

**Wixom Lake Improvement Board (WLIB)
Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2023**

Meeting called to order at Billings Township Hall by Terry Walters at 6:00 pm

Pledge of allegiance recited.

Roll call of board members. Board members present: Carol Ayers, Ray Drumright, Robert Kelley, Don Zakett, Terry Walters, Tami O'Donnell

Board Members Absent: Joe Sova, Jeanette Snyder, Larry Woodard,

Others in Attendance: Norma Stuart from Midland County Drain Commission, Lucy Zeestraten from Gladwin County Drain Commission, Paul Hausler from Progressive AE, Casey Shoaff from PLM Lake & Land Management Corp., and approximately 50 members of the public

Due to Chairman Sova's absence the meeting was facilitated by a combination of Norma Stuart and Terry Walters.

Approval of agenda. Agenda was presented with an opportunity to add items. No changes. Carol Ayers made a motion to accept the agenda and the motion was seconded by Robert Kelley. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of minutes from 5/23/23 WLIB meeting. Terry Walters made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Don Zakett. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Matters. Norma Stuart presented the financial statement showing a balance of \$281,470.96 with no known outstanding invoices. Robert Kelley made a motion to receive and file the financial report which was seconded by Don Zakett. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

The updated list of board members and their contact information was presented by Norma Stuart. A motion to receive and file the updated list was made by Carol Ayers and it was seconded by Don Zakett. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Casey Shoaff presented two quotes for helicopter application of herbicide. The first quote, dated 6/5/23 was from Hamilton Helicopters Inc. (Hamilton MI, Kurt Homkes) for \$125/acre with an 870 acre minimum. The second quote was from Mid-Michigan Helicopters Inc. (Greenville MI, Jim Barese) for \$140/acre with a 900 acre minimum. Casey explained that the minimum acreage would be achieved by combining treatment areas on Wixom and Sanford Lake bottoms. Although there is no cost for the primary herbicide which was donated to FLTF, the secondary herbicide will be purchased at an additional cost of approximately \$25/acre. This treatment is expected to exhaust all of the donated herbicide, which is good since it is nearing the end of its shelf life. Don Zakett provided commentary on the successful trial application by Hamilton Helicopters last fall and the precise placement of herbicide. The treatment maps will soon be finalized and posted to the Midland and Gladwin County websites with anticipated treatment to commence in late June and taking 2-3 days to complete the application (weather dependent). The draft maps have 250-300 acres on Sanford Lake bottom and ~630 acres on the Wixom Lake bottom, therefore meeting the minimum acreage in the bids. Secondary treatment areas will be mapped in case a problem arises in a primary area requiring a shift in treatment areas to

achieve the minimum areas in the bids. No treatment can be applied within 80 feet of the original shoreline or within 42 feet of the current river channel. Negotiations with EGLE and DNR continue in hopes of them allowing shrinkage of these boundaries but they stand firm for this treatment. Don Zakett made a motion to accept the bid from Hamilton Helicopters and move forward with the treatment. This was seconded by Terry Walters. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Don Zakett provided further commentary on the treatments. The spray booms on helicopter allow a 35 foot wide treatment swath. The helicopter will fly low to the ground and largely parallel to the shoreline during the application combined with higher altitude sweeping turns when no herbicide will be applied. The application is GPS guided and computer controlled. The helicopter will take off/land on a small pad on a semi-truck trailer. It is OK for the public to observe from a distance but everyone should stay away from the staging area. The public should also stay out of the treated areas at least until the spray has dried.

Norma shared email correspondence from Larry Woodard stating that he was in favor of moving forward with the aerial spraying and an email from Paul Hausler stating that he could not have handouts of finalized treatment maps ready in time for the current WLIB meeting and also comments on some logistics of the upcoming treatments.

Monty Wiseman, Venice subdivision gave board members a hand-out and also spoke about a proposal for treatment of 9.5 acres in Pary Drain and ~5 remaining acres on Pleasure Island Canal. He further proposed that property owners and Wixom Lake Association could then mow dead vegetation in the treated areas this winter when the ground is frozen. Monty also encouraged the WLIB to collaborate with Wixom Lake Association. Paul Hausler assured Monty that he and the board have not forgotten about canals and they will be addressed. Selection of herbicides and application methods for treatment of canals as well as permitting have not been finalized but will be addressed. Terry Walters commented that the Gladwin County Drain Commission is working on silt traps for the Pary and Payne drains.

Public Comment:

Doug Hill, president of Wixom Lake Association (WLA). WLA has been fund raising and using funds for contract mowing. Wants to collaborate with WLIB to stretch limited finances as far as possible.

Don Zakett, FLTF and WLIB. FLTF won't sanction burning on lake bottom without professional supervision. Volunteer fire departments and DNR have not expressed interest. Could WLA help facilitate supervision for a winter burn of dead trees?

Frank Legacy, Venice subdivision. Can canals be treated with airboats now?

Jamie Meister, Mallard Court. Seems like more is happening on the Tobacco side than on Tittabawassee side. Why? Expressed general frustration with process.

Terry Styers, 5721 Deer Ct. Venice Subdivision. How long will the money last? Wants to see improvement now. If so, then more likely to be supportive of a future assessment.

Multiple people with same theme – General frustration. Who can they call or write to complain and demand action? Why isn't more happening. Pace is too slow. Why is main lake being treated and not canals? What is the plan?

Carol Ayers made comment that board members are lake property owners too and are also frustrated by the process. Be patient. We are working toward the goal of having all of the lake bottom ready for refill when the dam has been repaired.

End Public Comment

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Terry Walters was seconded by Don Zakett. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. 7:11 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Drumright

