

WIXOM LAKE ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

August 8, 2020

10:00 AM On-Line Meeting

Larry Woodard, President, introduced himself and wished everyone a good morning. He explained we were having a webinar meeting due to the COVID restrictions, and called the meeting to order.

He asked everyone participating to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A roll call of board members present was taken. Susi Najmowicz-Secretary was excused and Director Bob Beltz was there but temporarily muted. Dave Rothman volunteered to keep a record of all roll count votes.

Larry asked if there were any additions/deletions to the agenda. There were none. Len Pytlak moved to accept the agenda as presented and Dick McGibbon seconded the motion. A roll count vote was taken and the motion passed with 9 votes.

Larry explained we were reviewing the minutes from last year's Annual Membership Meeting (8/10/2019). No corrections/changes were suggested. Don Zakett moved the minutes be accepted as presented and Dave Rothman seconded the motion. A roll count vote was taken and the motion passed with 9 votes.

Mark Mudge presented the Treasurer's Report. Last year our income from dues, donations and interest was \$10,225.94 and our expenses totaled \$8,713.10. Our balance on 12/31/2019 was \$29,361.94. He then reviewed last month's activity. Our balance on 6/30/20 was \$50,987.61. July's income from dues, donations and interest totaled \$29,386.86 and expenses totaled \$29,301.98, leaving a balance on 7/31/20 of \$29,446.82. A year-to-date summary shows income of \$29,386.86, expenses of \$29,301.98 and a balance of \$29,446.82. Mark also reported we currently have 641 members. Don Zakett spoke up to explain the WLA donated \$25,000 to the FLTF with the agreement it would be used for Wixom Lake needs only. He read the statement from the FLTF confirming the agreement and signed by Dave Kepler. Our check was dated 7/11 and has been received and cashed by the FLTF.

Dick McGibbon began the Membership/Social Committee Report. The committee was put together in June to boost membership in a social setting and spread positivity in the community to fill the void left by the lack of lake and boating activity. Their first meeting in June—which approximately 75 people attended—created these events: a golf event September 26th at the Gladwin Heights Golf Course hoping to raise \$10,000; selling T-shirts and hats (raised \$3,000 so far); and an Ice Cream Social at the Billings Twp. Park that over 100 people attended and resulted in T-shirt sales of \$1,500 and 13 new members. Their goal is to sponsor monthly events. Their official site is Wixom Lake Social on Facebook. Larry thanked Dirk and his group for all their enthusiasm and efforts.

The Four Lake Task Force update was next on the agenda. Dave Kepler spoke first. He's spent the last month holding individual meetings with 10 different groups around the lakes focusing on 3 main areas: get the dams under County control, start stabilization and recovery work and rebuild the dams and lakes. They are working with the NRCS to deal with short-term erosion issues/situations. The NRCS is covering 75% of the cost involved. Because the dams were privately owned, neither FEMA nor the Army Corp of Engineers will provide services. They are working on ways to cover the last 25% of the cost. They've submitted 10 projects so far costing about \$12 million dollars. Boyce has filed for bankruptcy on the

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operating companies. There are lots of lawyers and lawsuits going on. Hopefully we'll have more clarity within 30 days. The focus is to re-establish the dams as quickly as possible. The next several months they will be looking for money sources, building strategies, etc. They'll have to re-engage with the flood study to add information from this latest flood to look at the frequency of a PMF. Over the last 30 years, the information is not matching. Financing funding is a large effort and they are working with all regulatory bodies and elected officials.

Dave Rothman began an update on the erosion situation. In June, the FLTF hosted 2 erosion engineering fairs for property owners to get information and advice. One was held at Meridian H. S. for Midland County residents and the other at Beaverton H. S. for Gladwin County residents. Over 200 property owners attended. The FLTF collected data for properties with erosion damage and/or access roads with erosion damage. All data from both counties was entered into the Midland County GIS system. If you attended either fair, your information is already in the system. The NRCS has about 14 engineers doing inspections/reports. The FLTF has volunteers to contact property owners with the results of inspections and cost estimates. The FLTF is encouraging people to contact them regarding their erosion problems. Their contact information is: kaylas@fourlakestaskforce.org - in your email include your name, property address, phone # and a brief description of your erosion concern or call the FLTF at 989-941-3005. Spicer Engineering is working on 5 sites with large scale property damage caused by erosion problems. One site involves 9 homes and about a half million dollars in total damage. They are preparing reports and turning them in. When they hear back, they will contact the property owners. While the NRCS is cost-sharing 75/25 of the expense, the homeowner should be prepared to pay 25%. Neighborhoods can work together to raise funds. Dave Kepler has been working hard to find money to help people with the 25% share of the cost. SBA has loans available with 1-1/4 to 2-1/2% interest rates. You can apply now in case you will need money for damage to structures on your property. Call the SBA at these numbers: 571-422-8013, 571-422-6016 or 571-422-0331. The deadline to apply for either a SBA loan or FEMA aid is September 8, 2020—the Tuesday after Labor Day. The sooner you apply, the better.

Don Zakett began the weed update. We've seen the development of rapid, very heavy weed growth in shallow bays, in canals and silty bottoms. The first slide showed cockleburrs growing on the right and a large central areas of common terrestrial weeds. The second slide showed a large area covered in terrestrial weeds. The third slide showed a large area of aspen seedling growth in the lakebed and moist soil areas. There is approximately 6 or 7 seedlings per square foot or 300,000 per acre. In 5 years, the trees will be 10 to 15 feet tall. Now is the time we need to control the new types of growth in the lakebeds. The FLTF has been talking to the DNR, NRCS, Lake Improvement Boards and Townships looking for the best information on how to deal with them. Don will be meeting with the WLIB this coming week to discuss the new situation/problems. Any chemical treatment requires an EGLE permit. Currently, the bottomland is still owned by Boyce Hydro; any treatment probably will not occur until next year.

Larry explained the board will not be holding our annual member election due to the current situation. Rosemary Malott has indicated she will be leaving her position on the board. All other board members and the executive committee have agreed to extend their position one year. Larry moved Doug Hill fill the open position. A roll count vote was taken and the motion passed with 10 votes. If anyone is interested in applying for a position on the board, applications will be available at all events.

Larry then opened the meeting to questions from the public. The following information is the result of the questions/discussions.

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1. Due to the recent order from Governor Whitmer, we had to change to an online format. The FLTF has a lot of experience conducting electronic meetings, so we are using them as a resource to host the meeting. Kayla agreed to help run the meeting.
2. Mark Mudge is the Treasurer of the WLA and the FLTF and, also, a representative from Hay Twp. on both boards.
3. To order T-shirts or caps, go to the Wixom Lake Social Facebook site.
4. We cannot use the Army Corp. of Engineers because the dams are privately, not federally, owned and don't fall within their guidelines/mission.
5. GEI Hydro is a consultant on our project and Spicer Engineering is the oversight engineer on the project because they have the knowledge necessary for surveying the area and ability to bring in other companies (sub-contractors) when necessary.
6. Gladwin County, as well as all four lakes, is eligible for erosion support. Reports are coming in from all the lakes.
7. FEMA and SBA loans only apply for damages to a primary residence or the road to access a primary residence. NRCS money deals with erosion problems and is not limited to a primary residence.
8. You should check with your insurance company to see if they will cover any/all of the 25% expense for damage to property.
9. The FLTF is working on damage to the bottomlands of both Sanford Lake and Wixom Lake (including the area of Wixom Lake in Midland County).
10. If your boat hoist or docks are sitting on the lake bottom by your seawall, you can make arrangements to get it back on your shoreline. If they were washed away, they are now "debris" and will be cleared out of the lake bottom.
11. Do not put buildings, swimming pools, etc. on the lake bottom.
12. If you want to plant grass for erosion control, they recommend "tall fescue", also known as Kentucky 31, be planted from now until the end of October. If planting next spring, use "little bluestem" or "large bluestem" or other choices on the FLTF website.
13. There must be a design engineering plan in place to get interim financing. They hope to have a feasible plan and financial strategy by March. They are working to get special assessment funding in place by 2022.
14. With about 100 members calling in, they were muted to eliminate the amount of white noise that would have been generated and prevented anyone from being able to hear.
15. While the FLTF is focused on repairing the dams and bringing back the lakes, the community needs to support and work with them regarding planning and financing. Affordability and safety are critical issues.
16. The assessment district has about 8,000 parcels and 6,000 homeowners across all four lakes.

Dave opened the discussion to any comment from the board members. A discussion began regarding information Ron Hansen gave regarding cost estimates based on full PMF or ½ PMF during the last two FLTF webinars. The last PMF study was done in 1994 and changes as more information is available, time passes, numbers change, etc. The State of Michigan has a ½ PMF requirement. Power generation doesn't look feasible but is still on the table.

Larry thanked everyone for being members and donating to the WLA and the FLTF. He also thanked Rose Malott for her years of service on the WLA board.

Bob Beltz took a few minutes to explain that Boyce Hydro filed for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11. This is a re-organization move so they can keep some control of what they have, not a straight

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bankruptcy. It is another effort to slow the process down and they will probably have to file straight bankruptcy later. The FLTF and WLA cannot do anything without a condemnation order taking place. Boyce itself is worthless. The collectable entity is the Boyce Trust. There are many lawsuits pending against many parties/entities. It will take a long time, possibly years, to process.

Dave moved we adjourn and Don seconded the motion. A roll count vote was taken and the motion passed with 10 votes. Watch our website and Facebook for updates on our September 12th meeting.