

**WALLED LAKE
LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2020**

The meeting of the Lake Improvement Board for Walled Lake was held electronically utilizing the video/audio conferencing platform Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Tina Miller, Chairperson, at 7:02 pm.

Present:

Tina Miller, Riparian Owner Representative (Chairperson)
Megan Mikus, City of Novi Representative (Secretary-Treasurer)
Karen Warren, Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner's Representative
Casey Ambrose, City of Walled Lake Representative
Gwen Markham, Oakland County Board of Commissioner's Representative

Also, Present:

Victor Cardenas, City of Novi, Assistant City Manager
Mark Roberts, Attorney, Secrest Wardle

Public Hearing

Chair Miller went over the rules of order for the public hearing and opened the public hearing.

Member Mikus received 10 written comments and read them into the record:

Comments submitted in writing:

Mark Rubinstein – 1316 East Lake Drive

Submitted - 8/29/2020 12:51:57 PM

My comments are shared by many of my neighbors. Who has the right of use with water crafts on walled lake?? There are too many boats on the lake owned by people not living on the lake or have deed rights to the lake. We all would like this stopped and by increasing money spent on property owned by the city by increasing our taxes is not correct. The lake is already over populated with people and boats and we want to know if anything can be done about that. If anyone can use the lake then increase the taxes to everyone who can use the lake not just the people who live on the lake who are being negatively impacted by the improvement of property that isn't private.

Gerald L Anderson - 127 S. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake, MI 49390

Submitted - 9/2/2020 11:07:25 AM

This letter is to confirm my past and future support of the efforts by the Walled Lake Improvement Board and the extension of the special assessment roll from 2021 through 2025. The ability of the cities of Walled Lake and Novi to come together and identify the issues of invasive weeds in Walled lake and act in a coordinated effort to solve the problem has been a success. Being a lakefront owner for 42 years, I have seen the changes before and after the milfoil and other invasive weeds were introduced to the lake. 11 years ago the lake was basically dead, with beach closing from Ecoli, to weeds so thick boating and swimming were restricted to a small area of the lake.Each

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Monday Walled Lake would send a front end loader to collect the large amount of weeds pulled from the lake. Today we have healthier lake for all to use. However great care must be taken to keep the gains we have made and continue our vigilance against the spread of Milfoil currently in the lake and other invasive species such as Curly Leaf and Starry Wart that we also treat for. We will never be able to completely control these weeds, at best we have the tools to contain them. To the members of city council for their support, and the tremendous amount of time and effort by the volunteers on the lake board, I offer my thanks

Allan McPhee - 913 E Walled Lake Dr.

Submitted - 9/8/2020 9:32:05 AM

I would rather see a usage based assessment. Everyone who has a boat on the lake would have to buy a annual pass (sticker) and have it place on their boat. Example, annual pass is \$125 and temporary one day passes \$50. Violators will be fined \$100 per occurrence. The cost could be adjusted to cover additional admin expenses incurred by the cities

Adam Virga - 142 Arvida Street, Walled Lake MI

Submitted - 9/8/2020 3:13:55 PM

The management of aquatic weeds needs to be executed in a more comprehensive manner. Currently the dead weeds are allowed to pile up along the lakeshore creating rotting masses of decaying vegetation. This is not sanitary nor healthy for the lake, wildlife, or the residents using the lake. It has been left up to a few individuals to cleanup the created mess with their own personal resources. The management plan needs to include removal of the poisoned weeds from the lake. I am not in agreement to pay additional taxes to create more of a mess. There needs to be a look at mechanical removal in lieu of poison, or mechanical removal of the poisoned weeds. And no it is not true that the boat traffic uproots the weeds. Thank You for your consideration.

Matt Matteson – 1679 Harbor Cv, Novi, MI 48377

Submitted - 9/8/2020 8:43:04 PM

On behalf of the board of directors at Harbor Cove Condominiums, the units located at 1677, 1679, and 1681 Harbor Cove should not be assessed at a rate of 0.75, as historically assessed, as they do not fit the description of "Waterfront condominium properties". They would fall under "Condominium parcels with lake access", and should be assessed at 0.1 unit of benefit as they fully fit the later description and do not fit their assessed description. Each of the three parcels is landlocked and does not have lakefront property. It is recommended that the proposed units of benefit is revised for these three parcels.

Adam Bell - 1309 East Lake, Novi, MI 48377

Submitted - 9/9/2020 12:49:40 PM

Why are the beaches/parks in either city not included as part of the Assessment District? Mercer Beach has roughly 275' of lakefront. Pavilion Shore Park has

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approximately 900' of Lakefront. Lakeshore Park has about 650' of Lakefront. The City of Novi also owns several parcels that are both Lakefront and Backlots, which neither are assessed. The State of Michigan owns a parcel that is in the Southeast corner of the lake that is not being assessed. Will you please explain why government owned land is exempt from the assessment?

Gary Zack - 359 South Lake Drive

Submitted - 9/9/2020 4:48:33 PM

I support the confirmation of the assessment role and the continuing treatment of Walled Lake for invasive species. The weeds have been worse this year than most other years. We have large amounts of weeds washing up on our shoreline (several lawn bags a week) and have had boat rudders and propellers fouled by weeds many times. I cannot imagine what it would be like without treatment and hope we can achieve better control next year. Gary Zack

Colleen Bouren – 1391 East Lake Drive

Submitted - 9/9/2020 6:01:19 PM

I do not want chemicals put into the lake. I have two small children and too often chemicals are deemed safe and then years later they are found to be toxic or cancer causing, especially to children. I find it amazing that my kids can swim in the lake the day after it is treated but my dog cannot drink from it for a week. It is an inland lake, not a pool, and therefore is supposed to have seaweed and other aquatic vegetation. I would support paying more for cutting and harvesting the vegetation.

Marilyn Boylan - 761 Walled Lake

Submitted - 9/9/2020 6:22:25 PM

After visiting Green Lake which has no weed problem it was disappointing to come back to Walled Lake. I realize the source is a little different but 10 years ago this was a beautiful lake. I feel both cities have not set rules and followed through with any they have made. For example stickers for Walled Lake boats and lot owners can have one summer guest. Novi lets any boat come in at Endwell. If boats were not moving from lake to lake we wouldn't be concerned about chemicals and money.

Jen Boylan - 919 Bluffton

Submitted - 9/9/2020 6:30:28 PM

I would like to say that the lake bottom and weeds elms worse than when this started. Also can we control the amount of pesticides put on the lawns and the salt put on the roads. We are only putting a bandaid on this problem. Can we look into more natural ways. I know when this first came up there were some more natural ways. Thanks.

Comments made in-person

Holly Romaya- 42800 W 14 Mile Rd., Walled Lake 48390

Me and my husband, we understand and are aware of the concerns of the lake and agree with the residents. And we are ok with paying more in taxes and fees to resolve the issues with the lake. Our only issue is that we have tried to get keys to a dock, and

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are unsuccessful and we were told nobody knows how to get keys.

John Duneske – 357 S Lake Dr

I pretty much agree with all the comments that have been made. The weeds were a little heavy this year on the lake than they have been in previous years. I don't know what happened with the control but something needs to be done with Savin in that respect. The only other question that I have I am very much in favor in paying the assessments we have, but based on what we were charged this year, looks like up to my lot up to that 95 feet, we are being charged \$196.34 and previously \$133.15, which is an increase of \$63 or about 48% year. Can you justify the increase the increase of the assessments? Thank you.

Public Hearing closed.

Consideration of Resolution Confirming the Assessment Roll

Move Markham, Supported Mikus: To approve the assessment roll and approve the resolution as submitted.

Chair Miller opened for discussion on the motion and the points brought up during public hearing.

Attorney Roberts: I don't know if either assessor is available but there was a comment received about 3 parcels in the Harbor Cove condominium complex claiming that they were improperly assessed and it sounds to me there was a comment about keys to a dock from Ms. Romaya. I don't feel that keys to a dock would fall within the Lake Board jurisdiction. That is not something that the Lake board would administer. I don't believe we could address that issue for her.

Chair Miller: For Matteson, written comment #5, they brought up that the parcels do not fulfill the description of them being waterfront condos. We could have the assessor look at that and then lead was already existing on the previous year, but may have comment on how that came to be.

Attorney Roberts: The Board has three options- reject the assessment roll altogether, send the roll back to the Assessors with specific comments, or accept the roll as submitted.

Member Mikus noted based on the previous and current assessment roll, the units of benefit did not change for these properties, and that the other properties in that condominium plan are all assessed at the same units of benefit. No action was taken.

Member Markham asked the Attorney to weigh in on the question about why the government-owned land is exempt from the assessment of the park lands and such.

Attorney Roberts: It is by statute. Any affected local governments are exempt from that

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because obviously the government doesn't have any money, it uses taxpayer money anyway, so they're exempted..

Member Markham: I would also like to address the question about lake access. This is a public lake anyone can use it. I agree that the boat launch down on Endwell is less than adequate. But that's what is there and anyone can use it. In fact, the Oakland County sheriffs use that little driveway to launch the sheriff's boat when they come to the lake. It is a public lake.

Member Mikus: Did you want to address the comment about the increase in the assessment?

Chair Miller: We had spoken to the lake services and the cost that will be increasing and we tried to come to an agreement about can we get an estimate for 5 year rather than see increase every year that might be unexpected. So we looked at the cost and we also had discussion about different approaches. There was interest in a less chemical approach and I think we ruled out harvesting. But there was more discussion about how to address it with less chemicals to maintain good integrity of the water quality as well as enjoyment of the lake. The cost of product services will be increasing.

Member Casey: If we go over the history of this assessment, I believe we started with a higher amount for the first five years and then found that we were able to manage the lake and our estimate going into the second five years was less because we didn't think we were going to need as much and then we ran into this situation to where we had to treat the lake more often. The cost of the chemicals went up. So this was just an adjustment for the next 5 years to prepare what it could possibly be. Maybe the Treasurer could give us a better report on those numbers, but that is what my memory recall.

Member Mikus agreed with Member Casey's comments.

Motion to accept the resolution and the assessment roll as presented.

Miller – yes

Ambrose – yes

Markham- yes

Warren – yes

Mikus –yes

Motion carried 5-0

Approval of Minutes of July 14, 2020 Meeting

Moved by Mikus, Supported by Ambrose, Miller, Markham, and Warren

CARRIED 5-0: To approval of minutes from July 14, 2020 meeting.

Treasurer's Report

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Moved Mikus; Supported Miller

CARRIED 5-0: To accept the Treasurer's report.

Certification of delinquent assessment reports from Walled Lake and Novi

Member Mikus: For the City of Walled Lake, they paid the full assessment amount on May 28. Therefore, there were no delinquent assessments to report. For the City of Novi, there was a total of 25 parcels that were delinquent so once you add the interest accrued from February to September 1, you have interest of \$117.37 and the delinquent assessment of \$1955.72.

Moved by Mikus, Supported by Markham

CARRIED 5-0: To accept the certification of delinquent assessments.

Treatment Update

Chair Miller: I have been in contact with Savin Lake Services. Since our last meeting, I have spoken with them three times in August and again in September. We find that we may be slightly short on treating the fall acreage. There have been inquiries on how to treat the lake with less chemicals, and we are trying to find out what would be the most effective and cost efficient. It is still under investigation, and I will present more once I have more information. The most recent treatment was August 31 and then another treatment is scheduled in September, which is when a fall survey will be completed. Chair Miller went on the lake where proposed treatment is planned for September and confirmed there are weeds, which could be hybrid/ Eurasian Milfoil. A fall treatment is necessary because Eurasian Milfoil can survive under the ice. Some of the weeds Chair Miller pulled up showed evidence that starry stonewort is dying back in the areas that we treated in late August.

Member Markham: Asking about the commenter who asked about weeds being harvested and ending up in their front yards. Is there a process as to how those are to be collected? Are they dropped back into the lake or are the homeowners expected to pull them out and put them away with yard waste?

Member Ambrose: This was the first time in probably 10 years that we have had an issue with the weeds. He believes it is because of the fluctuation in temperatures and the low lake level due to the lake of rain. This year Walled Lake did a special pickup while the beach was closed.

Chair Miller: On the Novi side, she does have weeds as well that she pulls out, lets them dry out, and puts out with lawn waste. It should be assumed that is just part of the maintenance of your yard. But it was really nice that Walled Lake did that.

Chair Miller noted that the weeds are not from the dieback by the treatment. The Eurasian watermilfoil does have a fragmentation period where they drop off and that's the way it spreads its seeds. And there is an awful lot of boat traffic, I think that does it. Even pulling up anchors can distribute weeds. Harvesters on the other hand would

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cause an awful lot of fragmentation, and then, the milfoil would be carried to other areas and just start growing again.

Member Markham noted she was at Pavilion Shore Park recently with the Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner and he said that Walled lake is really clear compared to other Oakland County lakes. He felt that the lake was really in good shape.

Consideration of the budget amendment for additional treatment.

Chair Miller thinks we are going to be in need of a little bit more than the 24 acres that was projected. She is asking for an amendment in the budget of an additional 10 acres of coverage, which would take it from the planned 24 acre treatment to a 34 acre treatment. The cost of treating per acre is \$665.08. That would bring the budget amendment that I'm presenting to \$6650.

Moved Ambrose, Supported Markham

Miller – yes

Ambrose – yes

Markham- yes

Warren – yes

Mikus –yes

Carried 5-0: To approve a budget amendment for treatment for \$6650.

Public Comment

No comments were made.

Public comment ended.

Other Business

Chair Miller has been in contact with Midwest Glacial Lakes grant program. There were several topics that she might explore, such as improving fishing, spawning habitat, runoff lawn fertilizers and the street salts, added enzymes to promote the decomposition that reduce the organic sediment in the lake. Those are several categories that I am looking at

ADJOURNMENT: There being was no further business to come before the Lake Improvement Board; the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.



Megan Mikus
Secretary/ Treasurer