

**Gull Lake Quality Organization
Board Meeting –Minutes
Tuesday April 14, 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, Jim Nolan, Hank Pender, Steve Keith (via Zoom)

Members Absent: Jay Wesley, Keith, Trudy Luedecking, Kathy Gallagher, Susan Harrison

Guests: Eric Reid, Wendell Wilke (via Zoom), Jane Kuckel

Approval of Agenda - The agenda was modified to include a motion to accept the resignation of Trudy Luedecking and to add Introduction of Guests

Motion by Kay Gross, seconded by Andy Widner to accept the resignation of Trudy Leudecking from the GLQO Board effective 15 April 2026. Passed unanimously without discussion

Introduction of Guests – Wendell Wilke, a prospective GLQO Board member, joined the meeting via Zoom. Also attending was Jane Kuckel, a GLQO member interested in learning more about the organization.

Review and Approval of Minutes - The Minutes of the 10 February 2026 meeting were corrected in regard to Members present and absent; approved as corrected

Treasurer’s Report - Andy Widner shared information about the current fiscal status of the GLQO and provided copies of the March 2026 financial report. Income and expenses continue to track as expected, though membership numbers and income are a bit below what we have seen in the past. Taxes have been paid. Donations have been received from the Gull Lake Country Club and Gul Lake Ministries in payment for their share of invasive species monitoring and treatment in 2025. Eric Reid created a ‘on- time donation’ link on the GLQO Membership page to allow the GLM to pay electronically. This link will be kept active and promoted to members (and others) to make donations to GLQO. April deposits continue to be good.

Moved by Tom Belco, seconded by Susan Harrison to accept the Treasurers report. Passed unanimously.

Committee Updates:

- Water Quality
 - CLMP - Gary Mittelbach shared information from the 2025 Cooperative Lakes Management Program on water quality in Gull Lake and Little Long Lake. The results indicated that water quality in both lakes is good and have been stable over time; though Little Long Lake show some unexpected variability. He will send report to Eric for posting on the website. PLM is set up to continue that monitoring and treatment of invasive aquatic plants in Gull Lake; they will be monitoring areas where AIS have been detected in the past and the ‘channel’ at the request of homeowners in that area.
 - BoatWash - Kay reported that Steve Keith has agreed to be the Board liaison to the BoatWash for the summer. Three of the Attendants from 2025 have indicated

that they want to return and have offered to try to recruit people to these positions. The search continues for the Coordinator position; Kay has contacted people at MSU and WMU asking them to share this opportunity with students. She has also been in contact with Kelsey Bockelman, the AIS coordinator for MSU Extension who is in charge of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program about cooperating in the training for staff at the BoatWash this summer.

- Fisheries – Jay Wesley not able to attend; several GLQO Board members report that fishing is ‘looking good’ on Little Long Lake! Ice fishing was very active over the winter – good ice.
- Boating Safety – Hank Pender reported that he has talked to Brian McClain, Kalamazoo County Marine Patrol, and learned that they are not going to patrol Gull Lake this year. They will be relying on DNR and Ross Township. Jim Nolin reported that Ross Township is interested in expanding their presence on Gull Lake. He met with Supervisor Christina Hutchings and Chief Martin about boating safety and other issues on Gull Lake. Discussion included the DNR boating rules and regulations and how well these were being enforced, including the rule that operators under 30 have to have a boating safety certificate. Martin also reported that their focus is on safety and that in some cases people who rent boats are not aware of Boating Safety Rules (MDNR). Ross Township is interested in expanding their on-lake presence. Funds from GLQO goes for staffing, fuel, and boat maintenance. Richland Township has ‘ceded’ responsibility for patrolling Gull Lake; Ross Township does not have jurisdiction for monitoring activities on the land in Barry County

Moved by Kay Gross, seconded by Susan Harrison to increase the GLQO support for Ross Township boating safety patrols on Gull Lake to \$3000.

Jim Nolin also shared that Ross Township is interested in discussing with Prairieville an increase in fees at the Boat Launch at Prairieville Park and to use these to help support the Ross Township patrolling of the lake. Jim is willing to approach Prairieville Township about this. There was also discussion of how to assure that people renting boats on Gull Lake were aware of the MDNR Boating Regulations and the requirement for boating safety certification. Discussion followed about options for this, including making the MDNR Boating Rules and Regulations brochure available at the Township office, Prairieville Park etc. He also shared the Ross Township has approached MDNR about putting a No Wake Zone around Mosquito Island; MDNR is not supportive of this request.

Action items

- 1) Contact Barry County about Ross Township being able to patrol land around Gull Lake that is in Barry County*
- 2) Work to facilitate conversations between Prairieville and Ross township regarding fees and financial support for the Ross Township Marine Patrol*
- 3) Contact Gull Lake Marine re opportunities to inform clients about Michigan Boating Rules and Regulations and boating safety on Gull Lake – perhaps providing maps of Gull Lake that shows depths and recommended distances from shorelines/docks*

- Membership – Kay Gross reported for Kathy Gallagher that we currently have 271 members, this includes 47 Lifetime. The breakdown of annual membership levels is: Bronze 133, Silver 76, Gold 14, and Platinum 2. Twenty of the current members are

'lapsed' and 10 are new. This suggests our outreach efforts are having an impact however there are currently ~ 90 members who have not (yet) renewed, this includes people who we know are 'supporters' and perhaps need an additional reminder. We have email addresses for 80 of the former members and an email might be an effective way to remind them to renew. Kay and Kathy will work with Eric to get a reminder email sent out in early May; we can track the response rate from this approach. A benefit of membership is a reduced subscription rate for *The Michigan Riparian* and 18 of our members have taken advantage of this; Lifetime and Board members get free subscriptions. We will have a total of 71 subscriptions this year; Kathy Gallagher will communicate this subscriber information to MLSA so they will receive the Spring issue.

Discussion followed on the most effective ways to communicate with current/former members and what activities might be effective in raising awareness about GLQO and gaining membership and donations to support our activities. Jim asked about the potential for instituting auto-renewal process. Eric will look into this and let us know options and feasibility for using PayPal for this.

There was also a brief discussion of how to recognize Lifetime members for their continuing support – pins? Decals?

Action Items

1. *Kathy Gallagher will submit list to MLSA for Riparian subscriptions*
 2. *Kay/Kathy will draft an email to be sent to the 80 'lapsed from 2025' members for who we have email addresses.*
 3. *Board members will reach out personally to the other 10; Kay will circulate this list*
 4. *A letter to LifeTime member will be sent in early May thanking them for their support, reminding them that they receive The Riparian as a benefit of their membership and asking for their financial support of our work*
- **Outreach and Communications**
 - 4th of July Parade - There does not seem to be anyone who can lead/coordinate this event. Kathy Gallagher learned that there is no need to register in advance, so this could be a last minute decision. Will need to have some sway .. and a message .. to share.
 - Newsletter - Eric Reid reminded the Board that the e Summer newsletter typically is sent out after the Annual Meeting. Articles can/should include: 1) Summary of the Annual Meeting (Who?); 2) introduce new Board members (though this could be held for Fall when their terms start); 3) Financial Report – 2025 summary, 2026 to date (Andy Widner); 4) Introduction of the BoatWash crew (Kay/Steve); 5) Boating safety – expansion of patrolling by Ross Township – report on 2025 activities (Hank)brochure. Other suggestions welcome?
 - Promotion of Annual Meeting – Eric is posting about the event on the Website and Facebook Page monthly. Other promotion could be done through the Township Newsletters (Richland and Ross); Now Kalamazoo (Kay) and posting on the Display in the Village. Kathy, Kay and Eric will (have) created a postcard that will be mailed to all members (2026 and 2025)

Old Business

- Treasurer Position Descriptions - Andy Widner has all of the information he needs for this and is working on the description to be shared at our next meeting.

- Prairieville Restoration project – Susan Harrison has organized a meeting (11 May) to make decisions and organize people to plant etc. at the Park. Seeds and more plants have been ordered from Barry County Conservation. There will be a need to identify and remove invasive species removal from the lake shore; not sure yet who and how to do this. A new well seems to have been installed and this has disrupted some of our plantings. The area along the SW corner of the park (past the beach) that was cleared of shrubs and other woody plants last summer will need to have topsoil brought in before it is planted

New Business

- Nominating Committee Recommendations -Wendell Wilke (GLHS student and Boat Wash employee 2025) has met with Ellen Keenan about his interest in serving on the Board. He attended the meeting virtually and shared his reasons for wanting to serve as a GLQO Board Member. Jim Nolin has spoken to Steve Allen and he is also interested in serving on the Board. Sera Gesmundo and Maren Uggen-Colling are also interested
- Annual Meeting -There was a brief discussion of that needs to be done in the next month or so to organize the Annual Meeting. Issues and who is taking the lead on this include:
 - Formalize invitation to Melissa DeSimone – Kathe Gallagher will contact her again and share information about the set up and what topics may be of interest to the membership. Joe Lukeman will send her a formal invitation in mid-May
 - Logistics for the meeting – Kay Gross confirmed that the Terrace Room had been reserved and asked for help in organizing food, set up etc. Jane Kunckel (Member) volunteered to help with this. She will meet with Kay and Kathy Gallagher to organize the food, set up and outreach to members.
- Other issues.
 - Tom Belco shared that there are 24 empty slips at the GLCC...
 - Hank Pender raised concerns about what can be done to enforce requirements that docks that are providing slips for non-residents are registered with the DNR and have permits. Not clear how to monitor this. Apparently concerns about this were also raised to the Ross Township Planning Commission. Not clear who is responsible (Ross Township? MDNR?) for making sure that new (or existing docks) are permitted. Hank suggested his wife could follow up with Ross Township about this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Future Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of Month, 7 pm, KBS Terrace Room

2026: June 9 (Annual Meeting), September 8, November10, December??