

**Gull Lake Quality Organization  
Board of Directors Meeting  
KBS Carriage House  
4 September 2025**

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

**Board Attendance:** Kay Gross, Joe Lukeman, Tom Belco, Jay Wesley, Hank Pender, Steve Keith, Jim Nolin, Susan Harrison, Gary Mittelbach

**Absent:** Kathy Gallagher, Ellen Keenan, Andy Widner, Trudy Leudecking

**Guests:** Eric Reid, Amber Widner

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.

**Welcome and Introductions:** Kay Gross, President, welcomed the board members elected at the June annual meeting (Pender, Nolin, Keith) and invited everyone to introduce themselves and briefly describe how they are involved in the GLQO and/or became interested in the organization.

**Summer Boat Wash Activities -** Amber Widner, Boat Wash Coordinator, presented a summary of the activities of the GLQO at the Prairieville Township Park. Unfortunately, a power point she had prepared for this talk could not be projected and so will be emailed to the Board and posted on our website and Face Book page. The boat wash was staffed weekends, Friday-Sunday, for 14 weeks and on average 60 boats were washed by the attendants each weekend. She and the attendants also assisted the Outreach Committee in the planting (and watering) of native plants along the shoreline of Prairieville Creek, established a 'chipped path' from the parking lot to the creek, and removed invasive plants from the outlet of the creek and shoreline to enhance the growth of native plants. She also helped with the preparation of several informational postings and articles about the work of GLQO. She will be writing up an article summarizing the summer activities for the Fall Newsletter.

**Election of Officers:** Kay Gross reported that four current board members have agreed to serve as officers in the coming year and called for a motion to elect them to these positions:

Joe Lukeman – President

Ellen Keenan – Vice President

Kay Gross – Secretary

Andy Widner – Treasurer

Moved by Jay Wesley, seconded by Jim Nolin to nominate these individuals for the named positions. There was no further discussion nor nominations from the floor. Motion passed unanimously

Joe Lukeman took over chairing the meeting and began by briefly summarizing his goals and ambitions for the coming this coming year. A priority will be to raise awareness among residents of Gull Lake (and others who use the lake) about GLQO and to increase membership. He stressed the need to encourage more 'young people' to get involved with the GLQO and plans to work with the board on ways to do this.

**Review and Approval of Minutes for 13 May (Board meeting) and 10 June (Annual meeting).**

A motion made by Kay Gross, seconded by Susan Harrison to approve the Minutes as presented.

Approved unanimously

**Treasurer's Report** – We need to amend the documents at Advia that lists who has signature authority for management of the GLQO accounts. There was a brief discussion of what was involved in this and then the following motion was made:

Moved by Tom Belco, seconded by Gary Mittelbach to amend who has signature authority for the GLQO accounts at Advia:

Remove Don Paulson and Sera Gesmundo, Add Jay Wesley and Jim Nolin, and retain Andy Widner.  
Motion passed unanimously

Andy Widner was not in attendance and so there was no presentation of the Treasurer's report; he had distributed a report (through 31 July) in mid-August and in an email stated that there had been very few changes to the financial status of GLQO since then. Expenses and income are running fairly close to what was budgeted and we are currently in the black. There are several summer expenses yet to be posted for maintaining and staffing the boat wash and these will presumably be part of the report presented in October. The annual meeting 'broke even' this year thanks to Sera Gesmundo's efforts to solicit donations from area businesses. Ways to further attract local businesses to support GLQO through membership and donations need to be developed.

### **Committee Updates:**

Water Quality: Gary Mittelbach provided a summary of the sampling and monitoring of water quality in Gull Lake and Little Long Lake. A major focus continues to be the monitoring and treating of aquatic invasive plant species (AIS), primarily non-native milfoil and starry stonewort. GLQO contracts with Progressive Lake Management (PLM) to map, monitor and control using herbicides targeted for these species in Gull Lake. Mapping done in 2024 indicated that there were three areas in Gull Lake where these species are established – boat ramp at the Gull Lake Country Club, adjacent to the Richland Bible Conference, and the south end of Mosquito Islands. These sites were monitored and treated three times over the summer: May 29, 26 June and 30 July. An off-lake resident contacted GLQO after the first treatment concerned about insufficient signage posting regarding these treatments. PLM contacted the individual and expanded the signage posted for subsequent treatments. Gary and Mike Gallagher did the CLMP water quality monitoring in Little Long and Gull Lake several times over the summer; oxygen levels remained high or sufficient in both lakes.

Joe Lukeman asked if GLQO did any monitoring of AIS in channels that feed into Gull Lake, particularly the one that comes in adjacent to the GLCC. Apparently residents along the channel did not treat it for 'weeds' this summer and it became overgrown. Concerns were raised as to whether this might be a source of AIS into Gull Lake. Gary will check with PLM to determine if they have surveyed these channels in the past and if so, what species have been detected. GLQO is committed to reducing the introduction of AIS into Gull Lake and can work with these homeowners if AIS are present there. It was noted that not all 'weeds' that proliferate in shallow areas are invasive and we do not treat native species.

Fisheries - Jay Wesley reported that there were several reports of 'fish kills' in Gull Lake and surrounding lakes in mid-summer. This is most likely due to the high surface water temperatures that developed in the lake due to the hot weather we experienced in July and August. Fish caught and released into the lake under these conditions often die. There was no evidence that there were low oxygen levels in Gull Lake over the summer that would have contributed to the die-off; this can be a problem in shallow lakes with large populations of aquatic plants.

Jay also reported that MDNR and EGLE have been contacted about several permit violations on Gull Lake for construction along the shoreline or modification of the shoreline. EGLE has contacted these people and is using a 'education vs. citation' approach, asking that homeowners submit the appropriate permits and abide by the regulations. It may be worthwhile for GLQO to post a reminder.. and perhaps have an article in the Winter newsletter .. about what modifications or construction can and cannot be done along a lake front without a permit. Kay will put this on the list for Winter/Spring 2026.

Boating Safety- Joe reported that we had not heard from Kalamazoo County whether or not they had staffed anyone to patrol Gull Lake this summer. Discussion ensued as to whether we can expect the County to do this in the future; federal funding to states for these programs comes from taxes on fishing licenses (Dingle-Johnson fund). These funds have recently been released to the state and presumably the county, but it is not clear if there will be funds in the future for Kalamazoo County to provide marine patrol support to Gull Lake given that there are so many lakes in the county. It was discussed that we

might want to discontinue funds to Kalamazoo County and increase what we provide to Ross Township. Joe and Hank Pender will follow up on this and make a recommendation to the Board at the October meeting.

Membership: - Kay Gross reported for Kathy Gallagher that current membership in GLQO is ~355; this includes 46 Lifetime members, 4 of whom joined in 2025. About 60% (207) of our members are at the Bronze level. There were 27 new members this year and 14 members who had lapsed (since 2023) renewed for 2025. However, there are still ~125 members from 2024 who did not renew. This includes several businesses that were given complimentary memberships as a thank you for donating to the 2023 Fall Fling. Ideas of how to grow membership and make it easier to renew (e.g. auto-renew) were discussed and will be a focus of the October meeting. The Membership drive for 2026 will begin in November; a note in the upcoming Fall Newsletter will encourage people to renew before then.

Outreach and Communications:

- Prairieville Township Park Project: Amber's summary included highlights of what was done this summer to enhance the stream shoreline at the park and reduce non-native invasive species along the stream and adjacent shoreline. Thanks to a donation from Wild Ones, the project spent very little on plants this year. The group plans to purchase and plant native shrubs along the stream side this fall. They may also plant some forbs around the Fischer Jex Memorial Tree and possibly expand this to a 'native garden' in the grassy area adjacent to the boat wash building.

There were discussions with the Prairieville Park staff about what might be possible 'next steps' for this project, including continuing to remove non-natives from the shoreline and 'plug in' natives, planting native species in the gardens along the deck at the service building (those planted on the west side did great), and assisting them with reducing invasive and weedy species into area of the park that have been cleared of brush. Board members were asked to save their cardboard and bring it to the green shed at the Prairieville Township Park. This will be used to smother invasive and other weedy species to prepare this area for new plantings in the spring. There was also some discussion about the potential to establish a rain garden or impoundment to reduce runoff from the parking lot into the lake. Judy Risdon will take this idea to the Parks board for consideration.

- Lunch and Learn Workshop – GLQO again co-sponsored with KBS outreach a workshop led by EGLE and MSU Extension staff to show homeowners what they could do to enhance shorelines with native plants. This year there were 15 participants in the workshop – 6 GLQO members and 9 from the surrounding area. Participants had the opportunity to design a landscape with input from experts in attendance (including GLQO board member, Margo Rebar) and were provided by Margo with free plants to use to get these projects started. KBS did not do a post-workshop assessment of the program, but several GLQO members who attended stated that it was very worthwhile. We will review with KBS whether we will continue this collaboration in the future. The cost to GLQO is ~\$150; room rental and speaker/guest lunches. GLQO member pay a discounted rate (\$25 vs \$50).

Memorial for Fischer Jex - An article about this tree and inviting donations was included in the Summer newsletter. Kay shared this article with Fischer's family and received a donation and lovely note from Fischer's grandmother thanking us for doing this. A few other donations have been received. Kay reminded GLQO board members that they had agreed to support this project. Apparently the 'donation' option on our PayPal link is not working and so contributions are coming in as 'memberships'. Eric will look into fixing this.

Communications calendar - Eric continues to post relevant articles on the GLQO Facebook page and website and encourages board members (and others) to send him articles of interest to riparians. There was a brief discussion about what might be alternative social media platforms GLQO could use to increase awareness (e.g. a YouTube channel with historical and current videos about life on Gull Lake). In the mean time we will continue with the current outlets.

The Fall newsletter is scheduled to be mailed out in early November and will include an article on the new board members, summary of activities at Prairieville Township Park and Boat Wash, and several other features. Kay Gross will distribute the list of topics and assigned writers to the Board.

Committee assignments - Joe presented the recommended chairs of committees for the coming year and invited board members to volunteer for specific committees. The assignments will be circulated to the board and confirmed at the October meeting. We encourage committee chairs to reach out to non-Board members of GLQO to get involved in these committees.

Future Meetings: Eric reported that he has set up a ZOOM account for GLQO that can be used for future meetings so that Board members who are out of town can participate. This will also allow other GLQO member to attend the meeting ‘virtually’ He is dedicating a SurfacePro laptop and camera with tripod that can be used for this. Kay will work with him and KBSIT to get the system set up for the next (October) meeting.

The Board agreed to the following schedule for future meetings; all will be held beginning at 7pm in the Carriage House classroom at KBS, unless otherwise noted.

- 2025: October 14  
December TBD – Board social event
  
- 2026- February 10 OR March 10  
April 14  
May 12  
June 9 (Annual meeting, location to be determined)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.