

# WIXOM LAKE ASSOCIATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10 AM.

Board members present were: Larry Woodard-President, Rick McGibbon-Vice President, Mark Mudge-Treasurer, Susi Najmowicz-Secretary and Directors Bob Beltz, Bill Faust, Doug Hill, Dirk Meister, Gary Oliver, Dave Rothman and Don Zakett. Director Len Pytlak was excused. There were 7 members in attendance.

Everyone rose for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Larry proposed adding Social Committee pre-approved funds and adding a representative to the WLIB under New Business in the agenda. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the agenda as amended.

The minutes from the April 10, 2021 meeting were reviewed. The 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph on the second page should say \$28,500 not \$2,500 was spent by Billings Twp. Park & Rec. for new playground equipment. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes as corrected.

Susi reported we currently have 336 memberships. After reading various board members comments on line, she went back and did an individual name count of current members, resulting in a count of 500 individual members. She also has identified 44 members without email contact information.

Mark presented the Treasurer's Report. In April we received \$5,725.00 in dues and \$6,436.72 in donations. We had expenses of \$1,497.33. Our balance as of April 30<sup>th</sup> is \$69,457.09. He also indicated he wrote a check today for \$2,496.30 to reimburse payment for the lawn signs. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Larry said he's been trying to get the WLIB members back together. He has been in communication with Paul Hausler. He hasn't received a response from the members from Midland. Doug Enos has retired as Drain Commissioner and Larry has been appointed in his place. Rick said the Tobacco Weed Control program has stopped collecting the millage and is holding the funds they have in the bank. There were two different types of weed control programs operating on Wixom Lake. Tobacco Township collects an assessment for properties west of M-30. The WLIB assessment is paid on the tax bills then is transferred to the WLIB account managed by the Gladwin County Drain Commission. Billings Twp., Hope Twp., a small part of Edenville Twp., and Tobacco Twp. east of M-30 make up the WLIB. Hay Twp. is not part of the weed treatment program. No one knows if they can change the use of funds from treating aquatic weeds to the terrestrial weeds now growing in the lake bottom. People are allowed to mow the growth in front of their property. Burning is not an option—too dangerous. Edenville Twp. on Sanford Lake has diverted funds from weed control to erosion control. No one is sure how this was accomplished. Don indicated he would like to get appointed to the WLIB as the Tobacco Twp. Representative. A motion was made, seconded and approved supporting Don's appointment as Tobacco Twp. Representative to the WLIB.

Dave Rothman then presented the Four Lakes Task Force update:

Major topics

# WIXOM LAKE ASSOCIATION

- 1 year update for County Boards of Commissioners and Public
- Because FLTF got a Part 307 Lake Level Order, pursued a condemnation action and acted in the Boyce bankruptcy court proceeding:

\*FLTF took over control of all 4 dams & lakes in December 2020

\*The counties own the dams, lake bottoms and flowage rights

\*FLTF can plan and schedule restoration of the dams and lakes

## -Community Outreach

\*Public in-person meetings at each lake

\*Virtual meetings for the entire 4 lakes community

\*Quarterly FLTF open Board meetings

\*Series of educational videos/webcast/webinars

+Dam rebuilding plans

+Rebuilding costs and assessment work

+Flood and rain studies

\*A report on work done in the past year and the path forward will be issued this month—May 2021

+Report consists of a cover letter, a summary report (91 pages) and many Appendices (500-1000 pages)

covering the following topics, among others:

\*Major topic areas

+Schedule for repairing and restoring dams

++Secord & Smallwood—dam repairs—simple permitting

++Sanford & Wixom—dam reconstruction—complicated permitting

+Schedule for refilling lakes

++Secord & Smallwood- 2024

++Sanford- 2025

++Wixom- 2026

+Revised construction cost estimate—substantial reduction

++Total cost reduced from \$338MM to \$215MM

++Accomplished through engineering

+Community survey

++49%of surveys returned

++90% of people who returned surveys want the lakes back

++The majority of people who returned surveys are willing to pay a \$500+ assessment to get

the

lakes back

++The majority of people who returned the survey believe people outside the special

assessment

district should pay something to restore the lakes—and FLTF agrees!

+Near term projects

++FLTF stabilization of Secord, Smallwood and Sanford dams

++Stabilization of Edenville Dam

\*\*EGLE on Tobacco Side

\*\*FLTF on Tittabawassee side

++Flood studies

++River/lake/dam monitoring

++Shoreline erosion stabilization

# WIXOM LAKE ASSOCIATION

- ++Lake bottom debris removal plans
- ++Lake bottom new trees control
- ++Environmental studies
  - \*\*Freshwater mussels
  - \*\*Fishery studies
  - \*\*Sediment control
  - \*\*Endangered and threatened species
  
- \*\*Invasive species
- \*\*Recreational access
- ++Affordability study
- +Longer term projects
  - ++Complete engineering designs for the dams
    - \*\*Bigger spillways
    - \*\*Improved dam embankments
    - \*\*Automated gate controls
  - ++Secure financing for construction
    - \*\*USDA loans
    - \*\*Federal and state grants
- ++Re-establish the fishery

## Questions/comments:

Assessments are placed on property, not people.

Nobody knows what the assessments will be.

No assessments on this year's tax bill—will be on next year's bill.

FLTF is doing an affordability study.

You have the option to pay off an assessment.

Larry presented Doug Wheatly, board representative of the Albright Shores Eagles Club, a plaque in appreciation of their past and continued support of the Wixom Lake Association.

Dirk presented the Membership/Social Committee Report. The Social Committee's goal is to sponsor one event every month to rally the community around the lake. Their current calendar is: Membership Drives 5/12 and 5/26 at the Eagles, a Poker Run on 5/30, a Euchre Event in June, an Ice Cream Social @ the Billings Twp. Park 7/18, a Golf Outing in September and a Road Rally 10/16. Not all events are fundraisers—some are just for "fun". Laura will be publicizing the events on our website. He also announced the road signs are here—Gary Oliver has them.

Laura reported they are having problems with the new system we've adopted. Both her and Mark have been in contact with various people working to get the situations corrected.

The updated membership applications were reviewed. It was agreed to have 500 copies printed.

The executive board will meet after next month's BOD meeting to prepare for elections at the GMM in August. Larry is not running for President, Mark's term expired in '21—he will continue, Bob's term expired in '21—he's undecided, Bill's term expired in '21—he will continue, Dave's term expired in '21—he will continue, Susi will remain Secretary, Dick may remain Vice-President.

## **WIXOM LAKE ASSOCIATION**

Dirk proposed the board consider creating a pre-approved funds draw for the Social Committee to use for the events they sponsor. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve \$5,000 for merchandise purchase and create a \$2,500 revolving account that Dirk could draw from after contacting the President or Treasurer for approval. The motion was carried. Larry has discussed obtaining event insurance forms from our insurer.

Larry met with a lady at Juicy Bones who had contacted him with reference to the Lumberjack Picnic events held in the past. She had a copy of an article from the Michigan History Magazine (2009) describing the annual events held at Wixom Lake.

Dave agreed to write a newsletter to be sent to our members. Gary said he would contact Jordan Wowbray to get the camera links for the various cameras he has been installing around the lake.

Anyone wanting to organize a group to do clean up work on the lake bottom should contact the FLTF for guidelines and permits.

Laura won \$70 from the 50-50 drawing and donated the money to the WLA.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM.