

## **Stony Lake Improvement board meeting**

**August 27, 2022**

Benona Township Hall

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am

Members present- Chairman Dave Zoller, Michelle Martin, Tim Beggs, Brandi Neuman and Steve Lawwill.

Rick Buteyn, Water Resource Specialist, from Progressive and 12 members of the public were present.

Minutes for November 22, 2022 were read. Motion by Martin to accept, support by Neuman. Approved by voice vote.

Michelle Martin presented the treasurers report. Current balance is \$32,102,04. Motion by Beggs to accept, Support by Neuman. Approved by voice vote.

An invoice from the Oceana County Drain commissioner's office for \$500 was reviewed. Motion by Neuman to pay the invoice. Supported by Lawwill. Approved by voice vote.

Steve Lawwill was introduced. Steve will serve as the Claybanks Township representative on the board.

Rick Buteyn from Progressive presented findings from the lake survey this summer. There is less milfoil this year than years past but the starry stonewort is spreading. Native plant growth was slower starting this year but has come on strong in late summer. Chemical treatment this year involved 2 acres of milfoil and 3 acres of curly leaf pondweed. Chemical treatment of starry stonewort involves a copper treatment and at this point is not advisable due to environmental concerns.

Mechanical harvest of vegetation this year has been problematic. The harvesters were late getting to the lake due to mechanical and staffing issues. These issues as caused delays once they were on the lake to harvest. It was noted by property owners and board members that the harvesting was not done in close to docks and was spotty in open water. Some areas were harvested deep, and others seemed to just skim the top foot of water. Harvest debris from break downs and loose vegetation were also a problem for many frontage owners. These concerns will be brought to the attention of the harvesting company and an attempt will be made to reduce the payment by a couple acres. Effort will be made in future contracts to stipulate timing and quality of harvest along with proper clean-up of loose vegetation **with financial penalties for underperformance.**

Swim area vegetation control was discussed. Weighted mats were brought up and discussed as good solution for small areas of personal frontage. Permitting of such usage by EGLE was not known.

Motion to adjourn by Martin, Supported by Neuman. Approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by Tim Beggs