

GULL LAKE QUALITY ORGANIZATION

Annual Meeting, WK Kellogg Biological Station Terrace Room
10 June 2025 - Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Call to order: 7:00 pm

Quorum declared: YES

Approval of the Agenda

Attendees:

Board Members: Katherine Gross, Sera Gesmundo, Tom Belco, Andy Widner, Kathy Gallagher, Gary Mittelbach, Jay Wesley, Susan Harrison, Joe Lukeman, Margo Rebar (Absent: Dustin Perrin, Don Paulson, Pete Hawk, Ellen Keenan, Trudy Leudecking)

Guests: Incoming Board members – Hank Pender, Steve Keith, Jim Nolin (absent); Amber Widner (Boat wash coordinator), Christina Hutchings and Martin Brown, Bear Priest (Richland Township), Eric Reid, Cliff Bloom (speaker) and approximately 40 GLQO members and other lake residents.

Introduction and Agenda:

Kay Gross, President, welcomed all and introduced the current GLQO board members and several special guests at the meeting, including representatives for Ross and Richland Township, Amber Widner (Boatwash coordinator) and three of the Boatwash attendants. She thanked Amber for helping to prepare the slides for “this is what we do” ppt that was displayed prior to the meeting. She also introduced the current GLQO Board members thanked all of them for their work this past year. She noted that four current board members – Sera Gesmundo, Dustin Perrin, Don Paulson, and Pete Hawk – are retiring this year and thanked them for their service for the past 3 (Hawk) and 6 (Paulson, Gesmundo, Perrin) years

Business Meeting Part one – Board Appointment

Three current board members – Andy Widner (Finance Committee), Tom Belco (GLQO Liaison), Jay Wesley (Fisheries Committee) - have completed a 3 yr term on the board and agreed to serve for another term. The Nominating Committee (Sera Gesmundo, Chair) recommended that they be reappointed to another 3 yr term. Moved by Susan Harrison, seconded by Gary Mittelbach to accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to reappoint these individuals to the GLQO Board. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Nominating Committee also recommends the following three people be appointed to the GLQO Board for an initial 3 yr term: Hank Pender (Pender Boatworks), Steve Keith (Gull Lake Ministries), and Jim Nolin (Retired, family has recently re-established residency on Gull Lake). Moved by Jay Wesley, seconded by Tom Belco to accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee for these appointments. Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Guest Speaker – Cliff Bloom

Kay Gross introduced Cliff Bloom, Attorney and expert on Riparian Rights and many issues of importance to our membership. Mr. Bloom writes a regular column for the MLSA publication *The Michigan Riparian* and is a frequent speaker at MLSA and other meetings focused on riparian rights and laws. After his presentation, there was a Q&A session where several issues of local concern were discussed. (NB – A

summary of his talk prepared by Amber Widner and the slide deck from his powerpoint are posted on the GLQO website)

Business Meeting Part 2 - Committee Reports

Kay provided an overview of the activities and committee reports of the GLQO, her comments are summarized below:

Financial Report (prepared by Andy Widner)– A comparison of income 2024 and 2025 (to date) shows that that we continue to rely primarily on dues and donations (primarily for weed control). Our expenses are focused on activities to reduce/prevent the introduction and spread of Aquatic Invasive Specie (AIS) into Gull Lake – this includes maintaining and staffing the Boat Wash at Prairieville Township Park and surveying, monitoring and treating areas with AIS in Gull Lake. Regular memberships to date in GLQO are a bit below what was budgeted. The number of lifetime memberships in GLQO has increased almost 3-fold over the past 4 years (16 to 45); in 2025 there two new Business/Organization Lifetime memberships (KBS and Prairieville Township Parks Committee). Expenses have exceeded income by ~\$10,000 this year.

Membership - GLQO has launched several efforts to increase awareness of the organization and what we do, including more frequent posting on social media, direct mailings to over 900 residences in the watershed’ and hosting a workshop on how to enhance lakes shorelines to protect water quality. To better align income and expenses, the GLQO Board has voted to increase the base membership (from \$40 to \$50 annually) beginning with 2026 memberships

Water Quality (prepared by Gary Mittelbach) GLQO volunteers continue to monitor water quality in Gull Lake and Little Long Lake as participants in the Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program. The report for 2024 this monitoring shows that both lakes continue to have high water quality – copies of the 2024 report were available at the meeting. An article about this work and CLMP will be in the upcoming GLQO (summer) newsletter. Historically six species of AIS have been detected in Gull Lake, the most abundant are Eurasian milfoil, curly pondweed, and starry stonewort. Efforts to control these species have been successful as fewer sites were detected with these species in 2024. One treatment was done in early June and a second treatment and survey are scheduled for July. The Boat Wash at Prairieville Township Park plays an important role in our efforts to control AIS in Gull Lake.

Outreach Activities – In collaboration with Prairieville Township Parks Committee and Wild Ones, GLQO is taking steps to improve shorelines along Prairieville Creek and Gull lake at the Township Park on Gull Lake. As the first phase of this project, 15 trees (small seedlings) were planted along the creek .. and 300+ flowering plants will be added to this area (planting tomorrow). Plants were acquired from Barry County Conservation District and member gardens. In addition a Memorial Tree for Fischer Jex – serviceberry – will be planted in the grassy ‘island’ around the Boat Wash shed later this month. Financial donations to support this work are appreciated. GLQO will again be co-sponsoring with KBS Outreach, MSU Extension, and EGLE a hand on workshop on July 10 (“Lunch and Learn- Enhancing Shoreline Vegetation”) to teach participants how they can improve their shorelines with native plants. Margo Rebar will again be providing free plants to participants for this event.

Following a Q&A session, the business meeting was adjourned (8pm) and Kay invited everyone in attendance to continue to mingle. She also thanked Amber Widner for her assistance in preparing materials for this meeting. Socializing continued until 9 pm