

**Gull Lake Quality Organization
Board of Directors Meeting
KBS Carriage House
April 15, 2025**

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

Board Attendance:

Tom Belco, Kathy Gallagher, Sera Gesmundo, Kay Gross, Ellen Keenan
Gary Mittelbach, Jay Wesley and Andrew Widner

Absent:

Pete Hawk, Joe Lukeman, Trudy Luedecking, Don Paulson, Dustin Perrin and Margo Rebar

Guests: Mark Kerschner, Eric Reid, Paul Hauser and Carrie Rivette

Approval of Agenda:

A motion made by Jay Welsey to approve the agenda as presented was seconded by Tom Belco. Motion Carried.

Special Presentation:

Paul Hauser and Carrie Rivette from Progressive Companies presented "Stormwater Runoff and Lakes." Slides from this presentation will be posted on the GLQO website.

Review and Approval of Minutes for February 11, 2025

A motion made by Jay Welsey to approve the Minutes as presented was seconded by Tom Belco. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report

The March 31, 2025 Treasurer's Report was distributed. Andrew Widner provided the following updates:

- Dues income for March was \$670
- Subscription to *The Riparian* magazine and fees for the planned mapping of Gull Lake to document aquatic invasive plant species (prior to treatment) were the biggest expenses. They are pass through expenses for members who request this subscription and pay the \$14 cost. GLQO Board members and Lifetime members receive a complimentary subscription to *The Riparian*
- It was noted that our CD is providing a better investment rate.

A motion made by Sera Gesmundo to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was seconded by Ellen Keenan. Motion Carried.

Committee Updates:

Water Quality:

Gary Mittelbach provided an update pertaining to the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP). We have been monitoring Gull and Little Long Lakes for 15 years. This includes measuring clarity (Secchi Disk), Chlorophyl, Phosphorous, Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature. There has not been much change since 2009. Both lakes are classified as mesotrophic.

Score the Shore was conducted on Gull Lake this summer. Summary data from that effort (led by Mike Gallagher) showed that there had been little/no change since this was last done (2007). Gull Lake's score is low relative to other lakes of this size, but this is not unusual for a lake with so much developed lake front.

Progressive Companies will again survey Gull Lake for aquatic invasive species this year,

focusing on areas where these species have been noted and treated in the past. Treatment will also be coordinated by Progressive who will make sure all permitting is up to date. The first survey is scheduled for May 22. Unfortunately, they can no longer include guests (e.g. GLQO member or boat wash staff) on this survey.

Kay noted that GLQO and KBS will again be offering a Native Shoreline Plant Workshop on July 10, at KBS.

Gary will do a write-up for the next newsletter of his report for the Summer Newsletter.

Membership:

There are currently 277 members for 2025. Of these, 18 were new memberships and 12 were renewals by people whose memberships had lapsed. This shows that our outreach efforts are working. However, there are currently about 200 former GLQO who have not (yet) renewed for 2025. They will receive a followup reminder letter in late April.

In 2025 we have two organizations as Lifetime members (KBS and Prairieville Township Parks); also three current Lifetime members made additional contributions/donations this year.

Eric Reid has created a fillable pdf membership form and this is now posted on the GLQO website. The pdf was also sent to Board members and they were encouraged to share this with family and friends.

Fisheries:

Jay Wesley indicated nothing new to report except that the new slot limit regulations for Northern Pike are now in effect for Gull Lake. There have not been any reported fish kills in Gull or Little Long lake this year.

Outreach and Communications:

Kay shared at the onset of the meeting that Fischer Jex, Boat Wash Lead, passed away unexpectedly on April 12. GLQO will plan to do a living memorial – such a plant a tree at the launch site.

Eric Reid called for articles for the next newsletter providing a five-week window for submission.

Kalamazoo is sponsoring a River/Trail Clean Up on May 17 and GLQO will promote this event on our FaceBook site.

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy is hosting an event at the Manor House on May 28. GLQO Board members will be invited. The goal of this gathering is to raise awareness about the work SWMLC does, especially in the Gull Lake area. A past collaboration with GLQO resulted in large amounts of land that surround Prairieville Creek being set up as Conservation Easements to protect water quality of this important source of water to Gull Lake.

Margo Rebar provided a short summary of the work the Prairieville Township Project has been doing and their plans for this coming spring/summer. For this year, the focus will be on restoration and establishment of native plants (primarily shrubs and trees) along the west shoreline of Prairieville Creek. The committee has purchased a limited number of bare root shrubs and small trees from Barry County Conservation District to be picked up on April 25 or 26. These are being paid for by a contribution to WildOnes made by Margo Rebar. These plants will be planted along the creek replacing the invasive buckthorn. Additional shrubs and ground cover will be added at a future time, hopefully, this fall. A Committee meeting will be held on April 30 at 3:00 p.m. at NED's to finalize plans for planting. Anyone is welcome to join.

New Business:**Bylaws/Dues:**

Kay reported that according to our bylaws we need to report the dues increase at our annual meeting.

A motion made by Gary Mittelbach to announce the dues increase at the June 10 Annual Meeting was seconded by Ellen Keenan. Motion carried.

We also need to formally review and approve the current bylaws (if no changes are needed).

A motion was made by Tom Belco, seconded by Jay Wesley, to approve the GLQO bylaws as they are currently written. Motion carried

Nominations for board.

Sera reported that five current board members will be retiring this year (term limited): Sera Gesmundo, Pete Hawk, Don Paulson, Dustin Perrin and Margo Rebar. Three current board members whose terms are expiring have agreed to be reappointed: Tom Belco, Jay Wesley and Andy Widner

The following individuals have expressed interest in serving on the GLQO Board, starting in September 2025: Steve Keith (returning), Mark Kerschner, Jim Nolin and Hank Pender (all would be new to the Board). Final decision and a formal recommendation for new board members will be made at the May Board meeting and presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting planning. The Annual Meeting will be on June 10. Kathy reported that Attorney Cliff Bloom will be attending and will make a presentation on Riparian Rights. Cliff is a regular columnist in *The Riparian* and speaker at the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (MLSA) meetings. The Terrace Room at KBS has been reserved for the annual meeting because it better accommodates a powerpoint presentation and has more room for attendees.

Future Meetings: May 13; June 10 (Annual Meeting); September 9 (official start of terms for newly elected Board members)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.