

GENEVA LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY (GLEA)

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**Monthly Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, February 19, 2026 – 4:00 PM.
105 N Elkhorn Rd., Williams Bay, WI 53191.**

The GLEA Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, Thursday, February 19, 2026, by P. Kenny.

Roll Call

Board Members/ Staff Present: P. Kenny (F), R. Pappas (F), C. McAdam (L), R. Umans & L. Lundberg (WB), H. Baseman (Director).

Guest Present: K. Leith (Linn), T. Peters (Linn Sanitary District)

Board Members/ Staff Absent: J. Weiss (L), M.J. Fesenmaier (LG), A. Rasch (W).

General Business:

Public Comments: None.

1. **Motion to approve January 15, 2026, board meeting minutes made by R. Umans. Second by R. Pappas.**
2. **Monthly Review Items:**
 - a. **Motion to approve December 2025 Income Statement made by R. Umans. Second by R. Pappas.**
 - b. **Motion to approve December 2025 Balance Sheet made by R. Pappas. Second by C. McAdam.**
 - c. December 2025 Income, Disbursements and Donations report was made available for review.

Possible Action On The Following Business:

1. Bird Issue – DNR confirmed from the two geese they collected that the dead bird issue around Geneva Lake was Avian Flu.
2. Septic Update – T. Peters shared an update on the meeting with Walworth County about cesspools in the Linn Sanitary District. Discussion was focused on about 9 problematic septic systems in the Linn Sanitary District. Walworth County will review what is needed on 4-5 of the problematic systems so that LSD can investigate further and then action can be taken. T. Peters clarified the differences between holding tanks and private on-site wastewater treatment systems. The Director mentioned that Walworth County is conducting regular inspections and pumping of septic systems, though the process has become slower due to staff reductions. T. Peters mentioned that pumping is happening, but true inspections of the tanks and systems is not.
3. Water Alliance Meeting Update – two topics discussed at the meeting pertaining to GLEA is the Wake Bill being presented to WI Assembly. Currently two bills are being presented 1) 200-300 feet from shore, no minimum depth and no local control. 2) 500 feet from shore, 20 feet depth, allows for local control. Second topic is the use of salt on roads and during the Water Alliance Meeting GLEA was informed that the City of Lake Geneva has reduced their salt usage 70% in the last few years. A. Rasch is also still working on a brine solution locally and waiting on DNR approval.
4. Piers and Harbors Meetings – The Director shared that the DNR has had to move the question to their legal team as to whether or not municipalities can have stricter regulations about permanent piers; whether municipalities can limit or deny permanent piers because currently the DNR does allow them. An answer will not be had until mid-to late March. The board agreed that the Director should present to all Piers and Harbors Committees across all municipalities to give them an update on the Wake Bill status, GLEA's wake recommendations, and to talk about GLEA's concerns about the use of permanent piers.
5. Lake Use Committee Follow Up Discussion – R. Pappas stated he did not feel that the GLEA should get involved with decisions about another committee around the lake. Full GLEA board agreed.

6. Hiring – The Director stated that the internship position for the summer has been posted. L. Madison and others will be returning. The Director stated that additional funding for interns would be good due to the commitment to educational opportunities over the summer of 2026. The Director also mentioned a very limited part-time staff member would be good to have before the summer season to assist with outreach, marketing, and social media tasks, emphasizing that financial responsibilities would remain with her and the treasurer of GLEA. The Director mentioned that there is the possibility of job-sharing this role with the Environmental Education Foundation (EEF), who is also needing part-time administrative support.
7. Art Project – The Director was asked to partner with the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point conference hosts to work with a student on an environmental themed project to be presented at the conference in April. The student is working with the Fontana Ecology Club to put something together.
8. Grants/Fundraising – The Director discussed changes to the HOA awareness strategy, proposing to send an initial awareness letter followed by a second letter requesting support. The Surface Water grant for AIS and consulting work in 2026 were approved. The AIS grant was lower than expected so the CD3 machine at the Abbey Marina will have to wait until 2027. The board approved the Director’s attendance at the Lake Leaders Institute, if covered by EEF, for three sessions in May, September, and October.
9. Budget Update – The Director updated the board on the 2026 budget, including adjustments to grant amounts and moving funds from SEP to interns. She also informed the board that she had completed the insurance audit paperwork correctly, which may result in a higher premium. The board approved updated part-time benefits for potential limited-hour employees, excluding sick leave and vacation time.
10. Municipal Reports and Updates
 - a) City of Lake Geneva
 - b) Village of Williams Bay – R. Umans shared that The Preserve project was fully approved, with two piers and 68 rooms, and mentioned a sewer line replacement project scheduled for March.
 - c) Village of Fontana
 - d) Town of Linn
 - e) Town of Walworth
11. Next Meeting Date: March 19, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
12. Adjourn – motion to adjourn at 5:29 by R. Umans.