

**GENEVA LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY (GLEA)**

262-245-4532, [www.glea.wi.org](http://www.glea.wi.org), [info@gleawi.org](mailto:info@gleawi.org)

**Monthly Board of Directors Meeting**

**Thursday, July 16, 2026 – 4:00 PM.**

**In Person: GLEA Office, 105 N Elkhorn Rd., Williams Bay, WI 53191.**

**Or Virtual: Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84014525458?pwd=cIXxmyR2u8Gt8BbGwuswWahx13Y2Im.1>**

**Meeting ID:** 840 1452 5458

**Passcode:** 480244

**Members:**

Attending: Vice Chairperson Mary Jo Fesenmaier (Lake Geneva), Rick Pappas (Fontana), Jim Weiss (Linn), Carol McAdam (Linn), Rob Umans (Williams Bay), LaMarr Lundberg (Williams Bay)

Virtual: Chairperson Patrick Kenny (Fontana), Lynn Grayson (GLA)

Non-Voting: Kaden Kayser (intern), Logan Madison Lake Manager), Brilie Esser (intern), Moira Gerard (intern), Joanna Gerard (Communications Coordinator), Holly Baseman (Director)

Not in Attendance: Alex Rasch (Walworth)

**MINUTES**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 by Vice Chairman Fesenmaier.

Roll Call: Roll Call was taken. (Do we want to move the Members down below under the Roll Call header?)

**General Business:**

**Public Comments:** None

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by R. Umans to approve minutes of the June 18, 2026 Board Meeting. And seconded by J. Weiss. Vote was unanimous to approve.
2. **Finances:**
  - a. H. Baseman reported many expenses are coming in as this is the busy season for GLEA. It was noted that June checks were deposited in July. H. Baseman reported that \$100,000 was put into a money market (was this a money market or a CD?). Monies will be transferred as needed to cover costs.
  - b. Grants –GLEA received a \$ 1,000 grant from United Way to help pay for the E. coli signs.
  - c. Donations - higher this year than this time in 2025.
  - d. Reviewed June 2026 Balance Sheet and Income Statement. A motion to approve the income statement and balance sheet was made by M. Fesenmaier and seconded by P. Kenny. Vote was unanimous to approve both.
  - e. Holly will reach out to QuickBooks to answer Rick's question re: assets vs. liabilities.

**Possible Action On The Following Business:**

3. **Marina Update** – H. Baseman visited all marinas and boat dealerships in late June to discuss some wake boating issues affecting the lake. Marinas/ dealers were receptive but chose not to take materials other than Stewardship Booklets. GLEA did not receive communication from Munson Marine and Jerry's Majestic. Dealers and marinas are concerned with upsetting customers with wake boat information.
4. **Water Alliance Meeting:** Options for fundraising were discussed. Currently, GLEA and GLC can accept donations for the Walworth County nine designated projects as funds can be earmarked and restricted solely for that. H. Baseman mentioned that she will be writing a Surface Water Grant to potentially raise matching funds (\$205,000). H. Baseman noted that the DNR putting Geneva Lake on the impaired list for aquatic plants was brought up at the meeting. Mary Jo suggested a letter be sent to Lake Geneva regarding the science backing the issue/concern of pier shading.
5. **Stream Testing** - Beach signs on E. Coli arrived. Signs arrived with no metal backing to adhere to a post or railing. Holly and interns troubleshooting.
  - Hillside – Water testing has shown levels exceeding 5,000. Walworth County cited the next step would be dye testing individual property holding tanks. This will need to be coordinated with Linn Sanitary District

to complete. GLEA will review property records and compile the data on when septic systems or holding tanks were last maintained. Walworth County will review and then share which properties to test.

- **Buena Vista** – There are three channels that flow into the main creek. Two have shown high levels of E. coli, and data is inconclusive on what the source is. GLEA has been testing portions of the creek further up from the residential areas where, at times, levels have exceeded the 1,000 closure level. GLEA is using MST testing through a lab in Milwaukee and Madison to pinpoint the exact type of E. coli and source. GLEA is moving as quickly as possible.
- **Southwick** – Walworth County is working on further testing for this area.

**6. Stream Discharge** – Iron run-off from Bigfoot Creek, Hillside Creek and Harris Creek. H. Baseman talked with DNR, and it was noted that this has been an issue for 30 years. It is possible a wet April and dry May caused a groundwater issue that resulted in seeping iron. Because phosphorus levels are highest in Big Foot Creek, there may be a correlation. The DNR has suggested a series of five tests per season (spring/summer 2027) for Big Foot Creek. Because Bigfoot Creek traverses private land, and Geneva Lake Conservancy has connections to the owner, the GLC will be contacted to work on that testing if GLEA moves forward. For this series of 5 tests, it's estimated to cost \$10,000. DNR stated five tests are critical between April – September 2027. H. Baseman will get a more accurate quote from the lab before committing to the project and also mentioned a Surface Water Grant could help offset this cost.

**7. AIS and White River Signage** – the interns explained how AIS signs have been posted in Williams Bay and Lake Geneva, and that the height measurement sign has been posted in the White River.

**8. Nearshore Fisheries Survey** – K. Kayser explained that the fish survey contractor noted a tiny decline in some populations, but overall numbers were the same as 2025. He also reported the group found a Rainbow Darter and an Iowa Darter, which was very interesting as it's been years since one has been detected; it could be due to the use of the shocking equipment the contractor had with them.

**9. Fish Cribs and Fish Food Plots** – L. Madison noted that fish crib survey showed positive results. H. Huss (lead intern the past three years) came back to dive with the group in late June and found 10 out of the 11 cribs placed in 2025 had juvenile fish using them. The fish food plots will be checked this summer by GLEA that the Walleyes of Tomorrow placed. There has been a request for three more fish cribs, which interns will be assembling in early August.

**10. Surface Water Grant Update** – Dale has been reviewing 30 years of data, compiling and analyzing the data to provide GLEA with a report on areas of concern to focus on.

#### **11. Grants/Fundraising**

- \$1,000 ARPA just went in will be reflected on July balance sheet
- \$3,500 from EEF just went in and will be reflected on July balance sheet
- Farmers Markets - \$200 to date (biospheres, acrylic lake molds, stickers)
- Lake Geneva Garden Club Grant – no answer yet
- GLA – meeting on August 1<sup>st</sup>
- Surface Water Grant due 9/15

**12. Events** – L. Madison reported on two ongoing outreach events: Farmers Markets in Lake Geneva and Williams Bay are going well, and the Holiday Home camp outdoor education has been successful. The kids seem to really enjoy it. Upcoming events include:

- Corn and Brat Fest early August
- Steak & Lobster Fest – may consider in the future
- Starry Stonewort Mapping to be done in August. There is a location in Lake Geneva that needs to be verified.
- Boat Count in August
- Will continue to help Walworth County Public Health with tick drag, well testing, etc.
- Pat is going to present at GLA meeting on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 am.
- Williams Bay Art Show – no response

### 13. Municipal Reports and Updates

- City of Lake Geneva – M. Fesenmaier noted concern with proposed plan to place a pier into the lake as a ‘boardwalk.’ Mentioned consulting Van de Wahl and Associates. GLEA should send updated Pier letter to City of Lake Geneva.
- Village of Williams Bay – R. Umans looking into memorial trees for the kids who passed away in the July 3<sup>rd</sup> accident. Discussed where to put the trees so that they are more prominent – Bigfoot Park might be a better location. P. Kenny noted that Fontana would want to participate.
- Village of Fontana - Steak & Lobster Fest next weekend. GLEA stated they might consider it in the future. Re: fish cribs, R. Pappas said a resident was requesting a pier permit, and he would ask them if they were willing to have a fish crib installed. It was suggested that other municipalities consider suggesting fish cribs with all pier permit requests.
- Town of Linn - NA
- Town of Walworth - NA

14. Next Meeting Date: August 20, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

15. Motion to adjourn: R. Umans 1<sup>st</sup> motion to adjourn; R. Pappas 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting concluded at 4:50 pm.