

**Gull Lake Quality Organization
Board of Directors Meeting
KBS Carriage House
May 13, 2025**

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

Board Attendance:

Tom Belco, Sera Gesmundo, Kay Gross, Ellen Keenan
Gary Mittelbach, Jay Wesley, Trudy Luedeking, Margo Rebar, Don Paulson, Pete Hawk,
Susan Harrison, Joe Lukeman, Tom Belco, and Andrew Widner

Absent:

Kathy Gallagher, Dustin Perrin, Joe Lukeman, and Ellen Keenan

Guests: Eric Reid, Jim Nolin

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was approved as presented.

Review and Approval of Minutes for April 15, 2025

A motion made by Sera Gesmundo to approve the Minutes as corrected; seconded by Jay Wesley Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The April 30, 2025, Treasurer's Report was distributed. Andrew Widner provided the following updates:

- Income for the past month (\$3400) is better than last couple months.
- There were several large expenses posted this past month, including MLSA subscriptions for *The Michigan Riparian*, insurance, taxes and printing and mailing of the Spring Newsletter.
- There was a positive (\$700), balance for the month however, year to date we are showing a slight deficit. However, total GLQO assets are good.
- Jay stated he has never had to use the \$100 allotted to Fisheries for the purchase of trash receptacles this winter.

A motion made by Jay Wesley to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was seconded by Gary Mittlebach. Motion carried.

Kay introduced Jim Nolan as a potential new future board member. Jim provided a brief summary of his family's involvement on Gull Lake. – they have had a family home on Gull Lake since the late 1800's. He has recently returned to the area after living in Spain for several years.

Committee Updates:

Water Quality:

Gary Mittelbach reported that he and Mike Gallagher have started the CLMP (Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program) sampling on Little Long and Gull Lakes, respectively. Water clarity is high in both lakes – secchi depth was 36' for Gull Lake and 32' for Little Long Lake. Sampling of both lakes will be done by Gary (after June 10) as Mike and Kathy Gallagher are taking an extended trip out west this summer. Volunteers to assist with this are welcome!

Fisheries:

Jay Wesley reported that the new slot limit for Northern Pike is now in effect for Gull Lake. The new rule determines the number and size of Northern Pike that can be held by a fisher. There were not reported fish kills on Gull or Little Long Lake this spring.

Boating Safety: Nothing new to report.

Membership:

Kathy Gallagher organized the mailing of a reminder to renew letter to 200 past members (2024, 2023) who had not yet renewed at the end of April. As of this meeting, 20 renewals had been received. It is hoped that this will continue.

Outreach and Communications:

- Prairieville Township Park Project: Sue Harrison reported that Margo Rebar has donated funds through Wild Ones to purchase bare root trees and native forbs (herbaceous plants) from Barry County Conservation District to be planted in the Prairieville Township park creek restoration project. The trees will be planted in the next 2-3 weeks; the forbs in early June. KBS is also donating mulch that can be applied around the plantings and to create a new path to the creek from the parking lot. Discussion followed regarding additional areas of the park that might benefit from native gardens, including an area that collects drainage from the parking lot. It may be necessary to install a retention basin between the parking lot and playground if this continues to be a problem to prevent runoff into Gull Lake.

- Communications calendar:
Eric reported information about the Annual Meeting has been posted on the Website and will be posted on FaceBook. The meeting (June 10) will begin at 7:00; doors open at 6:30 to allow for pre-meeting mingling. There will be a posting for the July "Lunch and Learn" workshop on creating native landscapes along shorelines posted on these sites also. New members are posted on the Members list on the website as they come in. He reminded the Board that he will need articles for the Summer newsletter in mid-late June so that it can be distributed in early July. He has received an article from Gary (CLMP and water quality update); other articles planned for this newsletter include: an interview with Dick Boris, Business highlight (Ellen Keenan), reminder to register for the upcoming "Lunch and Learn", an update on the Prairieville Township Park project, and annual meeting summary.
Further discussion of potential outreach efforts about the effects of wake boats on lake sediments and shorelines and recommending support for the DNR recommendations that these boats operate 500' from shore and in 30' deep waters. A map of Gull Lake showing the areas that meet these requirements has been created by GLQO. It was recommended that this be reprinted and distributed at the Boat Wash, the Country Club, Bible Conference and several area marinas. Ellen volunteered to take this map to the Country club and Gull Lake ministries. It was not decided how best to encourage marinas to share this information with boaters that rent from them. We will also repost this map on our website.

New Business:

Memorial for Fischer Jex: Kay shared that a celebration of life for Fischer Jex will be held on May 25 at the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Fischer worked there as well as for GLQO as boatwash coordinator. Discussion followed regarding an appropriate memorial for him at the Prairieville

Township Park; Sue Harrison reported that Margo Rebar suggested planting a tree there as a memorial. GLQO Board members agreed to support this by making donations; we will also post this information on our website.

Staffing of Boat Wash: Kay reported that the Boat Wash at Prairieville Park on Gull Lake is fully staffed for the summer. Amber Widner, a recent UM graduate in Environmental Studies, has been hired as coordinator. Attendants this year include three previous employees, and two new hires (GLHS students. Amber will finalize the hiring of the new employees and arrange for a training session. She and the Attendants will also assist with the planting and maintaining of plants along the creek for the restoration project. All Boat Wash staff are hired through Prairieville Township; at the end of the year, an invoice is submitted to GLQO for the employee expenses. GLQO acts as the employee's manger.

Nomination of new Board Members:

Sera reported that four current board members will be retiring this year: Sera Gesmundo, Pete Hawk, Dustin Perrin and Margo Rebar.

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

Motion was made by Sera Gesmundo to approve the nominations as new board members and seconded by Tom Belco, motion carried.

Annual Meeting:

- Meeting will be in the Terrace Room in the Academic Building at Kellogg Biological Station. This room has more space and can support visuals for a speaker better than the Manor House. Cliff Bloom, a well-known expert in riparian and water law has been invited to be the speaker at this meeting
- Kay Gross provided a draft agenda for the meeting that included how reports will be given The doors will open at 6:30 and officially start at 7:00 with a short business meeting (nomination of new board members), Bloom's talk, and then brief overviews of GLQO past (2023) and planned activities (2024).
- Refreshments will be provided: A registration portal has been set up through KBS so we can have a better idea of how many people will be attending and can plan refreshments accordingly.
- Sera Gesmundo is working on finding business sponsorships for this meeting to defray/cover the costs.

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

Upcoming Event: "Lunch and Learn: Creating native shorelines" – July 10

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.