

**Wixom Lake Improvement Board (WLIB)
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2024**

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

Pledge of allegiance recited.

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

Board Members Absent: none

Others in Attendance: Norma Stuart from Midland County Drain Commission, Lucy Zeestraten from Gladwin County Drain Commission, Paul Hausler from Progressive Companies, Casey Shoaff from PLM Lake & Land Management Corp., and approximately 20 members of the public.

Election of Officers for 2024. Terry Walters nominated Joe Sova as Chairman, and this was seconded by Tami O'Donnell. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Terry Walters nominated Ray Drumright as Secretary, and this was seconded by Carol Ayers. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Sova nominated Terry Walters as Treasurer, and this was seconded by Tami O'Donnell. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of agenda. Agenda was presented with an opportunity to add items. Terry Walters made a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by Don Zakett. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of minutes from 12/14/23 WLIB meeting. Larry Woodard made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Carol Ayers. Voice vote. Motion carried with Chairman Sova and Jeanette Snyder abstaining due to their absence from the 12/14/23 meeting.

Financial Matters. Terry Walters presented the financial statement showing a balance of \$246,792.52. There was brief discussion of outstanding collections which are expected to add approximately \$56,000 to the total when collections are complete (Gladwin County, ~\$24K; Midland County, ~\$32K). Tami O'Donnell made a motion to receive and file the financial report which was seconded by Larry Woodard. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Three invoices were presented for payment. An invoice for \$200 from Gladwin County Drain Commissioner (#111) dated 3/27/24 for processing of WLIB bills and fees was presented. Don Zakett made a motion to pay the invoice and the motion was seconded by Jeanette Snyder. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. An invoice for \$5135 from Progressive AE (#00196084) dated 1/2/24 for professional services spanning the close out of 2023 and Q1 of 2024 was presented. Tami O'Donnell made a motion to pay the invoice which was seconded by Carol Ayers. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. An invoice for \$950 from PLM Lake and Land Management Corp (#6000399) dated 4/9/24 for reimbursement for ANC (annual permit in process, \$875) and NPDES (3rd year of 5, \$75) permit fees was presented. Terry Walters made a motion to pay the invoice which was seconded by Tami O'Donnell. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Paul Hausler provided an update on utilization of drone imaging for determination of height and health of vegetation in the lake bed. Accurate mapping of vegetation will assist with determination of areas for

treatment/mowing as well as equipment likely necessary for the job. An assessment of viability was done in February. Paul provided color images of mapped area and explanation of how software was used to interpret the drone images. Ground truthing of the results revealed accuracy within 6-8 inches which was deemed adequate for the intended purpose. Tami O'Donnell commented that local contractors working with the Wixom Lake Association have a good sense of vegetation height and health because they are frequently on the lake bed working near the shoreline.

The discussion of drone results morphed into discussion of lack of clarity from US Fish and Wildlife and DNR Fisheries Departments on requirements for leaving vegetation for fish habitat. However, all indications point to requirement for some vegetation being left in order to obtain fill permit after dam construction. The expectation is that mowing of areas less than 20 feet in depth in the main lake bed can proceed. In deeper areas, the trees can be killed but should be left standing. Canals should be OK to mow everywhere (but big challenges with access due to muck and standing water). Mulching/mowing that was intended to happen over the winter did not proceed due to mild conditions which resulted in no good window while the lakebed was frozen.

Paul Hausler provided a document titled 'Wixom Lake Bottomland Management Project First Quarter 2024 Update' on the front and 'Project Work Journal' on the back for activity to date for 2024. Tami O'Donnell made a motion to receive and file the document. The motion was seconded by Terry Walters. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion around forming a subcommittee to develop proposals for areas for mowing and obtaining bids to execute the work. These proposals and bids would be brought to the full board in open meetings for consideration. Don Zakett, Tami O'Donnell, Robert Kelley, and Paul Hausler will be members of the subcommittee. It was suggested that the board receive update around by-laws governing WLIB purchasing/bids to make sure that we do not inadvertently run afoul of best practices. This update will be placed on the agenda of an upcoming board meeting.

Don Zakett indicated that he would no longer be able to be as active with on-site set-up and monitoring of treatment and mowing activities as he has been in the past. This will create a gap that needs to be filled. There was discussion of coordination with FLTF utilizing engineers already engaged in other lake restoration activities. Joe Sova and Terry Walters will follow-up with their contacts and make a recommendation to the board.

Discussion of potential dates for the next WLIB meeting: Tentative dates of Tuesday May 21st and Wednesday May 22nd were considered. Robert Kelley made a motion to hold the next WLIB meeting on Wednesday May 22nd at 6PM at the Billings Township Hall. The motion was seconded by Jeanette Snyder. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Marty Wiseman – Venice Subdivision. Disappointed that mowing which was approved over the winter did not occur. A group from the subdivision was able to manually clear about 800 feet of canal.

Orlando Zuniga, near Pleasure Island. Desired clarity on status of funds collected in past and what they were used for. Standing water in canal is causing mosquito problem. Herbicide treatments in past largely effective but cattails are returning already this year.

Richard Fix, Eastpointe Drive. His area was treated last fall with back pack sprayer and 4 wheelers. However, everything is still mostly green. There are lots of tics.

Mike Flatt, Oakwood Dr. Remains interested in dredging and/or tile installation. Who has jurisdiction? What is the process for grant application? Monty Wiseman volunteered to speak with Mike about an initiative (from a long time ago) with goal of accomplishing same end.

End Public Comment

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Terry Walters was seconded by Tami O'Donnell. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. 7:48 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Drumright