

GULL LAKE QUALITY ORGANIZATION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2024

Call to order: 6:57 pm

Quorum declared: YES

Approval of the Agenda

Board Attendance: Katherine Gross, Sera Gesmundo, Trudy Luedecking, Margo Rebar, Tom Belco, Mike Gallagher, Jay Wesley, Andy Widner, Vicki Gesmundo; Don Paulson joined by Zoom.

Guest: Eric Reid

Absent: Ellen Keenan, Dustin Perrin, Pete Hawk

Meeting minutes. The minutes of the November 2023 were approved as presented.

Confirmation of approval of the 2024 GLQO budget; approved by email vote February 2024. Moved by Sera Gesmundo, seconded by Vicki Gesmundo to confirm the approval of the GLQO 2024 budget. Approved

Treasurer's Report. Andy Widner presented the Treasurer's report by summarizing the budget income and expenditures for 2023 (ending December) compared to 2022 and provided a graphic to show sources of income and expenses. Income, primarily from memberships, includes new and renewed memberships deposited in 2023, though memberships received starting in October 2022 are for 2023. Although the number of regular members in 2023 declined slightly, there was a large increase in lifetime memberships. There was some discussion of the impact that this may have on future membership income to GLQO as 75% of our income comes from memberships. Boat wash and weed control are core to the mission of the organization and were major expenses in 2023. Income for 2024 is slightly below budgeted; to date there are 221 renewal/new memberships compared to 270 for this time last year. Average membership was \$78.50/person. Don Paulson discussed the financial status of the GLQO; there is currently a balance of \$135,000. He suggested we continue to hold these funds as there are unknown future expenses.

Tom Belco moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Vicki Gesmundo. Motion passed unanimously

Committee Updates:

Water Quality

Mike Gallagher

Mike Gallagher provided a summary of the 2023 CLMP (Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program) results for Gull and Little Long lakes. The report includes history of water quality monitoring as well as the most recent year. He also reviewed specifics of the report regarding water quality, including how temperature and water clarity change over the year. CLMP monitoring and training is coordinated by MiCorps (the Michigan Cooperative Lake Association) and there will be CLMP training at the Michigan Lakes and Stream Association (MLSA) meeting in April. CLMP sampling is only done over the summer and there was some discussion of how we might get more data on water quality for Gull Lake beyond this time (especially spring and fall). Data on all lakes included in the CLMP program is available on the MiCorps website (<https://micorps.net/lake-monitoring/>) Funds have been designated in the GLQO budget to provide scholarships toward the cost of the MLSA meeting (\$100) for any board member who wants to attend the MLSA meeting

Boat Wash

Dustin Perrin

Kay shared Dustin's notes about the work at the boat wash in 2023. He expects that all of the 2023 employees will return in 2024 so there is no need to hire additional staff.

Boating Safety - Ross Township now has a marine patrol (boat and staff) and Pete Hawk sent an email to Kay as to whether GLQO should provide any funds to support this. Ross Township has not requested this and so no action was taken.

Membership

Margo Rebar/Andy Widner

Currently there are 233 individual/family members and 8 business memberships in GLQO; 73 of these (including Board and Lifetime members) include subscriptions to *The Michigan Riparian*. The reduced rate for this subscription is a benefit for members who renew by 1 March. Mike Gallagher shared that articles in *The Michigan Riparian* about legal issues are particularly interesting.

Fisheries

Jay Wesley

Plans for a 'lake cleanup on the ice' were again cancelled this year as there was insufficient ice. Funding for this will continue to be part of the GLQO budget.

Outreach and Communications

Sera Gesmundo

Welcome packet - Sera Gesmundo shared an example of the Welcome packet that has been prepared to introduce new Gull Lake residents to the GLQO. The folders include

information about the GLQO and brochures on boating safety, shoreline lake scaping, and a map of Gull Lake showing lake depth and recommended boating areas for wave boats. They have decided not to distribute there to realtors/builder, but instead to send these directly to new homeowners and are compiling a mailing list for this. Tom Belco suggested that these could also be distributed at sailing regattas. Mike Gallagher suggested the brochures go to the townships as well.

Outreach and Communications is also planning a “Lunch and Learn” to provide more information about lake scaping. This event will be held in collaboration with KBS and will be on July 10. The program will include talks by EGLE and MSUE experts on lakescaping, a tour of the shorelines at KBS and opportunities for hands on learning. GLQO is the sponsor. The cost is expected to be ~\$35 per person. It was discussed how/if GLQO could cover part of this cost to encourage members to attend. Kay Gross suggested that if the cost is approx. \$35, GLQO could provide a discount to members. This program seems to be a high profile and low investment activity promoting GLQO. There may be an opportunity for a boat tour showcasing shore lines after the workshop.

Newsletter and Social Media –

Eric Reid

Winter/Spring newsletter went online last night; unfortunately, it was discovered that some members were not included in the Membership listing (NB Fortunately this was caught before the newsletter was mailed and was corrected; an updated newsletter was posted on the website.) The summer newsletter is planned for distribution July 15, articles for this newsletter should be submitted in early June. There is a connection between posting on Facebook and our website and the newsletter; the latter provide more timely information that can/is repeated in the Newsletter as appropriate.

Communication Calendar - Eric Reid has created a Communications Calendar that can be viewed by all GLQO Board members; members were asked to review and provide him comments on the calendar. There was some discussion of who can – and how to – edit this calendar

Old Business:

Jay Wesley

Jay Wesley presented the MOU agreement with Prairieville Township. Kay Gross indicated that GLQO needs a written agreement for our role in the operations of the Boat Wash at the Prairieville Township Park, which was the reason for developing this MOU. The agreement makes it clear who is responsible for what at the boat wash and suggests that Prairieville would share and possibly pay for major maintenance to the Boat Wash. Also, if GLQO does plantings at the park to improve or protect the lakeshore and stream side, Prairieville Township will share in these costs. The MOU also makes clear that people will work on the boat wash are recruited by GLQO but are employees of Prairieville Township. GLQO reimburses the Township for these costs. Margo Rebar questioned who is liable if a boat using the boat wash is damaged. Don Paulson said there is no liability to GLQO as Prairieville employees the staff. Prairieville has an

ordinance that states boats have to be washed before entering the lake. Most boats do not need to be washed, they come in very clean. A major concern is making sure that bilge on boats is drained as this is a major way that invasive species are transported between lakes.

There was discussion regarding Gull lake Country Club's involvement in GLQO and their support for invasive species monitoring and treatment. We have invoiced them for these costs for 2022 (\$600) and 2023 (\$718.75) for their share of weed control in front of the club. Bill Sikkema sent an email that GLCC would pay \$600 for these costs.

New Business:

New projects and Expenditures – Several ideas for new expenditures were discussed. This included providing \$100 scholarships for members to attend MLSA meeting if they took CLMP training and agreed to assist with sampling Gull or Little Long lakes. Also discussed was how to support the cost for members to attend the “Lunch and Learn” program at a discounted rate. Mike Gallagher suggested funds could be used to make it easier to winterize the boat wash. Once the MOU is in place Prairieville they will assist with these expenditures, though the process for this needs to be determined

Vicki Gesmundo moved that GLQO provide scholarship (\$100) for GLQO members to attend the MLSA conference, if they agree to participate in CLMP training and monitoring on Gull Lake and Long Lake AND that GLQO provide funds to support the “Lunch and Learn”, for up to 50 people. Seconded by Jay Wesley; motion passed unanimously

Future meetings – There was some discussion of moving the date for GLQO meetings as some current board members have standing conflicts with the current schedule (2nd Tuesday). Kay will pursue finding an alternative. Our next board meeting is currently scheduled for 14 May and the annual meeting for 11 June.

Nominating Committee

Sera Gesmundo

There is no board member rotating off in 2024, but we still have the opportunity to add board members who can provide new ideas and energies, for Outreach and other activities. The Bylaws state we can have 18 members, we currently have 13 members. Nominations for new board members will be presented for Board approval at the May meeting and voted on by the those attending the Annual Meeting (June 11). Suggestions for new board members should be sent to Sera Gesmundo

Tom Belco moved to adjourn the meeting and Andy Widner seconded; motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.