

**Gull Lake Quality Organization  
Board of Directors Meeting  
KBS Carriage House  
February 11, 2025**

Call to Order: 7:00 PM (Quorum Noted)

**Board Attendance:**

Tom Belco, Kathy Gallagher, Sera Gesmundo, Kay Gross, Susan Harrison, Joe Lukeman, Gary Mittelbach, Don Paulson, Jay Wesley, Andrew Widner; Ellen Keenan and Dustin Perrin via Zoom

**Absent:**

Pete Hawk, Trudy Luedecking, Margo Rebar

**Approval of Agenda:**

***A motion made to Tom Belco to approve the agenda as presented was seconded by Kathy Gallagher. Motion Carried.***

**Review and Approval of Minutes for October 8, 2024**

Jay Wesley noted that there was the letter "t" in the Fisheries Report that needed to be deleted.

***A motion made by Tom Belco to approve the minutes as corrected was seconded by Andrew Widner. Motion Carried.***

**Treasurer's Report**

Three reports were distributed: 2024 Treasurer's Report (Final), 2025 Budget Draft and a 3-year budget comparison.

*2024 Treasurer's Report:*

- Dues are down quite a bit from projections and previous years; in 2024 there were 4 Lifetime Memberships compared to 15 in 2023. Although Expenses were within projections for 2024, the reduction in income resulted in a \$10,293 deficit.
- Don provided a 3-Year budget comparison report that showed that total income over the past 3 yrs, averaged \$50,073. This puts us over the limit (\$50,000) that requires a long-form to be submitted to the IRS; he did this and worked with Reyman accounting to review and submit the form. This was an unanticipated expense (\$625) and will have to be included in future budgets. Total income from dues varies quite a bit and on average is \$39,076. Don noted that our membership appeal (in early November) results in income to the prior year for the next years membership.

***A motion made by Jay Welsey to approve the Treasurer's was seconded by Tom Belco. Motion Carried.***

*2025 Budget Draft*

- The budget is being presented earlier this year than in prior years; it reflects only income received through January. Based on expected income and expenses, the

- proposed 2025 budget anticipates a \$11,303 deficit.
- There was discussion about the budgeted expenses for maintenance of Boat Wash (\$700) and if Prairieville Township might contribute to this. Kay stated that the current MOU with the Township includes a shared responsibility for maintenance of the Boat Wash; but these funds would have to be requested in advance of any expenditures
- The budgeted cost for Weed Control includes the cost of checking sites with invasive species in 2024; the whole lake survey is only done every three years
- Income from membership is declining and there was discussion of how to address this.

*Major Expenses:* Background information was provided by committee chairs on the reason for specific expenses in the 2025 budget.

- *Prairieville Township Project:* Susan Harrison provided a summary of the project that is being proposed to enhance and improve shorelines at the Prairieville Township Park on Gull Lake. The team that has developed this plan includes members of GLQO, EGLE, Prairieville Township and other riparians. The proposal includes a three-phase plan and an anticipated total budget of \$8-\$10,000 (perhaps less). She recommends that Phase 1, to stabilize the stream-side in the park with shrubs and plants - be done in 2025 as shoreline erosion is increasing. To do the project as planned, plants need to be purchased this spring. Margo Rebar is overseeing this. Planting can/could be done by GLQO and other community volunteers. The anticipated cost of Phase 1 is \$3000; Prairieville Township is supportive of this plan but lacks funding. Ideas for funding this project through targeted invitations to Lifetime members to make contributions to a Special Projects funds was discussed. There was board agreement that this opportunity should be afforded to Lifetime Members. Kay and Kathy will follow up with letters to Lifetime Members in late April/early May.
- *Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring/Treatment:* Gary Mittelbach provided a brief overview of the plans for monitoring water quality in Gull and Little Long Lakes in 2025. The 2024 data on this from the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program should be available soon. We have again contracted with PLM for monitoring and treating invasive plants species in Gull Lake in 2025. This year will focus on where invasive species were found and treat where needed. Invasive species have not spread. Riparian permissions for treatment, if needed will be handled by PLM for the future.
- *Membership Outreach Efforts:* Sera Gesmundo summarized discussions that the Outreach team has had regarding how to increase membership. Eric Reid has created a fillable pdf membership form that can/will be posted on our website and also sent to all current members (in April) to encourage them to renew (if they have not) and to forward to others who are not GLQO members. Memberships can be renewed or made through our website using PayPal or by mailing. The mail appeal will be launched in April for the remaining lapsed members.
- The committee developed a Communication Plan to increase our presence on Facebook and potentially other social media (e.g. Instagram). These activities require content and Board members are asked to send fun/interesting photos to Eric Reid for posting.

-

***A motion made by Susan Harrison to approve 2025 Budget was seconded by Sera Gesmundo.***

The following discussion ensued:

- Jay requested a decrease in Fisheries Special projects to \$100
- There was consensus to leave Income from dues at \$33,300 as this reflects the 3 yr average.
- Sera requested that Marketing & Development Misc Expenses be increase from \$200 to \$500 to pay for expected mailing expenses to reach new members

***Motion Carried.***

**Committee Updates:**

Boating Safety: Joe Lukeman reported that no report from Kalamazoo County Marine Patrol for 2024; he will follow up on this.

Membership: Kathy Gallagher will send the fillable pdf membership form to Board members so that they can share with family and friends who are not members. Sera requested that we provide a Members to Date List to the Board so they can review this.

Fisheries: Jay Wesley reported that there is substantial ice cover on Gull Lake this year - 10 inches – and so a good ice-fishing year is expected. He has checked into sites for providing the Clean Up Containers to be used by ice-fishers and installed several them at Baseline Road, Prairieville Township and Bible Conference; he is looking for permission to do this at a site on the south end of the lake. He reminded Board members that the MDNR proposed Slot limit for pike takes effect on April 1.

Outreach and Communications: A summary of Facebook posts for the year was provided by Eric. In an effort to promote Businesses that are GLQO members, we will ill feature businesses with Silver (\$100) and above memberships on Facebook and our newsletter. Articles for the Spring Newsletter are due in early March. Kay reviewed the topics and writing assignments for the upcoming newsletter.

Nominations Committee: Sera Gesmundo reminded the Board that four current board members (Sera Gesmundo, Don Paulson, Margo Rebar, and Dustin Perrin) will be rotating off in 2025 and so she is looking for nominations to replace them: She asked Board members to send her recommendations for new Board members, and to contact current (or potential) GLQO members to let them know of this opportunity. She has posted this on Facebook..

**2025 Activities:**

*Winter Lake Cleanup:* Jay Wesley reported this is in process with trash containers installed at 3 (soon 4) locations where ice-fishers commonly come on to Gull Lake. There does not seem to be as much trash/debris as in years past.

*Lunch and Learn: Lakescaping.* Kay reported that KBS wants to again partner

with us to offer this opportunity and it is scheduled for July 10. There will again be a discount for GLQO members to attend this workshop.

*Annual Meeting:* Kathy Gallagher reported that Attorney Cliff Bloom has agreed to be the keynote speaker at the GLQO annual meeting. There was discussion about having a venue at KBS with more capacity than the Manor House; Kay and Andy Widner will check into options for this. Sera is pursuing finding donors to support the cost of the Annual Meeting

**New Business:**

Increase in regular Membership dues: Regular dues in the GLQO have not been increased in many years (over a decade) and a modest increase (from \$40 to \$50) for the base membership would provide needed additional income and not likely reduce membership at this level. A short discussion ensued.

***A motion made by Sera Gesmundo to increase the base rate for regular membership in the GLQO from \$40 to \$50 for 2026; seconded by Joe Lukeman. Motion Carried.***

Announcement of this change will be made at the Annual meeting, per the GLQO Bylaws.

Nominations for board.

Sera encouraged board members to send her suggestions for prospective candidates so she can contact them. It was suggested that we contact eligible former board members to invite them to rejoin the board.

Kay requested that we cancel the March meeting and reschedule for April 15. The members of the board concurred.

Kay shared that Paul Hauser, PLM was to speak about stormwater run-off at Richland Township. However, that did not happen. Several GLQO members have shared with her their concerns about the effect of increasing stormwater runoff on Gull Lake water quality. Kay suggested we invite Paul Hauser to speak at a future GLQO Board meeting; the board concurred so she will invite them to make a presentation on this topic at the upcoming (April) Board meeting. Information about this presentation will be shared with GLQO members (via Facebook).

Future Meetings: May 13; June 10 (Annual Meeting); September 9

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.