Wixom Lake Improvement Board (WLIB)
Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2024

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

Pledge of allegiance recited.

Roll call of board members. Board members present: Jeanette Snyder, Joe Sova, Terry Walters, Ray Drumright, Robert Kelley, Tami O'Donnell, Don Zakett
Board Members Absent: Carol Ayers, Larry Woodard
Others in Attendance: Norma Stuart, Deputy Midland County Drain Commissioner; Lucy Zeestraten Deputy Gladwin County Drain Commissioner; Paul Hausler from Progressive Companies; Casey Shoaff from PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.; Doug Hill, Wixom Lake Association President; approximately a dozen members of the public.

Review and approval of agenda. Agenda was presented with an opportunity to add items. Robert Kelley made a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by Terry Walters. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of minutes from 8/22/24 WLIB meeting. Jeanette Synder made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Tami O'Donnel. Voice vote. Motion carried with Sova and Synder abstaining due to their absence from the August WLIB meeting.

Financial Matters. A financial statement showing a balance of $226,802.10 was presented by Chairman Sova. Terry Walters made a motion to receive and file the financial report which was seconded by Robert Kelley. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Several invoices in three groupings (Wixom Lake Association, PLM, and Fahey Schulz) were addressed. The Wixom Lake Association invoices are for mowing in WLIB jurisdiction areas. Invoice W-021 dated 9/5/24 for $1987.50, invoice W-022 dated 9-6-24 for $6095; invoice W-023 dated 9/18/24 for $1855, invoice W-024 dated 9/18/24 for $6625, invoice W-025 dated 9/18/24 for $5830; invoice W-026 dated 9/18/24 for $2252.50; invoice W-027 dated 9/18/24 for $1590, invoice W-028 dated 9/18/24 for $7685, invoice W-029 dated 9/18/24 for $5167.50, invoice W-015 dated 8-22-24 for $13117.50, invoice W-016 dated 8/26/24 for $2385, invoice W-017 dated 8/26/24 for $795, invoice W-018 dated 8-21-24 for $2650, invoice W-019 dated 8/29/24 for $6227.50, and invoice W-020 dated 8/30/24 for $2385. Terry Walters made a motion to pay the WLA invoices totaling $66,647.50 which was seconded by Robert Kelley. Voice vote. Motion carried with Tami O'Donnell abstaining to avoid appearance of impropriety given her position as secretary of the Wixom Lake Association.

The PLM invoices are for treatment of phragmites in different locations in the WLIB district. Invoice 600695 dated 9/23/24 for $4665, invoice 6000694 dated 9/23/24 for $250, invoice 6000693 dated 9/23/24 for $625, invoice 6000691 for $2500, and invoice 6000692 dated 9/13/24 for $1875. Terry Walters made a motion to pay the PLM invoices totaling $9915 which was seconded by Jeanette Synder. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

An invoice for $50.00 dated 9/3/24 from Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC for attorney fees related to revision of contract between Wixom Lake Association (WLA) and WLIB for mowing of lake bottom was

presented. Tami O'Donnell made a motion to pay the invoice which was seconded by Robert Kelley. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Paul Hausler provided a project work journal for activity that has happened in 2024 and commented on the successful mowing and phragmite treatments. Paul recommends aggressive treatment of remaining small stands of phragmites that he has identified. He also recommends continued mowing of trees, especially in the canals which are currently relatively dry. Doug Hill was enthusiastic about the mowing that has happened and optimistic that some of the most challenging areas can be addressed yet this year as long as the dry weather holds. He is especially keen on addressing the Thomas Shores area as soon as possible. Doug indicated that the WLA will experiment with seeding grasses in some of the canals after mowing in an attempt to suppress new growth of woody species. Doug also commented that there is a WLA sponsored volunteer event on October 6 where groups of people will hand cut trees that are either too big to handle with mowers or inaccessible to the mechanical equipment.

The board discussed what has already happened in 2024 and potential activities for the remainder of the year. Rough estimates are that approximately 328 acres have been mowed with 429 hours of mowing time. There is still a small window to treat phragmites and the desire is to continue mowing wood species but the board also needs to leave a modest cash buffer for unforeseen expenses or winter mowing if we get a hard freeze in the ground. It was noted that the money spent this year on mowing is nearing the contractual cost cap (a little over $6K of the allocated $120K remains). To follow the recommendations from Paul, the board will need to amend the contract with WLA to allow for additional mowing.

Terry Walters made a motion to allocate $50,000 for a combination of phragmite treatment and mowing of which Paul Hausler will determine the appropriate split for the two activities and communicate that information to Chairman Sova who, in turn, will act on behalf of the board to amend the contract with WLA to allow for utilization of the additional funds for continuation of mowing beyond the original contractual cap of $120K. Don Zakett seconded the motion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Robert Boost. Questions about timing of phragmite treatments relative to effectiveness as the growing season nears its end.

Doug Hill. WLA along with lake associations from Smallwood, Secord, and Sanford wrote and sent briefs in support of FLTF in lawsuit brought by Heron Cove Association.

Monty Wiseman. Venice Subdivision. Expressed concern about Eurasian Milfoil in canal near him. Paul Hausler indicated that best time to address it would be in year immediately before refill of lake. Monty also commented that he would like to see more mowing in canals.

End Public Comment

Adjournment:
Motion to adjourn by Robert Kelley was seconded by Tami O'Donnell. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. 7:03 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Drumright