

**WALLED LAKE  
LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 14, 2020**

In accordance with Executive Order 2020-129, this meeting was held remotely. The meeting was called to order by Tina Miller, Chairperson, at 2:03 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  
Angela Maynard, City of Novi, Customer Service Representative

**Public comment:**

There were no public comments at this time.

**Minutes of February 27, 2020 Meeting**

**Moved by Mikus, Supported by Warren;**

**Yeas: Markham, Warren, Ambrose, Miller, Mikus**

**Nays: None**

**CARRIED 5-0: To approve the revised 2 version of the minutes of the February 27, 2020 meeting.**

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer/ Member Mikus presented the Quarter 1 Treasurer's Report through March 31 and the Quarter 2 Treasurer's Report through June 30. The balance on hand as of June 30 was \$152,767.11.

**Moved by Mikus, Supported by Ambrose;**

**Yeas: Markham, Warren, Ambrose, Miller, Mikus**

**Nays: None**

**CARRIED 5-0: To accept Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Treasurer's Report.**

**Treatment Update**

Chairperson Miller noted that she was in communication with Savin Lake Services on June 12 and June 16, where they expressed they had found far more invasive weed growth than they anticipated; so, they requested a second treatment be applied. The second treatment was applied June 22. She spoke with them again on July 13, and they anticipate doing a visual assessment on Friday, July 17 with a planned treatment

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on Wednesday, July 22. This will benefit the riparian owners by giving them the earliest notice possible. The weather should not interfere with the planned treatment, except if there is high winds.

Member Mikus asked overall how did Savin Lake Services find the lake this year. Chairperson Miller replied Savin Lake Services was limited by COVID-19 restrictions, so going onto the water was delayed. Then, there was a sudden change in weather. The initial assessment did not show a lot of cold water weed growth, but then there was a bump in temperature. When Savin Lake Services reassessed on the date of treatment, they were surprised in the resurgence of the Eurasian milfoil in particular. Savin Lake Services suggested another treatment, or we would be looking at the lake conditions similar to when we first started treating for invasive weeds. Chairperson Miller said she and the President of LAHA had noticed a reduction in weeds and algae since the second treatment. Member Ambrose said he did notice more Eurasian milfoil on the lake, but understands why after Chairperson Miller's explanation.

**New Special Assessment Roll**

Member Mikus said based on the Board's discussion at the February 27 meeting, she had made some adjustments to the projected five-year budget that would reduce the overall assessment costs. As requested, she removed the lake management fees line and left of balance for contingencies between 10% and 15%, which is around \$76,000. This results in the assessment increasing about 47%. The increase is due to the higher treatment costs and in the last project renewal, the Board used the entire balance to reduce the overall assessment 30%. Chairperson Miller asked for clarification on what applying entire balance meant. Member Mikus said in the last renewal, the Board decided to not budget any contingency and instead applied any remaining balance amount towards reducing the assessment.

Member Mikus said Wednesday, September 9 at 7 p.m. seemed to work for everyone's schedule for the next meeting, which includes the public hearing for the assessment roll.

**Moved by Markham, Supported by Ambrose;**

**Yeas: Markham, Warren, Ambrose, Miller, Mikus**

**Nays: None**

**CARRIED 5-0: To receive the proposed assessment roll and schedule it for a public hearing on the roll for September 9 at 7 p.m.**

Member Mikus asked Attorney Roberts to summarize for the Board what are the next steps for notifying the public prior to the public hearing. Attorney Roberts said public notices will be mailed and published. At the public hearing, you will be listening to comments from the public members. This is a public hearing, so it will be different than a public comment section. The importance is to keep track of who is voicing objections. If somebody mentions my assessment is for a lakefront property, but I am actually a back lot owner; if it is a mistake like that, this is something the Board can ask

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the assessor to address and amend if he determines that is correct. The other type of comment the Board may get is that we are not in agreement with the amount of the assessment; we think it's too high. You don't necessarily need to take any action on that, but it's important to note it because that would give the person making that objection the right to pursue an appeal to the tax tribunal. That is the importance of the public hearing. In order to go to the tax tribunal for any type of a challenge to the assessment, they need to speak or be heard, or at least submit a written objection at the public hearing on the assessment roll.

Chairperson Miller asked for additional clarification. Attorney Roberts replied it depends on the nature of the objection. If it's a factual inaccuracy like being included in the lakefront when you are not; then, that could be referred to the assessor. The public hearing is not a vote of the public; it is just to hear comments. After the public hearing is closed, the Board can discuss the statements that were made. If there are adjustments the Board feels are warranted, they can be made if necessary. Then, the Board can choose to not approve the roll, approve the assessment roll as submitted, or approve the assessment roll with amendments.

Member Mikus asked for some clarification from the Board Attorney on the remote meeting and public hearing procedures if they are extended.

Attorney Roberts said it's a little too early to say what things will be like in September. He will assist with the notices once the conditions are known.

**Public comment:**

There were no public comments at this time.

**Other Business:**

Chairperson Miller mentioned she had received from Member Markham information about grant opportunities through the Midwest Glacial Lake Partnership. She said she would look into it with Savin Lake Services and if applicable, she would bring it back to the Board.

Member Markham said the Water Resources Commissioner is promoting alternative shorelines that are actually rain gardens as opposed to walls or barriers or even grass out to the water. Rain garden would be about 15-20 feet wide between the water line and where the yard might start. She suggested the Board ask the Water Resources Commissioner to attend one of our meetings to talk. She said she can look into if there is any funding for that. If there are grants, the Board can make individual homeowners aware of them.

Member Markham said the County Board has approved the purchase of a boat washing system, which will be portable and will be administered by the County Parks. The intention is this will travel around to different lakes. It's not available this year, but

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next year if there is going to be a big fishing tournament, we might want to schedule the boat washing station to be at the launch to clean the boats as they come in and out and to educate the boaters about the new state law passed last year. Member Ambrose said he will make note to schedule it for next year's fishing tournament.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being was no further business to come before the Lake Improvement Board; the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 PM.

The Board's next meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

  
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Megan Mikus  
Secretary/Treasurer

