

# GULL LAKE QUALITY ORGANIZATION

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2024

Call to order: 7:00 pm

Quorum declared: YES

### Approval of the Agenda

**Non-agenda item** - Kay will be sending out thank you notes to new life time members

### Board Attendance:

Present: Katherine Gross, Sera Gesmundo, Margo Rebar, Tom Belco, Don Paulson, Pete Hawk, Gary Mittelbach, Joe Lukeman; Via Zoom: Kathy Gallagher Susan Harrison, Dustin Perrin, Trudy Luedecking, Ellen Keenan and Jay Wesley

Absent: Andy Widner

Welcome new board members:

- Gary Mittelbach (replacing Mike Gallagher, term ends Sept 2026)
- Susan Harrison (replacing Vicki Gesmundo, term ends Sept 2026)
- Kathy Gallagher (newly elected, term ends Sept 2027)
- Joe Lukeman (newly elected, term ends Sept 2027)

All of the new board members have served previously on the GLQO Board; currently have 15 board members

Introduction of Guests:

- Chief Brown, Ross Township Police Dept (Marine Patrol)
- Jimmy Stoneburner, Supervisor Prairieville Township Park

**Meeting minutes.** The minutes of the May and June (Annual) meeting were approved as presented. Tom Belco moved to accept the minutes and Gary Mittelbach seconded, motion passed unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report

Don Paulson

The latest report was in May and approved up through April. May thru August highlights: \$264 general donation in July from lifetime member; \$200 for weed control from Gull Lake Ministries in June. Major expenditures in the past 3 months included: contributions were made to the Kalamazoo County Sheriff Department and Ross Township for Marine Patrol activities on Gull Lake (\$1500 each); mapping and treatment for aquatic invasive species (\$6572.81); MLSA dues and subscriptions (\$1436) and food for annual meeting food and beverage expenses (\$520.30). Usage fees for the Manor House for this meeting will be paid this month. An unanticipated fee for accounting services (\$625) was paid because our total revenues exceeded \$50,000 and so we needed to submit documentation for tax-free status using a long form that using a certified account. Revenue from regular membership is below what is anticipated annually; however, we expect this will be met by the November-December renewals. We have had one additional

Lifetime Membership above what was budgeted. No expenses to date for the boatwash; labor and other improvements will be paid later in the fall.

Motion by Sara Gesmundo to accept the Treasurer's report; seconded by Tom Belco seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Actions:

Tom Belco moved to affirm the electronic vote to accept the resignation of Vicki Gesmundo and appoint Susan Harrison to complete her term (effective September 1, 2024) seconded by Margo Rebar, motion passed.

Election of Officers

Kay Gross presented the following roster for GLQO Board officers for the coming year.

President – Kay Gross  
Ellen Keenan – Vice President  
Trudy Luedecking - Secretary  
Don Paulson - Treasurer

Moved by Tom Belco, seconded by Gary Mittelbach to approve these officers. Motion passed animously

Confirmation of Committee chairs

Kay Gross shared the Committee Chair appointments for the coming year:

Gary Mittelbach – Water Quality  
Jay Wesley – Fisheries  
Membership – Kathy Gallagher  
Finance – Don Paulson  
Outreach and Communications – Sera Gesmundo  
Boating Safety – Pete Hawk  
Nominating – Ellen Keenan

Official liaisons will be:

Trudy Luedecking – Richland Township  
Jay Wesley – Prairieville Township  
Joe Lukeman – Ross Township  
Margo Rebar – Prairieville Township Parks  
Tom Belco – Gull Lake Country Club

Committee assignments for board members were also presented (see attached). In addition several non-board members are serving on Committees and providing important services to the GLQO. Mike Gallagher and John Etcorn will do water quality monitoring, Eric Reed Communications (newsletter, website, FaceBook), and Vicki Gesmundo is assisting with membership

**Committee Updates:**

Boating Safety -Peter Hawk: Pete introduced Chief Brown, Ross Township Police and Marine Patrol who shared a summary of their activities on Gull Lake over the summer. The Marine Patrol is primarily on the lake Saturday and Sunday; also holidays and special events, including

providing safety support for a night-time drone demonstration organized by the Kellogg Company. Only one citation (noise) was issued this year; and one arrest (domestic violence/intoxication). Most stops resulted in warnings and most of these (22 of 30) were for wake zone violations. The also towed in two stranded motorists. Funds from GLQO were used to purchase stabilizing binoculars, spot light and speaker/sound system for the boat. A wave runner has been donated to the Marine Patrol that can be used for additional security on the lake. He also shared concerns about information in a recent article in *The Riparian Magazine* that suggested that there may be changes in how riparian rights are interpreted regarding land owner's privacy. A court case is forthcoming to challenge (and perhaps provide clarity) on this issue. Chief Ross shared that most boaters on the lake are very respectful and they had fewer problems than anticipated around Mardi Gras and other traditional celebrations on Gull Lake.

Water Quality – Gary Mittelbach: Gary shared the major activities of the committee this year: 1) survey and treatment for aquatic invasive species (AIS), 2) Score the Shore and 3) regular water quality monitoring. This year the entire lake was surveyed for AIS in August and no new areas of infestation were detected. AIS were treated in four areas which have had infestations: north end (near the Township park), GLCC, and the outlet channel near mosquito island. Progressive also inadvertently treated areas near the GL Ministries without notifying them; we have clarified who to contact about this in the future. PLM decided that only two treatments – not three as had been budgeted – were needed this year. This and the survey data indicate that our efforts to control AIS in Gull Lake are working.

Questions were raised regarding how long people need to stay out of the water after treatment (24 hrs). We will again share with GLCC and GL Ministries these results and estimates of the cost for monitoring and treating areas by their properties. Mike Gallagher and a team of Volunteers completed the Score the Shore for Gull Lake and while the score (45/100) was not substantially different from past year, it is on par for a lake with the high density of residents. The team also counted the number of boats moored along the lake and it is higher than in past year. Question arose about water clarity and the presence of 'foam' on the lake that were addressed by Mike G and Gary M. These are not atypical for mid-summer, especially when it has been very warm. Articles about this have been in the Newsletter in the past and may bear repeating.

Membership – Kathy Gallagher: Kathy provided a summary of 2024 membership. We currently have 359 total members of which 42 are Lifetime Members. This is down slightly from past year (365); peak membership (in 2018) was 421. Twelve new Lifetime Members joined for 2024; 4 in this budget cycle. The breakdown by membership categories is: Bronze (198 regular, 15 Business): Silver (82 regular, 4 Business), Gold (14 regular, 2 business) and Platinum (2 regular). She noted that some members, including Lifetime Members, have made additional payments and asked that these be donations. There were 32 New Members this year; and 68 previous GLQO (2022, 2023) members but chose not to renew. Approximately 50 members join/renew using PayPal/Venmo which charges GLQO a small fee for these payments. Nine (out of 32) Welcome Packets were returned as Undeliverable by the USPS.

Fisheries - Jay Wesley: Hot summer temperatures can be stress on fish and this is likely the cause of mortality as there are no reports of diseases in GL fish. He also shared and can get mortality from that, no disease. New regulations for Northern pike are being considered that would limit the size (slot) that can be kept. These regulations are out for public comment and if adopted would go into effect in April 2025.

Outreach and Communications - Sera Gesmundo: Sera has a list of 20-30 new home owners

on Gull Lake and is planning to send out the Welcome packets developed last year. These are expensive to mail and discussions ensued as to the effectiveness of this compared to postcards, personal contact, etc. It is not easy to determine who the actual owners are, could be a trust, out of state owners, renters, etc. Several suggestions were made about how to target recruitment of new members; Sera will work with Kathy G (Membership) on plans for this.

Summer Lunch and Learn - Kay/Margo: The GLQO collaboration to offer with KBS a “Lunch and Learn” program was a success. The workshop was held at KBS on July 11 (10:30-3pm) and provided hands on learning for homeowners to enhance their shorelines. There were 22 attendees, of which 11 were GLQO members. KBS coordinated the program including contacting speakers, promotion, registration of attendees and local logistics. Margo Rebar attended for GLQO and provided free plants for those who participated to get their shorelines started. Attendees got information from the speakers, a tour of the shorelines at KBS, brochures (over 30 different ones were available) and a chance to get information for their own shoreline. Attendees particularly appreciated the opportunity to get advice on their shorelines from ‘the experts’ and other attendees. Given this response we will plan to repeat this event in 2025; Kay will contact Misty Klotz (KBS Outreach Coordinator) to get this scheduled. Margo suggested it would be great to provide tours of owners that currently have shorelines that are natural vs a seawall and look at someone else’s native gardens and compare to their own.

Communications Calendar & Schedule - Eric Reid: Fall Newsletter is predicted to go out in mid-November. This month he will post to FB and website, about this year’s board, and minutes and upcoming meetings. Draft of articles are needed by October 15. Topics for articles for the newsletter could be: summary of Marine Patrol activities in 2024 (Ross Township and Kalamazoo County); the Lunch and Learn workshop; summaries of water quality and fisheries. This newsletter will also promote members to join for 2025. he will look at next year’s membership campaign. Members were again encouraged to submit photographs for the website, FaceBook and newsletter.

The need to have a policy and rates for advertising in the Newsletter was also discussed. Kay asked Don Paulson and Joe Lukeman to develop a proposal for Board review at the October meeting.

### **Old Business:**

MOU with Prairieville Township

Kay Gross

Kay introduced Jimmy Stoneburner, Supervisor Prairieville Township, and he shared with the Board how important the GLQO is to the Township Parks and that he is looking forward to enhancing this relationship as outlined in the newly adopted MOU between GLQO and the Township. The Prairieville Township Parks and Recreation Board (which controls the park on Gul Lake) is elected and so he can only make suggestions to them about activities, fees, etc. They are receptive to supporting the Boat wash financially as they get many compliments about this from users. He will be asking the Assistant Parks Manager (Rick van de Weg) to be responsible for the Gull Lake Park, to make communication and collaboration easier Kay shared that the Parks Board has agreed to become Lifetime members of GLQO, starting in 2025.

### **New Business:**

Collaboration with Prairieville Township

Kay Gross/Margo Rebar

Kay and Margo attended the Prairieville Township Parks and Recreation Board Meeting this month and shared with them what the GLQO does. One outcome of this was the Parks Board deciding to join the GLQO as Lifetime members. They also discussed the value of having a plan for developing native landscaping around this park, particularly the shorelines of Gull Lake and Prairieville Creek. The new MOU provides a means to coordinate in these efforts; planning, developing and costs. The MDNR will also need to be involved as some of this relates to their interest.

It was determined that GLQO and the Parks Board will have a joint committee to develop this plan; Margo Rebar and Susan Harrison will represent GLQO. Judy Risdon and Rick van de Weg will represent the Parks Board; there will likely also be participants from MDNR (Jay Wesley suggested Matt Diana) and Michigan EGLE (Julia Kirkwood and/or Erick Elgin). Margo suggested the Kalamazoo area Wild Ones may be interested in taking this on as a project as well. They have both funds and people interested in developing native shorelines. Kay reminded those present that the fence along the creek (which was installed by the Township) is on private property and this person owns 'halfway into the creek' (Riparian rights).

Concerns about runoff

Pete Hawk

Pete Hawk shared that he (and others) have noticed that there is a lot of runoff over the highway into the Creek when there is a big storm/downpour. It appears to be coming from the northside of the highway. He suggested we should explore putting in some sort of containment system for this and that Ed McCarty might provide some useful information about this as he has installed a system on his property by the "Chicken House". There seem to be other areas around the lake that such runoff may be a problem; the challenge is that this is likely primarily on private property. Discussion ensued about how to get information about where and when this occurs and then work with the MDNR and possibly MDOT on options for remediation. Kay suggested we include a note in the newsletter and FaceBook for people to report where there is runoff into the lake and once we have this information we can determine how to proceed.

Future meetings dates: The board agreed that future meeting will be held on:

- 2024 October 8
- 2025 February 11
- March 11
- May 13
- June 10 (Annual Meeting)
- September 9
- October 14

Meetings will continue to be held at the KBS Carriage House classroom (Manor House for Annual Meeting); meetings will be held over ZOOM if needed.

Pete Hawk moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Gary Mittelbach motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

GLQO Committee Memberships (2024-2025) – attached

## **GLQO Committee Memberships (2024-2025)**

<b>Executive</b>	<b>Water Quality</b>	<b>Fisheries</b>	<b>Finance</b>	<b>Nominating</b>	<b>Boating Safety</b>	<b>Outreach &amp; Communications</b>	<b>Membership</b>
Kay Gross* Ellen Keenan	Gary Mittelbach* Jay Wesley	Jay Wesley* Pete Hawk	Don Paulson* Andy Widner Sera Gesmundo	Ellen Keenan* Jay Wesley  Susan Harrison	Pete Hawk* Tom Belco  Joe Lukeman	Sera Gesmundo* Susan Harrison  Margo Rebar Ellen Keenan Kathy Gallagher  <i>Eric Reid</i>	Kathy Gallagher* Kay Gross  Trudy Luedecking    <i>Eric Reid</i> <i>Vicki Gesmundo</i>
	Pete Hawk Dustin Perrin Joe Lukeman  <i>Mike Gallagher</i> <i>John Etzcorn</i>	Andy Widner Tom Belco  <i>Brook Wilke</i>					

*\*Chair*

<b>Liaison to</b> Ross Township Richland Township Prairieville Township Prairieville Parks MDNR KBS GLCC	<b>Board Member</b> Joe Lukeman Trudy Luedecking Jay Wesley Margo Rebar Jay Wesley Andy Widner Tom Belco
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