Bear Lake – Lake Board
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
North Muskegon City Hall

Chairman Paul Pek called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present: Chairman Pek, Members Howell and Panici, Commissioners Barrett and Cook

Absent: None.

ROLL
Chair Pek called the roll.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Commissioner Cook moved to approve the agenda. Member Panici supported the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES
Member Panici moved to approve the August 11, 2026 minutes. Commissioner Cook supported the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.
Member Panici moved to approve the August 18, 2026 Special Meeting minutes. Commissioner Cook supported the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS
Residents Roy Portenga, Michael L. Burns, and Dennis Kirksey expressed their concerns regarding the assessments to the Board. Resident Shafer requested a cost clarification on the FAQ sheet.

CORRESPONDENCE
None.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES
Chair Pek:
- Has been updating the website, Facebook page, etc. and working on the assessments.

Treasurer/Vice-Chair Howell:
- Finally getting clarity on from the City. When they receive an invoice they automatically charge it to the account whereas we only show the amount once it has been paid.
- At the end of August, the balance is $62,332.00
- GVSU has been paid 50% of their contract. The balance is expected to be invoiced in the next fiscal year (January/February).

Secretary Barrett: Nothing at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- 2026-2030 Assessment –

- Amended Motion: Chair Pek noted that he has addressed the assessment as being from 2027-2031 as those are the years that will be funded by the assessment. The attorney noted that the assessment will actually start with the 2026 Winter Tax bills so the assessment should be addressed as 2026-2030. Member Panici moved to amend the motion regarding the upcoming assessment adopted at the Special Meeting on August 18, 2026 by striking out "2027-2031" and replacing with "2026-2030 (funding operations from 2027-2031". Member Howell supported the motion. All in favor. Motion Approved.
- Schedule: The hearing schedule was reviewed.
- Public Hearing: The Notice of Public Hearing was presented as was the FAQ sheet. Commissioner Barrett noted that she would have the notice and FAQ sheet placed on her website.
- Assessment Roll: Chair Pek noted that after several discussions with property owners regarding having no access he contacted EGLE staff. He was informed by EGLE staff that the cat tails can be cleared (40'x40' swim area or 20' wide path to open water) by the Bear Lake Lake Board or by the residents. He also reiterated that PLM has been treating the Cedar Street and Fenner's Ditch areas significantly.
- Assessor Certifications: Chair Pek briefly explained the Assessor Certifications.

- Voluntary Contributions from Laketon Township, North Muskegon and Muskegon County: Chair Pek will resend a letter that he prepared to be presented to the Laketon Township Board, the City of North Muskegon, and to the County asking for a voluntary contribution toward the assessment as we cannot assess them for the lands they own within the Assessment District.
- Board Insurance: Chair Pek informed the Board that he contacted the Board's insurer and this letter was just so they could requote our rate.

NEW BUSINESS

- City of North Muskegon letters to Members of Congress: City of North Muskegon Mayor Nance sent letters to members of Congress regarding financial assistance for Bear Lake.
- Updated Lake Management Plan: Commissioner Cook moved to approve the updated Lake Management Plan as presented. Member Howell supported the motion. All in favor. Motion Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Residents Portenga and Burns expressed their concerns further to the Board.

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Cook inquired about the agenda for the Public Hearing (September 24, 2026 @ 6:00 PM) and offered assistance. Chair Pek said he will send it out to the Board members.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pek adjourned the meeting at 6:47 PM.
Next meeting Tuesday, October 13, 2026.