

LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD – WIGGINS LAKE

Held at Sage Township Hall

September 21, 2022

Meeting called to order by Mike Rajt at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike Rajt

Present: Mike Rajt, Ron Taylor, Terry Walters, and Lucy Zeestraten.

Absent: Renee Zelt and Rick Dvorak

Motion to approve August 17, 2022, minutes by: Ron Taylor, Seconded by Terry Walters.
All in favor. Motion carried.

Additions to the agenda: Email from Casey with the answers from the question email from Mike Rajt.

Correspondence: None

Received and file account ledger.

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Mike Rajt asked our attorney what we need to do if we need to change the assessment. He was given 4 options. If the Wild Celery continues to be a huge problem. The efforts to change it we need to increase the assessment. Mike spoke to Brea, and she stated that PLM has a mixture of chemicals that they call witches brew to treat Wild Celery. One treatment is \$33,000.00 and 2 treatments would be \$66,00.00 so the assessment would need to be doubled. Rick Buteyn stated we couldn't treat twice with the witch's brew. EGLE will not permit it. Mike Rajt stated that they could harvest twice. Is roughly \$15,000.00 to harvest once and to do it twice it would be \$30,000.00. Would make us broke next year. Hopefully we will have some options next year.

Ron Taylor states he had a conversation with someone who really wasn't happy with harvesting. One of the property owners stated he was not impressed. Mike Rajt received an email from the POA President would be in favor of doing some more. There was mixed reaction from around the lake. The people that were more affected were glad to get rid of it but then more has come back. We tired this as an experiment. We wanted to harvest all the floating once and then harvested about 3 acres. In Mikes option is not to chop them off. Rick has a map showing where he doesn't recommend any high-speed boating. You are not supposed to speed boating within 100ft of shore or a dock. 130ft offshore out in the middle of the lake. There are plenty of room on north bay side. Ron Taylor stated if you post it not high speed. Who is going to enforce it. Mike Rajt says no one will enforce it. Mike stated they did an education program on the wade boats last year and this year we have close to 100% participation. Terry asked Mike if he signed a 3 year or 1 year contract this year for spraying. Mike stated it's a 5-year contract. We are in the 2nd year of that contract. Terry asked with interest. Rick stated it has a 2% cost of living increase. Typically, with increases we have currently seen. When a generic comes out and cost goes way down. PLM is very quick to move prices back to what they should be market wise. Ron Taylor asked with the increases we have had what do we do? Renegotiate the contract? Rick said you can choose to do that, or we have a conversation with PLM and ask for them to give us the price they need

to do this job. Then that would go before the board. The board would say no this is crazy or yes. Ron asked if we would have to have a public hearing. Mike said we would have to put it out to bid. Rick said they would put those specks together and put it to bid. Mike says who knows who we end up getting. We need to consider the service we have gotten. PLM has been absolutely outstanding. No screw ups, no foul ups. Terry said we use PLM on Wixom Lake. Ron stated that Pratt Lake actually took the higher bid because it was the company they have been with. Nothing prohibits you from taking the high bid. Terry asked if there are 2 different things they use for Wild Celery. Rick Stated they typically use Chelated Copper. It can be combined with something else. Mike states that Progressive has a handle on prices because they get it from a number of different vendors. Ron asked that if the prices are expected to go up could we go from a 5-year contract to a 1-year contract? Rick said we could easily do that. They would add language to allow for the contract to be approved annually based on agreeable terms between the board and the outside applicator. Ron asked if we went to a 1-year contract would we lose buying power for the people on the lake? The prices are locked in for 5 years but if we change to a 1 year, we are not locked in. The herbicides companies don't want it to go out for bid. Mike said he has spoken to Bre and we should be looking at an over all 10% increase. Mike feels this is pretty good if we can lock in the Phoslock. Rick Doesn't feel there is a need to bid out for an outside contract, but we need to wait and see the herbicide applicators get their pricing they get from their distributors in January. Asking right now they would be guessing. Ron says we can always call a special meeting. Rick recommends that if there is a price change with the herbicides that the board hold a special meeting to approve those.

Rick passed out and explained the account ledger. There was some discussion on the ledger and the account ledger. There was also some discussion on the assessments that were received.

Rick, Mike, and Mark took a spin around the lake today. The main thing they are seeing growing is the Water Star Grass. It's a bright green with thinner leaves. There is nothing they can do about that. It's a native plant and don't respond to herbicides. There is scattered Sparce Milford. No huge dense patches so they wait till spring to see what comes up. Wild Celery is starting to die. As far as management goes nothing will done this year. They did a survey on where they did the harvest. There was less dense plant growth. The lake is doing ok and not as many floaters as last year. Mike Hermann asked the idea of racking the lake bottom for the Wild Celery. Does it do more harm than good? Rick stated that if you do that and take the plants out by the roots you get more lasting control. As a lake manager scraping the bottom floor you are damaging habits.

Set meeting schedule for 2023. Wednesday May 17, 2023 at 7:00pm, Wednesday June 21, 2023 at 7:00pm, Wednesday July 19, 2023 at 7:00pm, Wednesday August 16, 2023 at 7:00pm and Wednesday September 20, 2023 at 7:00pm motion to authorize the meetings and publish them by Ron Taylor and seconded by Terry Walters. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn was made by Terry Walters, supported by Terry Walters.
All in favor, motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:31p.m.

Respectfully submitted.
Lucy Zeestraten, Secretary,