

**WALLED LAKE
LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

The meeting of the Lake Improvement Board for Walled Lake was held at the Novi Civic Center Council Chambers. **The meeting was called to order by Tina Miller, Chair, at 2:03 PM.**

Present:

Tina Miller, Riparian Owner Representative (Chair)
Megan Mikus, City of Novi Representative (Secretary-Treasurer)
Dennis O'Rourke, City of Walled Lake Representative
Ajay Raman, Oakland County Board of Commissioners' Representative
Karen Warren, P.E.; Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner's Representative

Also Present:

Katherine Oppermann, City of Novi, Assistant to the City Manager
Mark Roberts, Attorney, Secrest Wardle
Matt Novotny, Savin Lake Services, Operations Manager
Jerry Anderson, 127 S Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake, MI
Kristin Corbett, City of Novi, Deputy Assessor
Mindy Fernandes, City of Walled Lake, Council Member

Public Comment: None

Approval of September 14, 2023 Minutes

Moved by O'Rourke, Supported by Raman

CARRIED 5-0: To approve the minutes of the September 14, 2023 meeting.

Treasurer's Reports

Treasurer/ Member Mikus started with the 2023 Annual Financial Report, stating that the Balance on Hand at the end of the 2023 year was \$167,028.05. She noted that the lake treatment was significantly less than the budgeted amount, resulting in an increase to reserves. Additionally, the EGLE Permit Fee was not invoiced until January 2024 and as such will be reflected on the 2024 Treasurer's Report.

Member Mikus then moved on to the 2024 Treasurer's Report, which is currently through September 1, 2024. The balance on hand is \$187,722.07.

Moved by Raman, Supported by O'Rourke

CARRIED 5-0: To receive and file the 2023 Annual Financial Report and 2024 Treasurer's Report for activity through September 1, 2024.

Approval to reimburse the Chair to attend educational trainings

Chair Miller presented a request for reimbursement for the Michigan Lake Stewardship Association's (MSLA) Conference held from April 26-27, 2024.

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She updated the Board on her main takeaways from the conference. Her first point was on mute swan control, a matter previously discussed at a Lake Association meeting, their two options on the issue are: petitioning shoreline owners (potentially by having the Lake Improvement Board pay for postage and mailers) or provide a resolution from an elected local government official who represents the property owners on the body of water that approves mute swan control for that site. She wanted to share this information on measures that can be taken to remove swans from the lake as she believes we will see the mute swans return to the lake in the fall.

Another small point is about Michigan septic solutions. Michigan is the only State on the nation without a Uniform Statewide Septic Code. Local Sanitary Codes determine guidelines for types of systems/installations but do not provide a way to evaluate performance. Septic Systems can contribute to poor water quality so, while she is unsure how many septic systems exist on the lake, she thought it important to bring up.

Moved by Mikus, Supported by O'Rourke

CARRIED 5-0: To reimburse Chair Miller \$874.90 for the educational trainings she attended and associated membership.

Receipt of insurance coverage for the Board and discussion about renewal

Member Mikus stated that the last Board meeting, they discussed having liability coverage for the Board, the first time doing so. At that time, she obtained a quote and worked with the Board Attorney and insurance broker to obtain coverage for the Board Directors & Officers only, as recommended. She reported on the fees paid for 2024 and the estimated 5% increase expected to the coverage cost for 2025, for the same amount of coverage. She asks if the Board would like to renew the current coverage policy, with the same exposure, for 2025.

Chair Miller stated that she appreciates the forethought in obtaining the coverage, looking out for all members of the Board, and approves of the expense as well as the expected increase for renewal.

Moved by O'Rourke, Supported by Warren

CARRIED 5-0: To receive the 2024 board insurance coverage and the 2025 renewal, to budget up to \$3,100 to renew the 2025 rate and exposure.

Certification of Delinquent Assessment Reports from Walled Lake and Novi

Treasurer/ Member Mikus reported that the City of Walled Lake paid the 2023 Walled Lake Improvement Board Assessment in full on June 12, 2024, in the amount of \$37,402.77. The City of Novi reports that a total of \$1,970.73 is delinquent from 18 parcels for the City of Novi. The interest accrued through September 1 for Novi delinquent payments is

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\$59.14. She also explained the payment process for the City of Walled Lake and that they pursue any delinquencies directly through the County.

The Board Attorney informed the Board that a motion from the Lake Board is necessary to certify the delinquent amounts plus interest for the City Assessing official for each City.

Moved by Raman, Supported by O'Rourke

CARRIED 5-0: To certify the delinquent assessment reports received from the City of Novi and to turn them over to the City Assessor of Novi.

Moved by Raman, Supported by O'Rourke

CARRIED 5-0: To certify the delinquent assessment reports received from City of Walled Lake and to turn them over to the City Assessor of Walled Lake.

Discussion of 2024 Treatment Review & Water Quality Report by Savin Lake Services

Chair Miller requested that the representative from Savin Lake Services speak first on the treatments to date and to then to discuss the request regarding fall treatment.

Matt Novotny, Operations Manager from Savin Lake Services presented to the Lake Board. He started with testing results based on the Spring analysis as Fall has not been received back yet. Overall, phosphorus is down, and water clarity is near normal values (improved over recent years). The area of some concern is Conductivity, which is an F grade. Conductivity detects the capacity of water to conduct an electric current. More importantly, however, it measures the amount of materials dissolved in the water, since only dissolved materials will permit an electric current to flow. He stated that Walled Lake had the highest level that Savin has measured though he also noted that the numbers have slowly been going down over 10 years, but that they still remain very high. Everything else has very good values, except Secchi Disc Depth which, for reasons currently unknown has been decreasing, a trend which should be paid attention to though it is a consideration relative to other health measurements for the lake. Chair Miller spoke on her own citizen science measurements of Secchi Disc Depth and agreed that the Board should continue to pay attention to it.

Member Raman asked about the consequences/impact of the high conductivity. Mr. Novotny said that, on a lake of the size of Walled Lake, it would be hard to say if there would be any consequences within our or the next lifetime. He noted risks of high salinity and thermal climb, which he saw in a smaller lake in years past. Mr. Novotny also affirmed that he will be consulting with an expert on both this topic and other questions Chair Miller had in order to report back to the Board.

Member Raman also asked if it would be worth testing to determine the actual content of the dissolved materials, especially to find out how much might be resulting from road salt. Mr. Novotny agreed that it could be useful to measure and have firm information to report back to the community. He also stated that he is not an expert and does not know

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what the options, if any, for treatment to improve the conductivity would be at this time. Chair Miller thinks that, regardless, getting a baseline would be useful.

Mr. Novotny then went into the specifics of the 2024 lake treatments and Savin Lake Service's recommendations for a treatment plan/projected cost for 2025. In 2024, they predominantly used a Diquat + ProcellaCOR EC Combination, but it did not decrease the Eurasian Watermilfoil as much as hoped for long-term systemic control. He believes using standalone ProcellaCOR EC in the future would be more effective, albeit more expensive (approximately 3x more costly). The relative difficulty of treating Starry Stonewort, especially in relation to it growing in deep water, was also discussed. Additionally, Mr. Novotny noted that he does not expect the Curly Leaf Pondweed to expand any further than it has.

In response to Chair Miller's inquiry about a fall treatment, Mr. Novotny stated that the two optimal times for the systemic standalone treatment are early spring and early fall/late summer. Chair Miller thinks that a fall treatment could have an impact on the Eurasian Watermilfoil, particularly in the shallower areas of the lake. She proposes that this year, with the right temperatures and low traffic, would be ideal to reach into the reserves to pay for this additional treatment. Mr. Novotny noted that the fall treatment could have a notable impact for next year and potentially beyond. That said, the figure he quoted for Chair Miller is not firm, only per Prescription dosage unit (PDU) which will need to be determined. The total cost would depend on the budgeted amount and would also ultimately affect the 2025 Plan costs as they would not re-treat the same area again in Spring.

Member Mikus asked, from a Lake Treatment perspective, if Spring or Fall would be better for treating the area. Mr. Novotny said that he would say Spring is better, but that they have done many effective Fall treatments. The lower biological activity makes Spring slightly more effective. He also noted that he would not recommend splitting up a bed, a larger treatment area and treating a whole bed in its entirety is better. Member Mikus suggested potentially testing by treating the smaller northern section in fall.

The Board Attorney suggested that, in the contemplation of a budget amendment, the Board should determine a firm number that they can budget for. Member Mikus also noted that it would have to be determined if the cost should be reflected in the 2024 or 2025 budget year.

When prompted for a Fall treatment of the northern section "do not exceed" budget number, Mr. Novotny suggested \$30,000 for 10 – 15 acres (at approx. \$2,000.00 per acre). Given the remaining approximate \$11,800 remaining reported by Treasurer/Member Mikus this would be a budget amendment of \$19,000.

Moved by Miller, Supported by O'Rourke

CARRIED 5-0: To approve a Fall Herbicide Treatment for Walled Lake not to exceed \$30,000.00 and amend the budget for the \$19,000.00 difference.

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Discussion of 2025 Treatment Recommendations by Savin Lake Services

Member Mikus noted that for the May 2025 Treatment recommendations, the Board will need to determine if they want to budget for treatment of 50-acres of standalone ProcellaCOR EC or the Diquat + ProcellaCOR EC Combination. Mr. Novotny noted that treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed would still take place regardless but that it might be done at a different time or in a different fashion. Chairperson Miller suggests staying with the current 2025 suggestions as written. This would be a budget of about \$100,000.00 for the 2025 year.

Consideration of renewal with Savin Lake Services for 2025 Lake Treatment Services

Moved by Mikus, Supported by Warren

CARRIED 5-0: To approve the lake treatment services contract renewal with Savin Lake Services for the 2025 calendar year (reaffirming the original 2022 proposal, as a 1-year extension).

Discussion of budgeting for a Biobase study or studies for 2025 to 2030

Chair Miller noted that this study is needed roughly every five years and that it was last performed in 21/22.

Mr. Novotny stated that this is a hydroacoustic study that produces three maps: a depth contour map, a bottom hardness map (shows relative hard/soft, or muck/sand), and a vegetation heatmap/biovolume map. The third map is especially useful from a lake treatment perspective as it shows you exactly where the weed beds are in the lake. The study would be a one-time cost of \$4,000.00.

Member Mikus asked if this study would be useful to have for the next project term (2026 – 2030), to which Mr. Novotny agreed that yes, it would be.

Member Mikus stated that with that information she would support budgeting an additional \$4,000.00 for the biomass study on proposed 2025 budget line for Harvesting and Herbicide Treatments (including studies and surveys).

Approval of 2025 Budget

Moved by O'Rourke, Supported by Raman

CARRIED 5-0: To approve the proposed 2025 Budget, adding \$4,000.00 to the Harvesting and Herbicide Treatments (including studies and surveys) Line.

Discussion of Project Renewal (Years 2026 to 2030)

Member Mikus reported that the last Project Term started in 2020. To renew the project for another term the Tax Roll would need to go on the December 2025 at the latest.

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The Board discussed the details regarding this process. They will need to meet to finalize project costs and a loose budget in order to refer it to the Assessors so that they can prepare the roll. A Public Hearing would then need to be scheduled and advertised to meet legal requirements.

With consideration given to the City Assessor schedules, it was tentatively planned to have a March/April 2025 meeting. Treasurer/Member Mikus will reach out around mid-February to schedule the meeting.

Public Comment - None

Other Business

Member O'Rourke informed the Board that Mr. Galloway recently had a stroke. He has been in contact with his daughter, who he knew growing up. Mr. Galloway had a large number of maps and riparian paperwork that his daughter would like to pass onto the Lake Board. Member Mikus said she could drop off the materials at the Department of Public Works or City Hall.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Lake Improvement Board;
Member Mikus made a motion to adjourn, supported by Member Warren, all were in favor. The meeting was **adjourned at 4:01 pm.**



Megan Mikus
Secretary/Treasurer