

# WIXOM LAKE ASSOCIATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 21, 2022

Dirk called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Everyone rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes from the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Dirk reviewed the Treasurer's Report Mark had provided. As of March 31<sup>st</sup>—the checking account balance was \$3,013.03 and the savings account balance was \$88,959.64 for a total balance of \$91,972.67. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Susi reported we currently have 342 paid memberships and 569 individual members. Tami said she would create a coming events flyer Susi could send out to our members without email. Doug requested no additional membership cards be ordered for this year because they want to redo and redesign them for next year.

Dirk reviewed the upcoming Social Committee events. On April 30<sup>th</sup> Miranda and the M80's are performing at Northern Lanes in Sanford. There will be a Happy Hour from 4 to 7 on May 13<sup>th</sup> outdoors at the Eagles featuring a 2-man band. Amy spoke about the Poker Run/Family Fun & Marketplace events on May 28<sup>th</sup> at the Billings Township Park. The Poker Run takes place from 12 to 4. The Marketplace runs from 11 to 6 and features vendors, food trucks and bouncy houses. The other poker run Brad proposed featuring a beer tent is not sponsored by the WLA. Brad will have to take his proposal first to the park commissioners then to the township board for approval. There are 14 people on the Social Committee and everyone has an event they sponsor and run. Dirk and Doug are working on the golf tournament in September. The website has a sponsor page.

Dave began the FLTF update. On March 30<sup>th</sup>, Governor Whitmer signed the appropriations bill for \$250,000,000. Ten million will be used for engineering work, 190 million is designated toward the cost of rebuilding the dams and 15 million will go to EGLE. About 2/3 of the work on the shoreline has been completed. They hope to have it all finished this year. The removal of debris from the Sanford Lake bottomland will happen when the lake bottom becomes firm enough. There still is sediment removal work that needs to be completed.

The FLTF has started the process to establish the Special Assessment District (SAD), which will be billed on this year's winter taxes. Four preliminary days of hearings have already been held. They may schedule 2 more. The formal hearing for the SAD will be held in late June, then the two counties (Gladwin and Midland) have to approve it, and then the townships have to put it on the tax bills.

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A 3-day value engineer process was done on Wixom Lake. They looked at all four dams to identify ways to reduce the cost. Instead of using sheet pilings for stabilization they might put in cut-off walls, or adopt the method used with landfill base development. Work is still being completed on schedule and the overall cost estimate seems stable. However, no one can see the future regarding price increases.

The FLTF is changing the model for capital improvements. Originally, residents around each dam were to be billed for their dam's repairs/upgrades. The list of dams ranking from most expensive per capital to least would be: Smallwood, Edenville, Sanford and Secord. The task force has to develop a new model because of the money they are receiving from the State of Michigan and the state's expectations of how the task force will distribute payments for the work on all 4 of the dams. While the amount of frontage is still a consideration, water depth, quality, usability and line of vision will also be considered.

Dave is still looking for more outside funding. The task force is going to the federal government next looking for money based on the fact they failed to enforce their own rules. Last October 1<sup>st</sup>, Dave received a \$4,000 FEMA grant for 3 years. FEMA has a program for high impact dams that, in 2023, will have 4-5 million dollars available. Dave plans to reapply for money again. There may be more money available from the USDA. Many of these programs allow 2-3 years to put a plan in place, so time is available to look for more money.

Don has been working with the WLIB, SLIB and SLA regarding using their funds for removal of the growth in the lake bottomlands. He's also working on finding ways to control future growth. We need to find various ways—besides cutting and aerial spraying—to control the trees and vegetation in the lake bottomlands. Two other possible methods suggested were: using fire to burn the trees (very hesitant on using this option) or bringing in goats to eat everything (would need 20,000 goats).

We've put off any decision on purchasing equipment to be used when cleaning up the lake bottom. We need to concentrate on the first 50 feet of lake bottom from seawalls.

Clean up in the canals is a special case handled differently from other areas. While the ground is frozen, cleaning them up has gone very well.

Tami reported 81 members were engaged in the March Membership event. Five people won gift cards for our store. In the last 30 days, there's been a 70% increase in views of our website by various methods. Sales are up by 102% in the last 30 days. Doug suggested using the website of invite members to come to the meetings and get a lawn sign and also making them available at happy hours. Tami noted she received several kudos on the work the WLA has done cleaning up the lake bottom.

A volunteer appreciation event is being planned for October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Eagles. A rock show band has been secured for the event. A motion was made, seconded and approved allocating \$2,000 to cover costs for this event.

Dave mentioned that county commissioner elections are coming up. Because of our status as a 401(c)3, we cannot as a group support or oppose any specific candidate. Tami announced she is running for Gladwin County Commissioner for District 3.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

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