

STATE OF MICHIGAN

WASHTENAW COUNTY
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

SPECIAL MEETING
FIRST PUBLIC HEARING
NORTH LAKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2022
5:30 p.m.

Broadcasted from: Dexter Township Hall
6880 Dexter-Pinckney Road
Dexter, Michigan 48130

BOARD MEMBERS:
ANDREW SCHMIDT, Chair
LAUREN SMITH, Vice-Chair
EVAN PRATT, Secretary
KATHLEEN ROOT

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Dexter, Michigan

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 - 5:31 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

MR. SCHMIDT: We're going to call this Special Meeting to order. The First Public Hearing of North Lake Improvement project. My name is Drew Schmidt. I'm the Chair of Board of Public Works.

And Theo, you -- do you want to discuss the remote and meeting guidelines and protocols for us?

MR. EGGERMONT: You bet.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

REMOTE MEETING GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOL

MR. EGGERMONT: So, we have two people online currently. Once we get to public comment, we will ask people to raise their hand in order to speak. In order to do that, if you're on the telephone it's star 9, and after that you press star 6 to unmute yourself after we call on you. If you're on your computer, you press Alt-Y on Windows, and its Option Y on Mac in order to raise your hand. And then after that we'll ask people to find the unmute button and we'll allow them to talk. I'll present through the speaker, so we've got it on max volume, and we should be able to hear people.

MR. SCHMIDT: Excellent.

I would also like to remind, if there's any --

if you think that you might like to speak, if you're here, please fill out a speaker card, and we want to make sure we get everybody's name so that those who would like to speak can speak.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MR. SCHMIDT: All right. So, we have an agenda before us. Is there a motion to approve?

MS. ROOT: So, moved.

MS. SMITH: I'll support.

MR. SCHMIDT: It's been moved and supported.

Any discussion on the agenda?

(No response.)

MR. SCHMIDT: All those in favor?

MR. PRATT: Aye.

MR. SCHMIDT: Aye.

MS. ROOT: Aye.

MS. SMITH: Aye.

MR. SCHMIDT: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. SCHMIDT: Motion carries. Very good.

All right, at this point we've got -- we've done a few of these hearings in the past. We've done them here before for North Lake, but we're going to have, we've going to -- we'll follow our standard outline for this. We'll have a discussion about, or a description for the

purpose of the public hearing. Then we're going to talk about the description of the project, and then we'll actually open the public hearing portion of the meeting.

So, at this point, I'd like to turn it over to Theo, our Director of Public Works for Washtenaw County.

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING

MR. EGGERMONT: Thanks a lot. Thank you, Drew.

MR. SCHMIDT: Very good.

MR. EGGERMONT: And just a request for our Board if you can speak up just so our Zoom folks can hear us. Drew, you did fine. I think it worked out great.

So, this is a meeting, public meeting under Michigan Public Act 185 to hear input from those who have an interest in properties around North Lake that will part of the assessment if the assessment is approved. After the hearing -- after hearing from the public, the Board of Public Works will determine how to proceed. So far in the process under the assessment that's being proposed, we discussed the proposed project with the Lake Association and the residents who came to us to discuss the project about if a renewal of the project was desired. We brought the proposed assessment to the different townships, both Dexter and Lyndon Township to see if they want -- Lyndon Township -- to see if they would support the project. They supported through a resolution. After that we

brought it to the Board of Public Works to see if they would proceed from there. And then they sent it to the Board of Commissioners who approved the project to proceed in the process.

So, the assessment district has been identified, and we're now to the first of two public hearings that we created. The purpose of this one is to your objections to the improvement project. The second one is to hear objections to the roll, basically who's in, who's out, what the assessment costs are is the next set. But in reality, we do hear comments on both at both hearings. But the intent is, this one to your objections to the overall desirability of the project and if things need to be amended, revised, or corrected, and then the second one is to discuss who's in, who's out.

So, the Board may decide to revise, correct, or amend a Special Assessment based on the input provided on these, or change the cost for the estimate of the project.

Just a note for everyone, if you're here to protest the assessment, we can bring it to the Michigan Tax Tribunal, you should speak and note that you are protesting. Just writing it on a card is not sufficient. You have to publically speak at this hearing or the next hearing in order to bring it to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

So, with that, thank you.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you, Theo.

And for folks who've been in these hearings before, that is a little bit of a change. It used to be so long as you came and filled out one of these speaker cards and submitted it that was a sufficient standing to be able to take it to the Tax Tribunal. The rulings or interpretations of that have now changed. So, if you want to preserve your rights to protest, please make some comments as well.

All right. Evan?

MR. PRATT: You talked about the purpose of the meeting is to allow people the opportunity to bring up objections. It's okay to bring up support and to speak in favor of the project also.

MR. EGGERMONT: Yes. Thank you.

MR. PRATT: Both. Both are options, so it's -- and it's of course it beneficial to have both on the public record for different reasons.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you, Evan. That's absolutely true. Absolutely true.

At this point I'd like to turn it over to Lauren Koloski, our SME, our subject matter expert on this lake project, to give us a little description of the purpose of the project itself. And, Lauren, I'll stop talking.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

MS. KOLOSKI: Thank you.

Hi, everyone. Thank you for being here. I'm Lauren Koloski. I am the point person to talk to, gets the beat on the streets for this kind of -- for this project.

The North Lake Improvement Project, which originated in 2017, is seeking to continue with a seven-year project to control the growth and reproduction of non-native aquatic invasive plants, including, but not limited to Eurasian Water Milfoil and Starry Stonewort.

The project will also work to control the growth of nuisance native aquatic plants, including but not limited to, Chara and variable pondweeds.

The project's going to focus on maintaining the ecological health and recreational opportunities for North Lake. Additionally, other items may be included which would provide support for maintaining the ecological health and recreational opportunities that will be subject to approval by the Board of Public Works.

Invasive plants, invasive non-native plants have few or no natural predators in our -- in their non-native environments and can quickly spread. Most of these invasives we're seeing are spreading by fragmentation. Disrupting ecosystems by pushing out native species and reducing biological diversity.

We manage plant growth by partnering with a lake scientist, herbicide contractor, and a mechanical harvester on North Lake.

An additional benefit of this project, if renewed, is monitoring for harmful algal blooms. We work closely with EGLE and the local health departments to monitor and sample water as needed.

The cost of the Special Assessment District is covered by the residents who have been identified as -- identified as having deeded legal access to the lake. The cost of the project is \$366,170 over the seven years.

The proposed project assessment will be placed on the 2022 winter taxes and continue to show up on the winter taxes until 2018 -- I'm sorry -- 2028. Treatment under this proposed project would cover the years 2023 to 2027. Is that correct, or is that right? Yeah. Three, four, five, six, seven, eight. 2029. Sorry. I did this before I left. I apologize for my math.

The cost structure for this project is as follows: the waterfront charge is \$220 per year; the deeded access to the lake is \$140 per year; and the DNR is \$650 per year.

Over the years we've learned a lot. We've developed some excellent educational materials. I have brought a lot of materials I've got, so feel free to

please take any that you would like over there. The lake system is evolving and changing. The human impact on the lake shows. We see it when we're out there. And just internally, we are working very hard to stay up to date with the changes and challenges by educating ourselves as best we can to provide the best possible management of this lake system.

If the project is approved, we will continue to send emails to residents on when treatment and harvesting is going to happen and provide a lot of educational resources as they come through. I did do a sign-up sheet over there, so if you already don't receive my emails, please feel free to add your name to that list.

I appreciate the support over the last few years since I've been on this project. I thank you again for being here.

MR. EGGERMONT: Just a quick follow up of the charges were, this is for a maximum charge. If there's not a need that we project for the upcoming year, we are able to reduce the assessment based on the need.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC COMMENT

MR. SCHMIDT: Excellent. Thank you. Thank you, Lauren. Thank you, Theo.

All right. At this point we will now open the

Public Hearing, and we have a number -- since we had -- this is a in-person and virtual event, but we also accept letters. Theo, are there any letters received prior to the meeting for the North Lake Project?

MR. EGGERMONT: No letters.

MR. SCHMIDT: No letters. Very good.

All right. We have one card for Virginia Morgan?

MS. MORGAN: Uh-huh.

MR. SCHMIDT: Would you care to make some comments?

MS. MORGAN: Sure.

MR. SCHMIDT: We have a three-minute limit, but.

MS. MORGAN: Okay.

MR. SCHMIDT: Please, go ahead.

Oh, and we ask that you provide your first name, your last name, property address, municipality, county, and state.

MS. MORGAN: I can do that.

MR. SCHMIDT: You can do all that? All right.

MR. PRATT: Doesn't count against your three minutes.

MS. KOLOSKI: And I will let you know when one minute is coming up.

Is that up? You can see that? All right, thank

you.

MR. SCHMIDT: All right.

MS. MORGAN: Okay. My name is Ginny Morgan. I live at 7905 Sauer Drive on North Lake. And I have deeded access. And it's a Gregory mailing, 48137. Is that enough?

Okay. So first of all, I want to thank you for everything that you did last year. One of the things I'd like to ask about, all the stuff that you mentioned, the purpose of the project, and I was hoping that we could get that either in writing via email or something else, one of the things that concerns me besides the weeds, and I'm really glad that you've moved to harvesting, because I think it offers some benefit outside of the chemical way to go, that would help maintain all the things that you've talked about, recreation and stuff. But also, I'm a swimmer, so I am cognizant of the clarity of the water, which seems to have decreased substantially over the last several years. So, I was hoping that somehow you could look into that and focus, as well as the weed removal, on improving the water clarity in general. I think it's just dissolved solids, but I'm not positive.

I do think that two things I would like to emphasize going forward is the communication from Washtenaw County, and from the Dexter Township Oversight

Board. I think -- I'm counting on you guys to make sure that Washtenaw finds an appropriate provider, does the work, and that either you or the county send out regular communications. I know sometimes we see the yellow paper up, but it's only up I think in an area that they're working on. So, if they're not working in your general area of the lake, you don't know that, and yet, when people go out into the lake, where it says no swimming for a day or something, they might not be right in front of their lake. So, I think that either via email or some other way we need to indicate that the lake has been treated and you should avoid it even if it's not -- because they don't seem to put it except in the areas they're working on.

And then it's one of those things where you tell 'em what you're gonna tell 'em, and then you tell 'em, and then you tell 'em you told 'em. So, you've kind of told us now what the project's going to do, and then hopefully going through with the papers and other kinds of information you'll do that.

And then at the end of the summer/fall, I was hoping that you could, or the Dexter Township Board could request that you do an outline, "This is what we did on a date; this is what we were working on; this is what we see going forward," so that we're increasing communications.

MS. KOLOSKI: Okay.

MS. MORGAN: From you. That's all I have to say.

MS. KOLOSKI: Great.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you very much.

MS. MORGAN: Uh-huh.

MR. SCHMIDT: Are there any other in-person attendees that would care to speak? Going once.

Oh, please.

MR. AMBROSE: My name is Paul Ambrose.

MR. SCHMIDT: Can you please come on up? And we'll get you a blank card to fill out as well because --

MR. AMBROSE: No, I'm just -- I'm just making a comment.

MR. SCHMIDT: Oh.

MR. AMBROSE: My name is Paul Ambrose. I'm at 99 Watt Road, which is Lyndon Township, and I am the North Lake Representative of that area. We have in the previous assessment, SAD, requested individual input from all those people on Watt Road, and that's the extent of our representation.

But anyway, they -- we had 100 percent approval, and we have had -- we've had many positive comments about what the SAD has done, and the treatment areas on the lake and how they were satisfied with it. So, I think it's

important to emphasize that, that we have a lot of people that are very supportive of that. Thank you.

MR. SCHMIDT: All right. Thank you very much.

All right, any other -- any other in-person speakers?

Please come on up.

MR. FRENDT: I'm Dick Frendt. I live at 7837 Stonehedge Valley Drive, Gregory. I just wanted to comment. I think Virginia mentioned earlier about water clarity, and so on that -- we have program through the MiCorps system that does -- we do extensive testing of the lake. Charlie Taylor in particular does a lot of sampling and does a lot of secchidisk readings, and all that information is gathered up and sent to the central, through Michigan State and MiCorps program. They collect that, compare it to other lakes and tell us how we stand.

I just want to mention that in this particular, last year's report at the end of last year, they mentioned the water clarity actually has been getting better in North Lake over the past few years; that pretty much all the other parameters have stayed pretty well level, but that has improved somewhat.

Now, where he takes those samples are in the deepest part of the lake, and so that could vary, you know, it could be different in another area, but I just

wanted to mention that was -- that -- that was part of their report.

MR. SCHMIDT: Okay.

MR. FRENDT: Thanks.

MS. SMITH: Thank you.

THE COURT REPORTER: What was your name again, sir? I'm sorry.

MR. FRENDT: Dick Frendt. F-r-e-n-d-t.

THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

MR. SCHMIDT: Excellent. Anyone else?

(No response.)

MR. SCHMIDT: Okay, at this point we'll -- do we have any remote virtual participants that would care to speak, Theo?

MR. EGGERMONT: We do. So, well, so we'll make the call. So, if anyone is attending via phone, please press star 9 to raise your hand, or Alt-Y if you're on Windows in order to raise your hand, or Option-Y in order to raise your hand, and we will allow you to speak.

So, we'll give them a minute here just to -- okay.

Laura, would you like to speak?

MS. SKIDGEL: Yeah. I probably should wait 'til the next meeting, but you mentioned that we could all comment. So, I'm Laura Skidgel. My address is 6444

Lombardy Drive. And I just wanted to say cleaning the lake's a great idea, but I never use it, I've lived her 10 years and I've never been down. I have no access. So, I would like to object to the increase in taxes.

MR. EGGERMONT: Can you repeat your address real quick? We will take a look --

MS. SKIDGEL: Certainly. Sixty --

MR. EGGERMONT: -- at your individual --

MS. SKIDGEL: Sure. 6444 Lombardy Drive.

THE COURT REPORTER: And her name again?

MR. EGGERMONT: Laura Skiblo (sic)?

MS. SKIDGEL: Skidgel.

MR. EGGERMONT: S-k-i-d-g-e-l.

THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

MR. EGGERMONT: All right. Thank you.

MS. SKIDGEL: Thank you.

And Cheryl if you'd like to talk?

MS. ULIN: Hi. Good evening. I'm Cheryl Ulin, U-l-i-n, from 10101 Hadley Road. And we also own the adjacent parcel, sort of the end of Hadley Road, and I'm just speaking in support of this project. It is wonderful to have the resources available through the assessment that we did not have when we relied merely on donations. I just strongly support this project, and all of the neighbors that I talk to also strongly support this

project.

MR. EGGERMONT: Thank you. If I could have you repeat your address one more time, please?

MS. ULIN: Sure. It's 10101 Hadley Road. And we also own an adjacent parcel which is sort of at the end of Hadley Road, which is in Lyndon Township. Our home, the address I gave you, is in Dexter Township.

MR. EGGERMONT: Thank you for speaking in support of the project.

MS. ULIN: My pleasure.

MR. SCHMIDT: Anybody else, Theo?

MR. EGGERMONT: That is all.

MR. SCHMIDT: All right. Well, to our virtual participants, thank you very much for participating. You know, I'm going to give folks, we'll do another shot for anybody here in the room.

Sir, would you care to --

MR. PRUESS: Sure. Glad to. I'm Dave Pruess. I'm at 7369 Webbs Landing. I want to say that thanks to working with the county, the lake is being treated, the weeds are under control mainly. We're working within these offices of the law, and if this does not go through, the lake is really going to take a turn for the worse because there'll be no formal treatment of the weeds whatsoever. It will become full of algae, full of

Milfoil, Starry, whatever you want to say. We had that once before we quit having our treatment plan go, and it was absolutely flat out almost unlivable. But we're doing the best we can with what we got. We know there's laws, we know we trust Lauren, but the law has to be followed by all the ties when we do this treatment. Thank you much.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

THE COURT REPORTER: Could you give me your name again, sir? I didn't --

MR. PRUESS: Dave.

MS. KOLOSKI: P-r-u-e-s-s. Dave. D-a-v-e.

MR. PRATT: I think we got it.

THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

MR. EGGERMONT: She's got you.

MS. KOLOSKI: We got you.

MR. PRUESS: You hear the name?

MR. EGGERMONT: They were just looking for your name.

THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

MR. SCHMIDT: All right.

MS. KOLOSKI: I know you.

MR. PRATT: Lauren knows everybody.

MR. PRUESS: She knows me. She's been around.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

MR. SCHMIDT: All right. It appears that we

have no other commenters this evening. So, at this point I will close our public comments. Thank you to everyone who did comment. That's good.

And at this point we'll move on to consideration of the enclosed resolution in the Board packet for establishing the second hearing. Is there a motion to approve?

MR. PRATT: Yeah. I'll make the motion to put it on the table, and I know if any of the Board Members have questions for staff or any clarifications, we can do that once it's on the table. So, I would move to approve the resolution to proceed with the project, including improving the project and cost estimates determining a Special Assessment District and directing the Director of Public Works to prepare the Special Assessment roll, along with scheduling the second public hearing on that Special Assessment roll, and we've got a date in here for that, so. I think I'm proposing all of those things --

MR. SCHMIDT: Very good.

MR. PRATT: -- in one motion.

MR. SCHMIDT: Very good.

MS. SMITH: I'll support.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you. It's been moved and supported. Evan, thank you for that, that more detailed motion there. That was good.

All right. Any comments, discussion from the Board?

MS. SMITH: I have one comment. Exhibit A, the dollar amount for the DNR is, there's a typo. It should be \$4,550 in Exhibit A.

MR. PRATT: Hmm.

MR. SCHMIDT: Good catch. Good catch.

Any other -- any other comments?

MR. PRATT: Just a quick one for staff. I know that there are lake reports produced each year. I don't know how we've shared that information with North Lake or whatever, but I know we see those updates, so I assume we can just make sure anybody that's not receiving that information or maybe needs more of a synopsis than the full technical report we can help figure out what's the best way to do that for everybody on the lake. So. I don't know what the email list looks like or whatever, but just to address that one comment.

MR. SCHMIDT: Uh-huh.

MR. PRATT: I think that's easy enough, and I -- so, are you taking notes, Lauren? I just wanted to acknowledge that for the folks who are here.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

Anything else?

MS. SMITH: I, my only other comment is about

Exhibit B. I don't know if this is just an artifact of the black and white print version we have, but the legends on the map are not very readable. Like I can't really see what's, you know, part of the SAD versus not, so, I don't know if there's a better way to do that.

MS. KOLOSKI: To print it?

MS. SMITH: Yeah. Yeah.

MS. KOLOSKI: Yeah, beyond that? I'll definitely talk to Mallory at the office, our assessor, about that.

MS. SMITH: Okay.

MR. PRATT: But we can go by that --

MS. SMITH: That bigger --

MR. PRATT: -- version in the corner. The big map.

MS. KOLOSKI: That's the big version.

MR. SCHMIDT: Uh-huh.

MS. SMITH: Okay. The big one.

MR. SCHMIDT: Yeah. The big version.

MS. SMITH: Okay.

MR. SCHMIDT: All right. Well, I must comment. I'm pleased and happy to see this project come back for renewal.

MS. SMITH: Uh-huh.

MR. SCHMIDT: I think it's been a wonderful

example of how this process can work, and I'm -- I'm happy that the community wants to continue, so, I think that's a good thing.

MR. PRATT: Yep.

MR. SCHMIDT: All right. Any other comments or discussion from the Board?

(No response.)

ROLL CALL VOTE

MR. SCHMIDT: All right. At this time, we need a roll call vote on this, Michelle. Michelle, can you please call the roll?

MS. KATZ: Pratt?

MR. PRATT: Yes.

MS. KATZ: Schmidt?

MR. SCHMIDT: Yes.

MS. KATZ: Smith?

MS. SMITH: Yes.

MS. KATZ: Root.

MS. ROOT: Yes.

MR. SCHMIDT: All right, motion carries.

Excellent. Thank you.

At this point people are probably wondering what we are going to do next, and to answer that question, we have Theo.

Theo, what are the next steps?

NEXT STEPS

MR. EGGERMONT: If only I had that answer all the time.

So, the Board has approved the resolutions. They've decided to proceed with the project. They can make broad changes prior to the next public hearing, which is set for July 20th, which is a Wednesday. That'll be 5:30 at this building. The purpose of the hearing is to review and confirm the roll. At that meeting during the discussion, they can also choose to amend or edit the roll at that meeting. The meeting will be hybrid, same. And apologies, we had some issues with the speaker and the mic; we'll get those figured out. So, we will send the notice to members via mail as we did for this, as well as put it in the newspaper, our website, and other locations as appropriate. So, we'll have a second public hearing July 20th to hear next steps.

And then if -- if the -- once the roll is confirmed, the project will proceed, and the assessment will show up on the -- it'll be approved in August, and then go on the winter tax roll for this year. And then treatment will begin next year under this revised or re-established assessment.

MR. SCHMIDT: Great. Thank you, Theo.

That brings us to the end of our agenda. Once

again, I just want to thank everybody for coming out on this absolutely gorgeous evening to participate in local government. So, thank you all. Appreciate it.

MR. EGGERMONT: Yep. Thanks.

MS. SMITH: Thank you.

MR. SCHMIDT: All right. And we stand adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:02 P.M.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF WASHTENAW)ss.

I certify that this transcript is a complete, true, and correct transcript to the best of my ability of the SPECIAL MEETING, FIRST PUBLIC HEARING, NORTH LAKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, held Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at Dexter Township Hall, 6880 Dexter-Pinckney Road, Dexter, Michigan.

I also certify that I am not a relative or employee of the parties involved and have no financial interest in this matter.

DATED: June 21, 2022

S/ *Amy Shankleton-Novess*

Transcription provided by:

Amy Shankleton-Novess (CER 0838)

Modern Court Reporting & Video, L.L.C. 26



Evan Pratt, Secretary