

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
WIXOM LAKE- LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD

TAKE NOTICE that public hearings of the Wixom Lake – Lake Improvement Board are scheduled on **Saturday, July 17, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.**, at Beaverton High School (3090 Crockett Road, Beaverton, MI 48612). The purpose of the public hearings is: (1) discuss the practicability of using surplus assessment funds towards disaster relief activities such as streambank stabilization and erosion control, among others, necessary for the continuation of aquatic plant control; (2) setting an annual budget to ensure continuity of the Lake Improvement Board until a time that Wixom Lake is restored; and (3) approving a special assessment roll (with no assessments imposed onto property owners) to use surplus assessments in the manner outlined above if desired by the Board. **The public hearings DO NOT propose imposing special assessments or costs onto property owners.**

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that pursuant to Part 309 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, the Wixom Lake – Lake Improvement Board will discuss using surplus assessment funds towards disaster relief activities such as streambank stabilization and erosion control, among others, necessary for the continuation of aquatic plant control. At the public hearings, the Board will hear any property owner objections to the proposed use of the assessment funds for the purposes outlined above and will confirm a special assessment roll (if desired by the Board) to use funds in the manner expressed above that imposes no costs on property owners. The hearings may be adjourned from time-to-time without further notice.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that property owners and those concerned may join and offer public comment related to the discussion of the use of the assessments in this manner as well as to a proposed assessment roll (that imposes no costs). Any **Midland County** person or entity objecting to a roll or the proposal above shall join at the above stated time **and/or** file his or her objection in writing with the Midland County Drain Commissioner by letter to: Wixom Lake Improvement Board, 220 W Ellsworth Street, Midland, MI 48640-5194. Any **Gladwin County** person or entity objecting to a roll or the proposal above shall join at the above stated time **and/or** file his or her objection in writing with the Gladwin County Drain Commissioner by letter to: Wixom Lake Improvement Board, 555 West Cedar Avenue, Gladwin, MI 48624. Protest letters received by the Drain Commissioners by no later than the hearing shall be given the same effect as attendance and protest at the hearing. The Wixom Lake – Lake Improvement Board shall maintain a record of parties who appear to protest at the hearing. If the hearing is terminated or adjourned before a party is provided the opportunity to be heard, a party whose appearance was recorded shall be considered to have protested in person.

Proceedings conducted at this public meeting will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and you are further notified that information regarding this meeting, including receipt or inspection of documents such as parcel numbers within the special assessment district that are proposed to be subject to an assessment roll without assessment, may be obtained from the Midland County Drain Commissioner's Office (989) 832-6770 or Gladwin County Drain Commissioner's Office (989) 426-7561 by appointment. Persons with disabilities or otherwise needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact (989) 832-6770 (Midland County) or (989) 426-7561 (Gladwin County) or use the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the Midland and Gladwin County Drain Commissioners' Offices.

Any confirmed special assessment roll (with no costs to members of the public) shall be considered final and conclusive unless appealed within thirty (30) days after the Wixom Lake – Lake Improvement Board publishes a notice of confirmation. See MCL 324.30913 for appeal information related to lake improvement assessments.

Wixom Lake – Lake Improvement Board

Joseph Sova, Midland County Drain Commissioner
Terry L. Walters, Gladwin County Drain Commissioner

Joseph Sova, Midland County Drain Commissioner
Terry Walters, Gladwin County Drain Commissioner
Wixom Lake Improvement Board

FAQS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about the Notice of Public Hearings to Expend Existing Assessments, Set Budget, and Approve Roll

Why am I receiving this notice?

You are receiving this notice because you may own lands within a Special Assessment District used to fund an aquatic plant control project on Wixom Lake from 2017 to 2020.

What is this meeting about?

After the tragedy related to the dam failures, the Wixom Lake Improvement Board determined that it wanted to consider actions to benefit restoration of the lake by allowing the use of any remaining (already collected) excess assessments towards needed disaster relief activities such as erosion control and streambank stabilization projects. These activities will assist the feasibility of performing future aquatic plant control on the lake once restored.

Will any proposed actions at this meeting impose costs on me?

NO. The Lake Improvement Board will consider actions that expend funds already possessed by the Board. These proposed actions would not impose costs on property owners.

Why are you holding a public meeting for these activities?

The statute that governs lake improvement board projects, Part 309 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, requires a public meeting. More importantly, the Wixom Lake Improvement Board wants to be as transparent as possible and solicit any input from impacted property owners.

Do I have to attend the meeting?

NO. However, you may be required to protest in person or by writing to preserve appellate rights. If you support our proposed course of action, you may write a letter of support in lieu of attending.

How can I get more information?

Call (989) 832-6770 (Midland County) or (989) 426-7561 (Gladwin County). Please leave a detailed message including your name and address. All phone calls will be returned in the order in which they were received.

We understand that this tragedy has impacted many of you greatly. As lake improvement board members, we sympathize with all of you and hope to continue progress to restore Wixom Lake.