

AGENDA
Gull Lake Quality Organization
Board Meeting - Minutes
Tuesday February 10, 2026, 7:00pm
Terrace Room, KBS

The meeting included the opportunity to attend over ZOOM

Members present: Joe Lukeman, Ellen Keenan (via Zoom), Kay Gross, Andy Widner, Gary Mittelbach, Jay Wesley, Hank Pender, Susan Harrison, Kathy Gallagher

Members Absent: Steve Keith, Trudy Luedeking, Jim Nolin, Tom Belco

Guests: Eric Reid

Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved as proposed

Review and Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the 14 October 2025 were approved as amended.

Treasurer’s Report – Andy Widner provided paper copies summarizing and documenting GLQO 2025 financial transactions. There was a modest increase in our funds over 1/1/2025; despite that we had projected a deficit of ~\$11,000. This was a result of lower expenditures in 2025, including: 1) \$1500 not paid to Kalamazoo County for Marine Patrol; 2) lower expenses than budgeted for the Township park project due to donations; 3) Boat wash labor less than budgeted; 4) Weed control monitoring and treatment less than budgeted. Kathy Gallagher noted a discrepancy in how a donation by a Life Time member was recorded; Widner will correct. Widner also presented a proposed budget for 2026 that used 2025 income as projection for 2026 (\$41,000). Operational expenses were budgeted to be similar to what was proposed for 2025. Funding for both Ross Township and Kalamazoo County Marine Patrol were included in the 2026 budget; State/federal funds for County program have been reinstated. The Shoreline restoration/enhancement project at Prairieville Township Park project was again be budgeted at \$3000. This should be sufficient given the plans for this coming year and unless there is a decision to create a rain garden to contain runoff from the parking lot. Funds for boat wash were adjusted to be less than proposed in 2025, but more than expended, as this may be necessary to adequately staff. The proposed budget has a \$5000 deficit; if needed we can use reserves to cover. A CD that matures this week (\$18,000) is a good reserve and can be cashed out if needed. In the meantime, Widner will roll this over into a Money Market account. The Board had previously approved this decision (via email)

Moved by Kay Gross, seconded by Susan Harrison to approve the financial report (2025) and proposed budget for 2026 Motion approved unanimously

Action Item – Hank Pender will contact Kalamazoo County and Ross Township for a report on how past donations to the Marine Patrol were used and their planned monitoring activity on Gull Lake for 2026. Also will request a report on past activities – from Kalamazoo County for 2024; Ross Township for 2025). Joe Lukeman will provide contact information for this.

Discussion ensued regarding whether we could invoice Prairieville Township for a portion of the maintenance of the boat wash; they had agreed to this in the MOU signed in 2024.

Action Item – Andy Widner will prepare an itemized invoice to share with Jimmy Stoneburner (Township Supervisor) and Judy Risdon (Chair, Parks Commission) and ask what they can contribute; request will be for 50%. If needed Joe Lukeman will send a cover letter with this referencing the MOU and mentioning the cooperation with the stream/lakeside shoreline enhancement project.

Water Quality – Gary Mittelbach reported that Mike Gallagher has registered us for CLMP monitoring for 2026 on Little Long Lake and Gull Lake. Mike and Kathy Gallagher will be lead on monitoring Gull Lake; Gary Mittelbach and Kay Gross on Little Long Lake. Jim Nolan has expressed interest in assisting with the monitoring of Gull Lake and will take the on-line training. Andy Widner offered to assist with monitoring in Little Long Lake. In 2026 there will again be a ‘targeted survey’ by Progressive A&E of areas in Gull Lake that have had Aquatic Invasive Species in the past; they will add the Spring Creek Channel to the list of sites to be monitored. Discussion ensued regarding the invoicing of Gull Lake Country Club and Gull Lake Ministries for their share of the weed monitoring and control in 2025.

Action Item – Joe Lukeman will send letters to GLCC and GLM requesting this payment; Gary Mittelbach will confirm the amounts, Andy Widner will prepare the invoices

Fishing – Jay Wesley reported that it seems to be a good year for ice fishing; it started on the South bay in December, then paused and since January there have been fisherman on the lake, many coming in from Baseline Road. (NB the access gate to the Prairieville Park was malfunctioning for a while, but now seems to be repaired.) South Bay fishing is for Bluegill, and Pike, Bluegill by the Ministries and smelt from other areas of the lake. He confirmed that the PFAS warning for smelt has been removed; the high levels previously reported were due to a calibration error in the testing. Jay is monitoring and collecting trash from the GLQO barrels at the south end of the lake and Baseline Road. They are both being used extensively. We are assuming that Prairieville Township is handling trash at the Park.

Boating.- Hank Pender reported that boating is minimal this winter.. although ice boating may be probable this coming week depending on the weather.

Membership – A small group (Kathy Gallagher, Sera Gesmundo, Ellen Keenan, and Joe Lukeman) met last week to talk about ways to increase awareness of and membership in GLQO. Ideas that were discussed included:

- Developing a text messaging platform that could be used to increase communications. Several membership data bases (Zephi and Membership Minder) are being explored that would allow us to better track members and send them messages. Costs may be an issue; we may also need to get buy in from members that we can contact them via text. Not all members provide a contact phone number. Content to include in message and how often to send these was discussed. The consensus was that 1-2x/month would be sufficient and initially we could use this as a way to remind people to renew and alert them to upcoming activities.
- Personal touch... Mike Gallagher has volunteered to give a tour of Gull Lake to new residents on the lake. Will need input/names from local realtors to do this.
- Board members are encouraged to contact neighbors who are new to the area and invite them to join (possibly also sponsoring a gift membership). Active GLQO members (including Lifetime members) also could be encouraged to do this.
- Sponsoring a ‘float’ in the Richland 4th of July Parade... fun for family... hand out

cards/brochures, gifts. Boat Wash attendants could potentially participate in this too.

- The value of a dedicated You Tube channel was also discussed; Eric can/will look into this but having sufficient, regular content will be a challenge

The usual Spring appeal will go out in April and a reminder will be included in the Winter/Spring newsletter (due to go out in March).

-

Action Items...

- 1) *Eric and Kathy G will continue to explore options for text message communication with membership and will report back at the April meeting*
- 2) *Kathy Gallagher will get information on registering for the 4th of July parade. Need volunteers (possibly Hank Pender and Joe Lukeman) to organize participation and get fun things to distribute.*
- 3) *Social media – everyone is encouraged to share content for Facebook; Eric will continue to explore other options for social media communication (Instagram, You tube).*

Currently there are ~200 members in GLQO; this includes 45 Life Time members. Kathy noted that we have several new members and lapsed members who rejoined for 2026. This suggests that our outreach is working, but there are 125 people who were members in 2025 (including some Board members) that have not yet renewed. The ideas discussed regarding new membership will help with this. Hank Pender noted that our goal should be 100% participation of resident on Gull Lake in GLQO. (NB Cliff Bloom stated at the 2025 Annual Meeting that 30-40% of residents as members is typical; we are currently below that ~25%)

Outreach and Communications- Eric Reid provided an update on the status of articles for the Winter/Spring 2026 Newsletter. Two articles – one on history of gulls on the lake (Jim Nolan) and one about the Gull Lake Dam Association (Jeff Price, held over from Fall) have been received in draft form. Drafts of other articles should be sent to him by the end of February ... so that the Winter-Spring newsletter can be send out in mid-March. He also reminded Board members that pictures are always welcome. they can/will be posted on Facebook and used in the Newsletter.

Writing assignments for the upcoming Newsletter are:

Welcome/Introduction – Joe Lukeman

Ice record on Gull Lake – Gary Mittelbach

Financial summary 2025 – Andy Widner

Business Member highlight (Sera Gesmundo/Hawks Hollow) – Kay Gross

Upcoming Events ---- Boat wash opening (mid-May), Annual meeting (June 9 – theme and speaker if known)

Membership list – Eric

Short notes:

Summer employment.. Boat wash attendants/coordinator (Kay?)

Join the Board? Contact nominating Committee

Time to renew

Other – Kay Gross suggested that it may be possible to hire a Boat Wash coordinator in collaboration with KBS as a summer intern. She will contact people on the KBS Outreach team to see if there is any interest in doing this. The funds we have budgeted for a Coordinator are in line with what KBS pays for summer interns; they typically are available mid-May through early August.

New Business

- 1) Officer Position descriptions – Kay Gross brought to the attention of the Board the current GLQO officer description (in bylaws). These are intentionally brief, but the roles and responsibilities of the Treasurer may need more specifications (e.g. responsibility for managing CDs and similar investments). Andy Widner will work on a draft document regarding the Treasurers responsibilities to be shared with the Board in April; Kathy Gallagher volunteered to send information for similar position in Rotary. Consultation with Don Paulson may also be useful.,
- 2) Nominating Committee - The committee for nominating new members to the GLQO board was discussed. Initial action will be to interview Wendell Wilke who has expressed interest in joining the board. Further recommendations will be brought to the board in April. All members are encouraged to submit names of people for consideration.

Moved by Kay Gross, seconded by Jay Wesley for the Nomination Committee be: Ellen Keenan (Chair), Hank Pender, Joe Lukeman, and Kay Gross. Passed unanimously.

- 3) Annual meeting – The date for the annual meeting was confirmed (9 June 2026); the Terrace Room at KBS has been reserved for this event. Set up could be similar to that in 2025. Several suggestions for a keynote speaker were discussed; all agreed that Melissa DeSimone, Executive Director of the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association should be contacted and invited. Kathy Gallagher agreed to do this. If DeSimone declines, other suggestions can/will be shared over e-mail so this can be finalized at the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Future Meeting Dates: 2nd Tuesday of Month, 7 pm, KBS Terrace Room
2026: April 14; May 12; June 9 (Annual Meeting); September 15; October 13