

Gull Lake Quality Organization

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Virtual meeting on Zoom due to Covid-19

November 10, 2020

Call to order: 7:05 pm

Quorum declared: YES

Board Attendance: Sera Gesmundo, Joe Mauro, Gary Mittelbach, Katherine Gross, Rick Hebert, Martin Ranly, Brook Wilke, Margo Rebar, Linda Shierlaw, Dustin Perrin, Joe Lukeman, Steve Keith, John Etcorn

Absent: Doug Smith

Guest: Matt Diana (DNR Regional Fisheries Biologist)

Welcome (Sera Gesmundo)

Approval of September 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes: L. Shierlaw Seconded: R. Hebert

Approved: Unanimous

Treasurer's report: Joe Mauro

Joe M. noted that we had a number of expenses at the end of summer 2020 that he **hadn't been anticipating** (e.g., boat wash labor, weed control). Joe stressed the need to develop a budget for 2021 and to formalize the process for approving expenses. To this end, a motion was made to form an *ad hoc* committee to develop the 2021 budget (motion made by L. Shierlaw, seconded by K. Gross, approved unanimously). Budget committee members include: Joe Mauro, Rick Hebert, Kay Gross, and Linda Shierlaw. First task for the budget committee will be to collect anticipated yearly expenses from the various GLQO committee chairs and from this develop a proposed budget for 2021.

Motion to accept **Treasurer's report:** L. Shierlaw Seconded: M. Rebar

Approved: Unanimous

Membership and Communications Committee

Linda S. reported that we have 374 members to date, with one new lifetime member. Linda noted that she is facing a steep learning curve in taking over the production of the GLQO newsletter and maintaining the GLQO Facebook page (jobs that Kathy G. did before retiring from the board). Linda needs help. Joe M. and Gary M. offered to help with newsletter layout. Dustin P. offered to help with maintaining our Facebook page. Linda has also contacted Eric Reed about helping with some of these tasks.

Linda noted that many people seem confused about the differences between the GLQO and the Gull Lake Dam Association and suggested that our winter newsletter contain an article addressing this issue. Gary M. offered to write the newsletter article.

Fisheries Committee

Brook W. introduced Matt Diana (DNR Fisheries Biologist for our region), who reported on the status of the Gull Lake fishery, particularly for Northern Pike and Smelt.

Smelt – Matt reported good (visual) assessment of smelt spawning this year (2020), with many large and small smelt seen spawning. A creel survey of about 30 anglers conducted in 2018-2019 reported good fishing success for smelt. The ice-fishery for smelt in 2020 was limited due to poor ice conditions.

Northern Pike – A postcard creel survey was conducted over the summer to assess fishing success. Also, about 70+ pike from Gull Lake have been analyzed for age and growth. Pike growth in Gull Lake (assessed as length at age) is good up to about 24 inches in length (the size at which pike may be legally harvested by anglers). Beyond 24 inches, pike length at age shows a decline, resulting in relatively few pike reaching large (trophy) sizes. A number of factors may contribute to this finding, but one distinct possibility is that few pike reach large sizes because most are harvested soon after they reach the legal length (24 inches). One potential management strategy to increase the number of large pike in Gull Lake would be to introduce a slot limit, where pike between a certain size (for example, 24-34 inches) would be protected from harvest. Such slot limits have been implemented in other lakes with good success. Matt D. would like input on whether a slot limit for Northern Pike in Gull Lake would be welcomed.

Matt also reported the the DNR would probably stop stocking rainbow trout into Gull Lake as few of these stocked fish seem to survive to reach fishable sizes. There is likely to be continued (limited) stocking of large Lake Trout as long as these fish are available from hatchery brood stock.

Law Enforcement Committee

Joe Lukeman reported on a proposal for a no-wake zone to be established in the bay at Gull Lake. The DNR is currently taking public input on the proposal and the waiting period for public input ends Nov. 30th. The DNR will then make a recommendation to the Ross Township Board of Supervisors. We discussed how that GLQO might best provide input on this issue. Joe said that he would update the GLQO board on the recommendation from the DNR once it is made.

Water Quality Committee

John E. provided a report.

Chemical treatment of the invasive plant Starry Stonewort was conducted twice in Gull Lake in summer 2020. John E. asked whether invoices for this treatment had been paid and Joe M. responded that the GLQO paid Progressive AE \$2000 in October 2020.

Summer 2021 is the proposed time for Progressive AE to again conduct an aquatic plant survey in Gull Lake, focusing on invasive plant species. If approved, this aquatic plant survey will need to be included in the 2021 budget.

The CLMP program (through which the GLQO conducts water quality measurements in Gull and Little Long Lakes) is once again part of the MI State budget (2021). Mike G., former GLQO board member **who has done the lion's share of water quality monitoring** in Gull Lake, needs help for 2021 and ideally would like to have someone else take over. Dustin P. offered to help Mike G. with water quality monitoring in Gull Lake.

Mike G. suggested that we consider supporting a "boating capacity survey" for Gull Lake in the near future (such a survey was conducted a number of years ago).

The boat wash at Prairieville park needs repair before summer 2021. Linda S. offered to look into getting estimates for this repair. Steve K. offered to work with Mike G. to make the boat wash more functional and less subject to damage.

Meeting adjourned: 7:40 pm

Upcoming Board Meetings and events: Board meetings usually the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Scheduled meeting dates: Jan. 19, March 9, May 11, July 13. Due to Covid19, meetings will be held via ZOOM until further notice.