LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD – WIGGINS LAKE
Held at Sage Township Hall
Tuesday September 17, 2024

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike Rajt

Present: Mike Rajt, Ron Taylor, Terry Walters, Rick Dvorak and Lucy Zeestraten
Also Present: Paul Hausler Progressive AE on the phone.

Absent: Renee Zelt

Additions to the agenda: Permission for the Drain Commissioner to pay for the permits.

Correspondence:

Motion to approve August 20, 2024, minutes by Ron Taylor, Seconded by Rick Dvorak. All in favor. Motion carried.

Received and file account ledger. Balance is read as $22,406.80. Received and filed.

NEW BUSINESS:
Mike touch on the fact that the PLM and Progressive contracts will be up in 2025. Also, in 2025 the Lake Improvement assessment will be up, and we will have to have a public hearing for another 5-year assessment next summer.

Motion to approve the 2025 meeting schedule by Terry Walters. Seconded by Ron Taylor. All in favor motion carried.

Mike Rajt called Paul on the phone to get report on the lake. Paul did an overview of everything that was done this starting with the permit fee. Paul stated that EGLE doesn't allow Copper Sulfate to be used in the months of May and June. Knowing that and having a mild winter we did a Algae treatment at the end of April within the rules of the permit. A Phoslock treatment was scheduled on May 2nd. and the Algae treatment has to scheduled before a Phoslock treatment. Rick did his first survey of the plants on the lake and there were huge amounts of Curly Leave and Milfoil. Did a spot treatment on May 30th. Rick did a follow up survey in June. There was a couple of areas that were marked for Celery and Starry Stone Wart. That was treated right before July 4th. Rick did another survey in the middle of July. That was for harvesting and decided that the lake wasn't ready yet. There was some Celery and Nuance natives and some Milfoil and Starry that was treated at the end of Jully. Rick did another survey at the end of July where they marked the harvest areas and did about 20 acres. There were some algae and Starry and that was done in early August. There was a Phoslock treatment schedule because of what was happing on Mix Dr. That was done on August 21st and a algae treatment had to be done before that. Rick did his survey at the end of August and there was just a little bit of algae control and very little growth that needed treatment at that time. The remain budget balance is about $8,400.00.

Motion to allow the Drain Commissioner to pay the permit fee by Ron Taylor. Seconded by Rick

Dvorak. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mike Rajt asked Paul about the harvesting situation this year and does it make scene to harvest. Mike understanding is that we have active growth of Wild Celery capable reaching the surface or interfering with the boats. Paul stated if the water is clear it can grow in deep water. Wiggins Lake's average depth is 5.8 feet. More of the lake is less then 10ft. deep. Mike also understands that we can't treat. Paul stated that it's considered a native plant and in Michigan you can only treat a 100ft from shore in developed areas only and if it's a large lot, more then a 100ft of footage you are only allowed to treat a 100ft at a time. Its 100ft from shore or 5ft depth, whatever comes first. So, we can use a chemical treatment on Wild Celery for about 15 acres? Paul states yes and the treatment can stunt the growth of Celery and if you time it right it will keep it from flowering. Its not cheap and it will not kill it but will keep the growth down. Ron Taylor asked what the cost difference is between treating and harvesting? Paul said it's a little cheaper to harvest. Its within a $100.00 an acre. Mike Rajt asked could we also harvest the native weeds that we are seeing? Paul says that yes, they can be harvesting. Paul stated you need to keep a balance of plants for the fish but also for the food for the fish.
Mike Rajt asked Paul if his firm would be willing to help with the new 5-year assessment. Paul stated it's in the contract to help the Improvement board to put together a budget and preparing for public hearings.
Motion to work with Progressive to get a budget and prepare for a public hearing by Terry Walters and Seconded by Rick Dvorak. Terry asked when the hearing would be, and Paul stated in the summer so everyone can attend. Mike Rajt stated if the board can and to get maximum participation they would like to have the hearing Saturday, July 5th at 9:30am. at the POA meeting. Mike asks Paul if he has someone that will be able to attend that hearing? Paul stated yes and it would probably be Rick.

OLD BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Mike Hermann asked you can only harvest in 5ft. of water or greater? Mike Rajt said no. You can only chemically treat in less of 5ft. of water and 100ft of shore and it can only de developed areas. Mike H. you can harvest anywhere on the lake? Paul said yes as long the machine can get in there. They typically need 20 to 24 inches of water.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:28p.m.

Lucy Zeestraten

Respectfully submitted.
Lucy Zeestraten, Secretary,