Wixom Lake Improvement Board (WLIB)
Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2024

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

Pledge of allegiance recited.

Roll call of board members. Board members present: Ray Drumright, Robert Kelley, Jeanette Snyder, Joe Sova, Terry Walters, Larry Woodard, Don Zakett (joined at 6:30 PM)
Board Members Absent: Carol Ayers, Tami O'Donnell
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 10 members of the public.

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 Larry Woodard. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of minutes from 6/27/24 WLIB meeting. Robert Kelley made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jeanette Synder. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously with Drumright abstaining due to his absence from the June WLIB meeting.

Financial Matters. A financial statement showing a balance of $289,827.32 was presented. Jeanete Snyder made a motion to receive and file the financial report which was seconded by Larry Woodard. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

An invoice (21551) for $1553.50 dated 6/28/24 from Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC for attorney fees related to advice and development of a contract between Wixom Lake Association (WLA) and WLIB for mowing of lake bottom was presented. Robert Kelley made a motion to pay the invoice which was seconded by Larry Woodard. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

An invoice (00198532) for $6615.00 dated 7/1/24 from Progressive AE for contracted professional services was presented. Larry Woodard made a motion to pay the invoice which was seconded by Jeanette Synder. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Paul Hausler gave a verbal update on 2nd quarter activities and provided the board with a summary of these activities that will be posted to the website. The document also contained answers to frequently asked questions. The permitting for the WLIB geographic area allows for herbicide treatment of up to 99 acres this year. With payment of additional fees, the allowable treatment area can be expanded. There has been a proliferation of cattails, purple loosestrife, and phragmites this year. The ideal time to treat these species is late August / September such that herbicide is translocated to roots to achieve maximum effectiveness. The phragmites cause the most concern because they can survive in water up to ~4 feet deep unlike the cattails and purple loosestrife which drown in water greater than ~1 ft deep.

Don Zakett arrived.

Joe Sova read a letter from Tami O'Donnell that summarized her support for the WLIB contracting with WLA for mowing of the lake bottoms.

Amy Bentley (Vice President WLA) provided WLIB members with a revised draft copy of a contract proposal between WLA and WLIB for mowing of bottomlands within the WLIB geographic district. There was significant discussion about the terms of the contract, appropriate review of the contract, the process for identifying areas to mow, verification of mowed areas, timing of payments for completed mowing, and appropriate execution of the contract in a timely fashion. The next WLA meeting is August 3rd, and WLA would like to act on the contract from their side on that date which requires action by WLIB prior to the next scheduled WLIB meeting. Two modifications to the draft contract by WLIB were proposed: 1) altering payment terms to align with WLIB meeting frequency to allow for board members to inspect invoices and verify that work was completed satisfactorily; 2) explicitly adding that the total cost of the work will not exceed $120,000 unless authorized by the WLIB in the future.

A motion was made by Larry Woodard to empower Chairman Sova to make minor modifications to the WLA/WLIB contract proposal received on 7/25/24 for mowing bottomlands to address payment terms, total expenditure amount, and any other minor changes needed, and then approve/enact the contract on behalf of the WLIB after consultation with legal counsel (Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC) and giving an opportunity for board members to review/comment upon the revised contract via email. This motion was seconded by Robert Kelley. Roll call vote. Yes – Drumright, Kelley, Snyder, Sova, Walters, Woodard, Zakett. No – none.

Some additional discussion on mowing logistics: Parcels of approximately 10-15 acres in size will be identified for mowing. There will likely be several active parcels at any given time giving mowing contractor(s) the flexibility to move between sites depending upon conditions. Parcels are expected to be inside the 15 foot depth contour until there is clarity on areas that must be maintained for fish habitat as will be required in fill permit.

Monty Wiseman (Venice Subdivision) was not present at the meeting, so the 'old business' portion of the agenda was tabled. Chairman Sova stated that the board represents everyone in the district whether they are present at a WLIB meeting or not.

The board reviewed a letter from Keith Popour from Venice Subdivision with complaint of regrowth of cattails. The board reviewed a map identifying property owned by Kevin Lautner (765 Kaypat) accompanied by Lucy Zeestraten verbally conveying Kevin's complaint about plant growth in front of his property.

Public Comment:

Amy Bentley, WLA Vice President. Read a letter from Doug Hill (WLA president) expressing his support for contract between WLA and WLIB for mowing bottomlands in WLIB district.

End Public Comment

Adjournment:
Motion to adjourn by Terry Walters was seconded by Robert Kelley. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. 7:36 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Drumright