

# WIXOM LAKE ASSOCIATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 12, 2022

Doug called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Everyone rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present were: Doug Hill-President, Dirk Meister-Vice President (via phone), Mark Mudge-Treasurer, Susi Najmowicz-Secretary and Directors Bill Faust, Bryan Gardner (late), Tami O'Donnell, Gary Oliver, Dave Rothman, Larry Woodard and Don Zakett (late). Director Len Pytlak was absent. Five people were also in attendance.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the agenda as presented. Terry Hall, the Edenville Twp. Supervisor, rose to thank the various board members that had provided help to get the permitting process started.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes from the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Mark began the Treasurer's Report with a recapitulation of the last four months. Our income totaled \$19,206.45 and expenses were \$9,941.81 for a net total of \$9,264.64. Last month, our checking balance was 4,648.77 and savings was \$91,259.64—for a total of \$95,908.41. The concert made \$4,438 (paid \$1200 for the band). Money for the upcoming golf outing has begun coming in and \$248 has come in so far for the Poker Run. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Susi reported we currently have 356 paid memberships and 585 individual members. Also, a flyer was mailed to the 83 members without email detailing the upcoming Membership Happy Hour, Family Fun & Marketplace, Poker Run and Music Bingo events. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Secretary's Report.

Dirk provided the Social Committee update via phone. He attended the concert at Northern Lanes and had a good time. Help is need for the Memorial Day events. Sign-in sheets are available here on the table for anyone to volunteer to help. They will also be looking for help at the Golf Outing in September. This event takes a lot of legwork getting flyers out, supporting vendors, publicizing, etc. Any and all help is appreciated. Larry asked how the park staff could help on Memorial Day. Since Brad Ervans is in charge of that event, they'll have him contact Larry.

Doug updated the lakebed clean-up activities. Scott called and said he'd be here this weekend and available to work. Our focus is now working on clearing the 40-50' out from seawalls. Word is spreading about what we've been doing and other groups/lake associations are interested in duplicating our success.

Tami reminded everyone about the Happy Hour tomorrow at the Eagles. It's being held outside and live music will be provided. Lawn signs, raffle tickets and merchandise will be available.

Don Zakett began the FLTF update. The FLTF is working to develop a uniform approach to treating the plant growth in the lake bottom. They have selected PLM to be their treatment applicator. PLM has been doing aquatic treatments on the lakes for several years and is very familiar with the area. They have applied for four permits to treat woody (trees) and vegetative growth and will hold the permits in their

## WIXOM LAKE ASSOCIATION

name. Other contractors weren't willing to do that and the FLTF cannot do that under their guidelines. They have identified aerial contractors and have set a timeline for late August/September—after Labor Day and before the first frost. They

are working with the WLIB on the Tittabawassee side. The WLIB voted last year to use their surplus funds for treating the terrestrial vegetation. There is no final decision yet on chemical and mechanical treatments. The chemical herbicide to be used is Corteva. Dow is willing to donate the chemical. The EPA has approved Corteva and certified its use across the country, but the State of Michigan requires additional certification. The decision is imminent from EGLE to approve this chemical. Secondary approval has been “in process” since last fall. The Tobacco side is avoiding chemicals and wants to use mechanical methods.

As part of the permitting to rebuild the Edenville Dam, EGLE requires the FLTF to provide very detailed plans and mapping. Low spots in the drained lake bottom have stayed moist and are now “new” wetlands. The FLTF has to map how many new wetlands have formed, how many will be destroyed when the lake refills and prove they will destroy fewer in the lake bottom than they rehydrate in the surrounding areas. They have also installed 10 wells in the last 5 days (4 to 5 feet deep).

Dave said flood debris on the lake bottom behind Sanford Dam was removed in 2020. They've also removed flood debris from Sanford Park, River Trails Heritage Park and the river. They will be removing flood debris all this summer and part of the winter in Wixom Lake. The State of Michigan gave EGLE 3 million dollars for flood debris work.

The report from the forensic team has been completed and released. The report is 502 pages long; consisting of 144 pages of narrative, a summary found at the beginning and an appendix at the end containing resumes of the 5 people on the team. It was a very experienced and impressive team that has done work on a global scale. Boyce was ordered to put a team together but didn't, so FERC assembled the team. They studied why the dam failed, how it failed and identified mistakes made along the way. They determined the dam was not built according to the original design, there was no compacting of materials and the downstream slope should have been built 2 to 1 but was built steeper than that. The dam was a problem waiting to happen since it was built. The technical term for what happened is “static liquidfaction”—part of the downstream slope liquefied and gave way. The FLTF is rebuilding the dams so this can't happen again.

People are claiming “facts” not there. When all the dams were built, they had big tall gates designed to open 10 feet. But the lifting mechanisms were only capable for 7-8 feet and the Edenville Dam could only lift gates 6 feet. The gates at the other dams had been replaced but not yet at Edenville. A study to determine what would have happened if the lake level had been 4 feet lower determined it wouldn't have made a difference. These were power producing dams not flood control dams.

The summary of the report is written for general public understanding. The report found wrong material in the subsurface—an impermeable core was not there. Beach sand is round and doesn't compact well. Sand from lakes and rivers has rough edges, making it good for compacting. The work being done on the upstream side on M-30 east of the bridge shows where a water impermeable layer has been added. The FLTF received nice comments in the report for the work they were doing to prevent this from happening again. If you're looking for good information, read the report summary.

## WIXOM LAKE ASSOCIATION

Doug is still compiling information regarding purchasing equipment to be used in clean-up projects. What to purchase? How much to spend? Scott has the equipment needed to work in the canals when they are dry or in the winter when they are frozen. Don said the window to deal with the woody trees is closing. Some are already 16 feet tall with trunks 3 inches round. Dave said we cannot use woodchippers but we can leave mulch left by other machines.

Don said the FLTF and WLIB are working on the lakes. Restore Our Lakes is doing a good job communicating in layman's terms what is going on. They'll be meeting next Wednesday at the Secord Twp. Hall after the meeting and again at 7 PM. Their website is [RestoreOurLakes.org](http://RestoreOurLakes.org).

The Canal Committee did a lot of clearing last winter and will be working in the canals again this coming winter. Don said the WLIB, Progressive A&E and PLM are also including analysis of the canals (only regarding vegetation growth not dredging).

Tami gave an update of visitors to our website. In the last 30 days, we've received referrals off [Midland.com](http://Midland.com), Northern Lanes' website and the FLTF website.

Doug reported he's received an email from Len Pytlak indicating he is willing to step down from the board. Doug introduced Liz Seelhoff (on video) as a possible candidate for his position. Liz said she's a Midland resident, a nurse at MI Health and grew up a block from the Sanford Lake Dam. She currently has a cottage on Wixom Lake.

Don asked Bryan for an update on the real estate situation on Wixom and Sanford Lakes. Bryan said real estate rose 15% in the last 3 months. Sanford is back to pre-flood figures, Wixom Lake is short of that and Sugar Springs is up 100%. There is not much stock available. The lack of high speed internet in some areas is an issue.

Larry said he is glad to be back.

Mark announced the Gladwin County Clean-Up is this weekend from 9 to 2 at the Road Commission on N. State Street. The Highwood Road Bridge has steel on it. Remediation work removing soil is occurring down and up stream in the area and should be done by July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Karen Moore said conversations regarding broadband service will be held at the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and on May 24<sup>th</sup> at the WLIB meeting. She also explained the Gladwin Board of Commissioners is composed of only 5 members—thus a majority vote only requires support from 3 of the 5 members. All 5 commissioners are up for election in the same year. She's encouraging people to get out and vote in the August 2<sup>nd</sup> primary.

Tami was contacted by David Custer looking for people in our area who suffered damage in the flood and were in the recovery state. She had some people come to her home to be interviewed and then they went to other locations. The special will be airing on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM on WNEM TV5.

Dave reminded everyone that since the WLA is a 501(c)3 organization, we cannot be directly involved in political campaigns. The same is true for the FLTF.

# **WIXOM LAKE ASSOCIATION**

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.