

GULL LAKE QUALITY ORGANIZATION

Annual Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2024

Call to order: 7:08 pm

Quorum declared: YES

Approval of the Agenda

Board Attendance: Katherine Gross, Sera Gesmundo, Trudy Luedeking, Margo Rebar, Tom Belco, Andy Widner, Don Paulson, Pete Hawk, Mike Gallagher, Gary Mittelbach, Ellen Keenan

Absent: Dustin Perrin, Jay Wesley, Vicki Gesmundo

Guests: Susan Harrison, Joe Lukeman, Kathy Gallagher (incoming Board members), Mike Gallagher (Water Quality), Eric Reid (Communications) and ~25 GLQO Members

Introduction and Agenda:

Kay Gross, President, welcomed all and introduced the current GLQO board members, including Gary Mittelbach who was appointed to the Board (May 2024) to replace Mike Gallagher who had to resign before his term ended. Susan Harrison will be joining the Board to fulfill Vicki Gesmundo's term (starting in September 2024) as Vicki also had to resign before her term ended. Two new GLQO board members – Kathy Gallagher and Joe Lukeman - were also introduced; their appointments will be affirmed by the membership later in this meeting. They will each serve a three year term, starting in September 2024.

Kay also welcomed Chief Martin, Ross Township Police Department and Marine Patrol and representatives from the Ross and Prairieville Township offices.

Reports:

Water Quality

Gary Mittelbach

Gary Mittelbach gave a short report on the schedule for water quality monitoring in Gull and Little Long Lakes this summer (for Mike Gallagher). This monitoring is done as part of the CLMP program and is done by volunteers (Mike Gallagher on Gull, John Etcorn on Little Long). Monitoring includes water clarity, phosphorous, temperature, oxygen. Currently both Gull Lake and Long Lakes have high water quality, a pattern that has been documented for over a decade. Mike G reported that currently water clarity (depth for secchi) was 25.5 ft today. That is typical for this lake this time of year. At the beginning of the year it was 34 feet; algal growth over the summer causes this to decline and by mid-July, it will only be 8 ft. These levels are typical for lakes with high water quality and productive fisheries. A major activity of the GLQO this summer will be to continue work to reduce the occurrence and spread of invasive, aquatic plant species. Areas where invasive species are noted will be treated. This work is done by a contract with Progressive Lake Management who will this year do a survey of the entire lake. The main areas where aquatic invasive species are found in Gull Lake are at Prairieville Township park, Gull Lake Country Club and Gull Lake Ministries, all are areas where there are boat launches. Areas with aquatic invasive species are treated with chemicals, that are approved by the DEQ. Property owners where treatment may occur are also contacted and asked to approve these

treatments. Gary also entertained questions as to the quality of the fisheries in Gull Lake; an article about this written with Jay Wesley will be in the upcoming Newsletter.

Kay reminded those in attendance that GLQO is again participating in the “Score the Shore” program. All shorelines along Gull Lake will be surveyed and their quality noted in several areas. Mike Gallagher is coordinating these efforts with a team of GLQO member volunteers; they started sampling today and completed 4 of 87 segments. She also answered questions about the operation and hours for the Boat Wash at Prairieville Township Park that is managed by GLQO. Several members noted that this is important for maintaining high water quality and control of invasive species in Gull Lake.

Outreach and Communications

Sera Gesmundo

Sera described a new effort the committee did this spring to reach new homeowners on Gull Lake. They developed an information packet that included information about the GLQO and what we do, general information on boating safety, and ways to protect and enhance shorelines with native/natural plantings. These packets (~35) were sent to all new homeowners on Gull Lake, (identified with the help of Ellen Keenan and Vicki Gesmundo). There are challenges in reaching part-time residents of Gull Lake as many do not have mail delivery here. She also answered questions about how the GLQO reaches out to the community to share what we do and other information about water quality using Facebook and our website. Discussion followed about ways to reach GL residents who may not (yet) be aware of GLQO and the work we do. Mike Gallagher suggested that GLQO members contact their neighbors and invite them to join. Brochures describing the GLQO were made available at the meeting for people to use for this.

Sara also explained there will not be a Fall Fling this year as participation by GLQO members has declined. Instead, we are co-organizing with KBS Outreach an informational workshop “Lunch and Learn” that will focus on training participants on what they can do to enhance their shorelines with native and natural plantings. The workshop will be 11 July; more information about this is posted on the website and was in the Summer newsletter. A mailing went out to all GLQO members with this information (and the date/time for the annual meeting) earlier in June. GLQO members will have a discounted registration fee for this workshop.

Treasurer’s Report

Don Paulson

Don Paulson, GLQO Treasurer, presented a summary of the GLQO finances and directed people to a handout he had prepared. GLQO income is almost solely dependent on membership and that can vary over the year; many members renew or join in November/ December so our finances in mid-summer appear to be in deficit. We develop a budget annually (adopted in February) based on expected income from past year (average of last 3 yrs) and expenditures provided by committees. He briefly outlined what these expenditures are; the primary expenses are for operation and maintenance of the Boatwash at Prairieville Township Park (~\$22,000), mapping and treating aquatic invasive species (~\$10,000).

Confirmation of New Board Members

Kay Gross

Kay asked the membership to affirm the recommendation of the GLQO Nominating Committee (chaired by Vicki Gesmundo) to appoint Kathy Gallagher and Joe Lukeman to the GLQO board. Motion made Eric Reid and seconded by Joe Lukeman. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Kay Gross introduced, Erica Bays, from the Remediation and Development Division of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. Erica has been involved in the coordination of PFAS monitoring in and around Gull Lake and was asked to provide a brief summary of that work, and what may be upcoming. Her presentation was entitled “ ***Update: PFAS Monitoring in and Around Gull Lake***”.

Erica’s presentation included graphs, handouts and other information on the work being done to monitor PFAS in ground water, including data from monitoring wells that were established to track PFAS. The plume that has been detected from the production plastics plant appears to be stable and there is no evidence it is moving into Gull Lake. A question came from the audience as to the cause of high PFAS levels detected in smelt in past sampling. This may be due to a flaw in the sample processing protocol; this is being tested and new results are expected to show that the prior reports were too high. Fish (including smelt) in Gull Lake will again be tested for PFAS in 2025.

There is a planned study to measure PFAS levels in the ground water-surface water interface in and around the Idlewild neighborhood. EGLE is looking for volunteers to assist with this. (Eric Reid volunteered.) Another area of concern is the Gull Vista plat, particularly along Delmar, as high PFAS levels have been detected in wells in this area. Additional sampling is planned for this area over the summer and fall 2024. It is unknown what may have caused high PFAS levels in this area; it is not likely from the plastics plant.

Erica concluded her presentation with a summary of the new EPA standards for PFAS in drinking water. The new MCL (maximum contamination level) set by the EPA is below that which the state currently has, and it is the responsibility of the state to approve these new standards. She provided a brochure with additional resources about PFAS in Gull Lake and other lakes in the area.

Kay thanked the committee chairs and speakers for their presentations and invited everyone in attendance to continue to mingle. She also thanked the Outreach Committee for their assistance in organizing this meeting and the staff of the Manor House for their service.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. Socializing continued.