

MINUTES

Long Lake Improvement Board Meeting
October 14, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Orleans Township Hall, 3077 Palmer Rd, Orleans, Michigan

Call to Order by Chairman Robert Rose 7:00 pm

Roll Call

Present: Robert Rose, Scott Wirtz, Michael Keast, Paul Knoerl, Michelle DeBrabander
Absent: None
Others: Rick Buteyn– Progressive Companies

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of Lake Board

Robert Rose – Ionia County Drain Commissioner
Scott Wirtz – Ionia County Commissioner
Michael Keast – Orleans Township Representative
Michelle DeBrabander – Orleans Township Representative
Paul Knoerl – Riparian Representative

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Introduction of Lake Board
4. Agenda
5. Approval of July 19, 2025, Minutes
6. Treasurers Report
7. Department of Natural Resources Presentation – Brian Gunderman
8. 2025 Long Lake Treatment Review – Rick Buteyn
9. Aquatic Plant Herbicide Treatments Contract – Progressive Companies
10. Aquatic Plant Harvesting – Progressive Companies
11. Public Comment
12. Set Spring 2026 Meeting
13. Adjournment

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Approve Minutes from Meeting – July 19, 2025

Motion by Paul Knoerl, Support by Scott Wirtz to approve the July 19, 2025, minutes.
Motion Carried

Treasurer’s Report

Cash Balance January 1, 2025:		\$ 73,837
2025 Receipts	Jan. 1 – Oct. 14, 2025	\$ 85,265
2025 Expenses	Jan. 1 – Oct. 14, 2025	<u>\$ 57,084</u>
Cash Balance October 14, 2025:		<u>\$102,018</u>

Motion by Michael Keast, Support by Michelle DeBrabander to approve the
Treasurer’s Report.
Motion Carried

Department of Natural Resources Presentation – Brian Gunderman

Brian Gunderman – Southern Lake Michigan Unit Manager, Department of Natural Resources

In 2016 the DNR conducted a lake survey catching 10 Pugnose Shiners, an endangered species approximately 1.5 – 2 inches long with a small, nearly vertical mouth. The Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Act (PA451 of 1994) prohibits take of T/E (Threatened and Endangered) species without a permit with “Take” meaning to “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wood, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct.” “Pugnose Shiners could be killed, wounded, or collected from the lake during mechanical harvesting”. In 2025 the DNR started requiring permits for weed harvesting in Michigan lakes containing the Pugnose Shiner, the 2025 permits were granted “mostly status quo”. Changes for 2026 include: no Hydrothol 191, require development of aquatic vegetation plan before next permit with a) objectives for invasive, native, and T/E species, b) protection of Pugnose Shiner & c) maintenance of native vegetation. In addition, a “Point intercept (PI) vegetation survey will be required.

2025 Long Lake Treatment Review – Rick Buteyn

The May 19th Lake Survey showed Expansive curly-leaf on the NE portion of the lake, scattered to dense milfoil and curly-leaf stands. A total of 58 acres were treated for milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed. A follow-up survey on June 18th showed most treatment areas looking good, dense native plant growth around the lake and in shallow offshore portions were noted. Starry stonewort was not growing aggressively nearshore yet. On June 25th, a bump-up treatment of 7.75 acres for Eurasian Milfoil and nuisance native plants was done.

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The July 14th survey showed scattered milfoil growth and dense native growth found along the shoreline. Milfoil beds found offshore. Some areas were marked for harvesting with very little starry stonewort seen. Seventeen acres were treated for Eurasian Milfoil and nuisance native plants on July 21st. A harvest of 10.5 acres of starry stonewort was done the end of July. The final 2025 survey on August 20th showed the lake was in good condition with no treatments required at this time.

Aquatic Plant Herbicide Treatments Contract – Progressive Companies

Motion by Michael Keast, Support by Paul Knoerl to approve the Progressive Companies 2026 – 2030 Professional Aquatic Plant Control Oversight, Water Quality Sampling, Information and Education, and Project Administration Services for Long Lake contract.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Robert Rose, Scott Wirtz, Michael Keast, Paul Knoerl, Michelle DeBrabander

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Aquatic Plant Harvesting – Progressive Companies

Motion by Michael Keast, Support by Paul Knoerl to approve the Progressive Companies 2026 – 2030 Professional Commercial Harvesting Permit Compliance Services for Long Lake contract as amended.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Robert Rose, Scott Wirtz, Michael Keast, Paul Knoerl, Michelle DeBrabander

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment

The board was thanked for their work and most agreed Long Lake was in good condition this year.

Set Spring 2026 Meeting

The Long Lake Improvement Board is set to meet on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 7:00 pm Orleans Township Hall.

Adjourn

Motion by Michael Keast, Support by Michelle Debrabander to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Michael Keast, Secretary

