

# **Gull Lake Quality Organization**

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

@Gull Lake Ministries

March 3, 2020

**Call to order:** 7:05 pm

**Quorum declared:** YES

**Board Attendance:** Vicki Gesmundo, Sera Gesmundo, Brook Wilke, Joe Lukeman, Mike Gallagher, Kathy Gallagher, Steve Keith, Dustin Perrin, John Etcorn, Gary Mittelbach

**Absent:** Don Paulson, Doug Smith, Bryan Beck, Tom Gallagher, Margo Rebar, Gregg Pierce, Linda Shierlaw, Joe Mauro

**Guest:** Dan Wood

## **Welcome (Vicki Gesmundo)**

Vicki informed the Board that Tom Gallagher is stepping down. Tom is living in E. Lansing and traveling a lot and is unable to make most Board meetings.

## **Approval of November 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes:**

Vicki noted that the minutes from November 5<sup>th</sup> mentioned that Kathy G. is working on signage about boating regulations to be posted at Prairieville Park. Apparently, while the signage idea was discussed at the Nov. 5 meeting it was never finalized. Everyone agreed that it was still a good idea and Kathy said that she would look into it.

**Motion to approve minutes: K. Gallagher      Seconded: S. Gesmundo**  
**Approved: Unanimous**

## **Treasurer's Report (emailed to board by D. Paulson, presented by V. Gesmundo)**

Membership dues for 2020 are coming in. The current balance of all GLQO funds (as of 2/29/2020) is \$76,293. Discussion of dues and membership continued during Communications/membership committee report (see below). Don requested Board permission to move \$30,000 in GLQO funds into a 10 month promo CD at Advia when our current 10 month \$20,400 CD matures. Following discussion, Board approved Don's request.

**Motion to approve Treasurer's report: V. Gesmundo      Seconded: J. Etcorn**  
**Motion approved.**

Don also reported that it was 77 degrees and sunny today in Ft Meyers!

## **Communications/Membership (Kathy Gallagher)**

The Winter 2020 GLQO Newsletter has been sent to the membership. Two Board members volunteered to take printed copies to local township offices and the RACC. As always, the Board is grateful to Kathy G. for all she does in putting together such a high quality Newsletter!

Discussion about membership followed. As of 3 March 2020, GLQO membership was 229 (compared to ~300 members at this time last year). After looking over the list of past members who have not yet renewed, there was general agreement that many of those missing are "snowbirds" who may not have received their renewal notices yet or who may be waiting to renew their membership when they return. Kathy stated that a second reminder about membership dues and renewal will be sent out in April. Also noted was that membership dues received for this year are up somewhat from this time last year, despite reduced member numbers. Kathy gave some brief statistics of past membership numbers to illustrate how it fluctuates: in 2008 membership was at a historical high of 426 and hit a historical low of 119 in 2014.

## **Fisheries (Brook Wilke)**

Brook reminded everyone of the excellent article by Bryan Beck (Winter Newsletter) reporting on the Gull Lake Fishery, particularly the Northern Pike age and growth study by the MDNR and the status of the smelt fishery in GL. Dustin and Steve provided insights into this winter's smelt fishing on GL (good overall) and there was some general discussion of the results of the DNR northern pike age and growth study. The Board felt that it would be a good idea to invite Matt Diana from the DNR to come talk to us sometime about the GL fishery. [Matt Diana is now scheduled to speak at our May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.]

## **Water Quality (Mike Gallagher)**

Mike distributed a report on water quality in Gull Lake and Little Long Lake for 2019, summarizing data collected as part of the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) by Mike G. and John Etzcorn. Water quality in both lakes was high in 2019 and consistent with our long-term data. Mike noted that the CLMP program is not funded by the State of Michigan for 2020 (due to budgeting issues and late action by the legislature). Funding will be available in 2021 and beyond through a new State program. This leaves us having to find a way to collect water quality data this summer to avoid a gap in our long-term data. Mike presented a plan to purchase a DO meter that we can use this summer and in the future and to have our 2020 Chla and TP samples analyzed. A motion was made to approve these expenses (seconded by Vicki G.) and passed unanimously.

The GLQO has received a proposal from Progressive AE requesting \$4,000 to monitor the status of invasive plant species in GL in summer 2020 (particularly, Starry Stonewort). Progressive AE also will coordinate and monitor the success of treatment

of invasive species by the plant control contractor (PLM). Treatment of Starry Stonewort in GL by PLM in 2019 cost \$1,212 and we anticipate costs for treatment in 2020 to be similar. Mike G. made a motion to pay \$4,000 to Progressive AE, with the expectation that we will pay PLM for treatment this summer. Motion seconded by Vicki G. and passed unanimously.

### **Law Enforcement (Joe Lukeman)**

Joe sent letters from the GLQO to the local township offices requesting (as in past years) their support of the Marine Patrol on Gull Lake. Letters requesting support will also go to the GL Marine Center, GL Ministries, and the GL Country Club. Joe made a motion that the GLQO contribute \$1500 to support the Marine Patrol for summer 2020 (same as last year). Motion seconded by Mike G. and passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

Directors and Officers insurance for the GLQO is up for yearly renewal. Motion made by Mike G. and seconded by John E. to renew our DO insurance. Discussion followed and the motion passed unanimously.

Vicki noted that Liberty Farm's once again is proposing to construct a gravel pit near M89 on the way to Plainwell. Discussion followed, focused on GLQO's concerns about possible effects of gravel mining operations on groundwater inputs to the GL watershed. More to follow.

A motion was made (by Kathy G.) that we support sending two people to attend the meeting of the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (May 1-2). Motion seconded by Steve K. and passed unanimously. Vicki G. and Sera G. will attend.

Vicki reported on the status of Richland Township's considering the pros and cons of bringing city water to Gull Lake area residents. Some of this is driven by concerns of PFAS in the ground water. Discussions continue.

Richland Community Library and the Kellogg Biological Station are working on a new book study program in the area of ecology and the environment, called "EcoReads". No specifics at this time.

Vicki noted that the terms of four GLQO Board members end this August (Vicki G. (president), Don P. (treasurer), Kathy G. (communications chair) and Mike G. (water quality chair)). Given the need to replace two officers and two important committee chairs, we decided to schedule an additional spring meeting (April 7) to focus specifically on Board succession and replacement.

**Meeting adjourned: 8:40 pm**

**Upcoming Board Meetings and events: April 7, May 5, June 7 (Summer party) July 14, August 4 (Annual meeting)**