

Mastodon Township Public Hearing

Buck Lake Special Assessment District Approved Minutes

Meeting Date: June 5, 2026

Time: 5:30pm

Location: 1371 US Hwy 2 South, Crystal Falls, MI 49920

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Skinner at 5:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Chad Skinner, Stacey Watters, Dave Smith, Mike Bjork and Karen Mallon.

Board Members Absent: None

Approval of Agenda

Skinner requested to add to the agenda an item to discuss chloride brining truck situation. Motion by Bjork supported by Watters to approve the agenda with the addition requested. Call to vote. All ayes, motion carried.

Public Comment 1:

Skinner announced that this first Public Comment session was to hear opposition to the proposed Buck Lake Special Assessment District. The following property owners spoke in opposition:

- Randal Koziatek – Spoke on various points but emphasized that the cost benefit of the assessment does not align with the cost of the treatment. He voiced concerns as well regarding chemicals used in treatment.
- Thomas Sullivan via Randal Koziatek – Cost concerns he is on disability and fixed income. This assessment will force him to sell his property.
- Debora and Richard Marx via Randal Koziatek – Chemical treatment and high cost adds no value to property.
- Robert Waytulonis via Randal Koziatek – High cost of treatment does not show benefit.
- Judy and Ken Waytulonis via Randal Koziatek – High cost of treatment and lack of information on the plan.
- Dean Batistella via Randal Koziatek – High cost.
- Craig Stebic – DNR is culprit. Not washing boats; State should be paying. Instead of chemicals what are the organic options?
- Deborah Rehorst – Originally signed the petition when proposed at a lower amount. Would like to withdraw from the petition due to high cost.
- David Rehorst – Treatment of weeds is a money pit. There will never be a weed-free lake.
- Harold and Cheryl Peterson – Cost prohibitive. Using chemicals when we have shallow wells is very concerning. Toxins and poisons are used, and we have no knowledge of what these chemicals will do to us.
- Dawn and Phil Heil – Signed petition when originally presented because the cost was lower and the weeds are a problem. They own 2 parcels and will be paying \$1000 on each parcel annually for 3 years. Originally thought this was going to be by lake frontage. This assessment will not raise the value of my property. I do not support the petition today, but could support a future one that is not so high in cost. The Township should invest in the lake treatment because of Buck Lake Park.

- Chad Reed – Property is on the north shore. There are virtually no weeds that cause problems. This assessment brings no added value to my property. Have concerns about chemicals used. Shallow well, we drink from it, my kids are in the lake. I am concerned for my family and our health.
- Tom Walker – I agree with Chad Reed. North shore is clear. Dumping chemicals in the water is not healthy for my family, my grandkids nor my dog. There's no guarantee that these chemicals will rid the lake of weeds.

Public Comment 1 – CLOSED

Public Comment 2

Skinner announced that the second Public Comment session was to hear from those in favor to the proposed Buck Lake Special Assessment District. The following property owners spoke in favor:

- Sally Danner – The petition presented was done by her and not the lake association. The lake is dying. If left to individual property owners to treat their own lake front, there would be no oversight. Money is the real issue for those opposed, not chemicals. Everyone pays taxes and do not necessarily benefit from the taxes. The Township should treat the lake because of Buck Lake Park. Wisconsin lakes are swamps, and that will be what happens to Michigan lakes.
- Rick Gerst – The initial plan was a 5 to 10 year plan. That would have kept costs down. Would like to see a six year plan. Collect funds for two years treat the third year. Collect next two years treat the sixth year. The Lake Association was formed for the betterment of the lake. Weevils were introduced, but the State stepped in and put an end to that. Carp eats everything and will eventually destroy the lake. The County, State and Township should pay a portion to save the lake.
- Roy Carlson – This has been a learning process for all, the board and property owners. Concerns of not being informed are heard. The original petition was for 5 to 10 years. The Township does have a responsibility to treat the lake. If the Township is bringing lighting to Buck Lake, the Township is inviting more visitors. The Township needs to be responsible for the lake as well then. Would love to have an open discussion with everyone here tonight. If left unchecked, the lake will be destroyed.

Public Comment 2 – CLOSED

Adoption of Resolution 2026-0905-001 Buck Lake Aquatic Weeds – Special Assessment District.

The resolution was read aloud in its entirety. Discussion regarding the Buck Lake Special Assessment District was held by the Board.

Skinner asked if revisions to the costs could be made for future consideration and could the term be changed. Both can be modified for the next resolution. Watters asked about the per parcel versus per owner. It was noted that the options are per parcel and by lake frontage. Smith advised that a petition should be done at the State level. This is a statewide problem. Federal government should also be involved in the cost of treatment. Mallon stated that she supports more education to the public from the Township regarding the Special Assessment process. Bjork had no comments.

The motion made by Mallon to adopt the resolution was unsupported and failed.

Public Hearing Closed.

Skinner opened the next part of the meeting to advise the Board of the lack of accessible trucks to complete road brining this year. He further advised that Kurtz has worked extensively to find a truck to use. Kurtz has options to discuss tonight, or at the June 9, 2026 Board meeting. The issue that is faced is the weight of the product. Hiring a contractor could run about \$110,000.00.

This matter is tabled for further discussion at the June 9, 2026 Regular Board meeting.

Adjournment

Motion by Bjork and supported by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm. Call to vote. All ayes. **Motion carried.**

I hereby certify that the minutes contained herein are the approved minutes of the June 5, 2026, Public Hearing of the Buck Lake Special Assessment District. Signed herein by the Mastodon Township Clerk, Karen Mallon on this the 9th day of June, 2026.

Karen Mallon, Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Mallon, Mastodon Township Clerk