

GENEVA LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY (GLEA)

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Thursday, July 17, 2025 105 N Elkhorn Rd., Williams Bay, WI 53191.

MINUTES

Call to Order: The GLEA Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair P. Kenny.

Roll Call:

Board Members/Staff Present: P. Kenny, R. Pappas (Fontana), M.J. Fesenmaier (LG), J. Weiss, C. McAdam (Linn), R. Umans, L. Lundberg (WB), T. Jochman (Attorney), H. Baseman (Staff), Logan (Intern)

Guests Present: Patrick Bergin, Lauderdale Lakes Lake Management District; Brian Sichi, Okauchee Lake Management District; Justin, SEWRPC

Board Members/Staff Absent: A. Rasch (Walworth), A. Townsend (Staff)

Lake Districts Presentations and Discussion

Guest speakers from the Lauderdale Lakes Lake Management District and the Okauchee Lake Management District shared the history of their organizations with the GLEA Board in an effort to provide useful background as the Board evaluates benefits, need for, and challenges of a Geneva Lakes Management District. They addressed a number of topics including the wake boat issue; aquatic vegetation issue; litigation issues; voting; working with the DNR; funding/taxes; and open meeting laws.

Following the presentations there was discussion about the question posed by Chairman Kenny, namely what is the benefit of forming a lake district outside of the financial benefit. The Board discussed pros and cons.

Lake Management Plan

Justin from SEWRPC walked the Board through the draft of chapter three of the Lake Management Plan. He confirmed much of what would be done by a lake district is already being done by GLEA. Discussion followed. Some of the key points include:

- To continue doing what GLEA is doing, but to perhaps institutionalize it.
- Increase level of public profile and engagement, perhaps by holding more public meetings in different municipalities, inviting residents, etc.
- For those wanting more representation on GLEA, perhaps forming a subcommittee will provide exchange of ideas and expanding range of input, without needing to change the bylaws.

There was also some discussion about the need for the level of funding (\$2-\$3 million) that might be generated by a lake district.

The Board was in agreement to not be in favor of forming a lake district.

Office Lease: Motion was made by M.J. Fesenmaier to move forward with the new lease for GLEA offices. R. Umans seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Algae Torch Insurance: Motion was made by M.J. Fesenmaier to approve expenditure of \$111 to insure the new algae torch. Motion was seconded by P. Kenny. The motion carried unanimously.

CD Rollover: The Board agreed to roll over the CD scheduled to come due on August 8.

USGS Algae Cameras: It was reported that cameras have been installed in Lake Geneva at the Riviera and by Geneva Inn. J. Weiss volunteered to help get the 3rd one installed.

E. Coli Report from Lake Geneva: There was discussion about the high levels of E. Coli near the seawall in Lake Geneva. Discussion points included:

- Stepping up testing 2x/week
- DNR has indicated some lakes report averages or do composite sampling.
- Discussion on whether GLEA should post all results at all locations.
- Continuing to test at seawall, even though not in budget.

It was agreed to post all municipal locations in emails to municipalities, but to not post the Riviera location result on social media, for now.

Piers & Buoys: It was reported that Lake Geneva is considering replacing buoys with new piers. It was suggested that GLEA/Holly will send Lake Geneva a position statement that it is bad science to replace with piers that will cover more of the water. P. Kenny made a motion for GLEA to take this action. R. Umans seconded the motion. The Board agreed unanimously to proceed with the position statement.

Big Foot Golf Course Renovation: P. Kenny reported that the country club is taking as many precautions as possible to preserve the lake and water.

Wake Enhancement Document: C. McAdam made a motion whereby GLEA recommends wake-enhanced, and surf boating shall occur no closer than 500 feet from shore and only in areas where the lake is at least 30 feet deep. The motion was seconded by M.J. Fesenmaier and unanimously approved.

As follow up to this, GLEA urges municipalities to:

- Adopt a Uniform Local Ordinance - Require wake-enhanced boating to follow the recommended 500-foot/30-foot standard.
- Coordinate with Enforcement Partners- Work with water patrol to support education, compliance, and public safety.
- Launch Public Awareness Campaigns - Incorporate wake boat guidance into pier permitting packets, newsletters, boat launch signage, and association communications.
- Engage Regionally - Collaborate with Walworth County and other lakefront municipalities for a cohesive lake-wide policy.

Grant for Interns: It was reported that GLEA received a private donation of \$5,000 to cover hiring of two more interns.

Intern Report

- A. Fish Cribs – the first crib is in, and 7 additional cribs will go in August 4. The cribs will be built next week.
- B. Clean Boats, Clean Waters – Fontana reported in with 189 uses. It was reported that the remainder of the numbers would be into GLEA in the next week.
- C. Other Projects

- a. Farmers Markets – Interns will cover a table there. First one was earlier today where Logan reported great traffic and interest, and several sales of the items made by interns.
- b. Art Show -GLEA will have a booth at the W.B. Art Show the following weekend. Interns will be making several items to be sold, including the popular lake biosphere. Holly asked Board members to volunteer for some of the time slots.
- c. Kids Class –it was suggested that GLEA conduct educational classes for kids on a couple Tuesdays in August. It was suggested that we table that idea as there are a lot of activities ongoing presently.

June Meeting Minutes: Motion was made to approve the minutes of the June Board Meeting and was unanimously approved.

Income Statement: R. Umans noted that individual donations are down from last year.

Treasure's Report: Presented by R. Umans.

Municipality Reports:

- a. Fontana: P. Kenny reported that Fontana is seeing new metal piers that are able to stay in the lake year-round. The Board asked Holly to contact the DNR to investigate whether they approve of these metal structures.
- b. Lake Geneva: No updates
- c. Linn: No updates
- d. Williams Bay: No updates
- e. Walworth: No updates

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Dated August 18, 2025. Upon approval, posted at the GLEA office and website <https://www.gleawi.org/>. These minutes were transcribed by H. Baseman, Director and C. McAdam.

APPROVED 8/21/2025