals, and funding possibilities. Robert Kelley moved to approve the updated agenda, seconded by Terry Walters.

Voice vote – motion carried.

Karen Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from November 16, 2022 seconded by Zackett.

Voice vote – motion carried.

Joe Sova presented the financial report. Balance is \$298,635.42, Jeanette Snyder made a motion to receive and file the financial report, seconded by Kelley.

Voice vote – motion carried.

Sova asked Paul Hausler to give an overview of the aerial spray test plots. Hausler presented a summary report on what was accomplished by doing the spray test plots with Triclopyr. He explained the process of the acquiring the permits (ANC and the NPDES permits) needed to do the spraying. The test plot spraying was done on September 15, 2022, and a follow up inspection on October 12, 2022. It was found to be a success, the pictures show almost zero drift and the areas sprayed were successful in killing or damaging the trees and vegetation. Spring 2023 will be more telling if the treatment was successful in killing the trees. The manufacturer of Vastlan suggested to add a second herbicide Imazapyr, but to use it, it will have to be added to the ANC permit application for 2023. Hausler then explained the variety of trees that are growing in the lake. Eastern Cottonwood, Willow, and the Quaking Aspen are the main three trees growing in the lakebed. Aspen & Willow like to reproduce in disturbed areas. So if we can cut down and mulch the trees that have been killed off, it will prevent the Aspen, Willows and Cottonwoods from reproducing.

Zackett explained that the Vastlan (\$102.00/gal) application rate is 1.5 gal/acre. By adding Imazapyr (needs to be purchased at a cost of \$150.00/gallon), the 600 acre donation of Vastlan would become a 900 acre donation if you could add Imazapyr. The total amount of Vastlan donated to date is 1,200 gallons (this is for both lakes).

Zackett talked to Casey from PLM regarding adding Imazapyr. Casey suggested that we amend the NPDES permit (5 yr. permit) to use Imazapyr as a second herbicide. The cost to apply for an amended permit would be \$150.00. Zackett said that if the NPDES approves the use of Imazapyr, he will start looking for donations of the herbicide.

Zackett made a motion approving him to seek bids to mow 6 acres. This acreage to include a treated plot and an abutting non-treated area. The motion also included allowing the Chairman to approve and pay no more than \$3,000.00 for the mowing. Snyder seconded the motion.

Voice vote – Motion carried.

Ken (an insurance agent) made a comment about hiring contractors and the certificate of insurance. He feels that the townships be listed as additional insured, to prevent any lawsuits.

Monty Wiseman, 5314 S. Pine St. - asked Hausler if the areas for treatment included the canals. Hausler said that it did.

Sova explained that Four Lakes Task Force (FLTF) has secured funds that cannot be used for dams, so they asked if Midland & Gladwin Counties could use the money on canals. FLTF has put aside \$50,000.00 for engineering of canal related projects.

Keith Popour, 5376 Grouse Ct. – He thinks there are easier ways to clean the canals than what the board is trying to do. Sova responded that no method has been determined yet, but EGLE does has stipulations. Popour stated that in the 1960's he helped build Forest Lake, Lake Louise and Lake Ogemaw and at that time they cleared the bottom of the lakes.

Monty Wiseman stated that they had their canals dredged 20 yrs. ago. The soil was tested and there were no issues with the soil, so he does not think there will be an issue this time.

Doug Hill, President of the Wixom Lake Association (WLA) – they have done fundraising and volunteers have been working to clear and mow. They are hoping to collaborate with other organizations on the lake to do more mowing of the lakebed. At this time, most of the mowing is being done from seawalls to 40' out. He is meeting with contractors next week about getting bids to do mowing during the winter, which is the best time for mowing. Zackett thinks late summer would be better for mowing anything more than 50' from the shore, because then the spray has time to kill the trees and vegetation.

Kelley believes that a next meeting should not be set until we have more information to present. Hausler stated that we may have information on the permit in February. Snyder asked if the board is planned to set funds aside to help with the mowing that the WLA is planning.

There was no other public comment.

Next meeting was set for February 22, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at the Billings Township Hall.

Karen Moore made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Walters. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe Sova  
Chairman