

**GENEVA LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY (GLEA)  
WILLIAMS BAY, WISCONSIN**  
**The monthly business meeting of the GLEA will be held in Room 108,  
in Lowrey Hall on the campus of George Williams College of Aurora University  
350 Constance Blvd., Williams Bay, WI 53191.**

**Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 6:30 pm.**

**Minutes**

**Members/ Staff Present:** P. Kenny (Village of Fontana), M.J. Fesenmaier (City of Lake Geneva), J. Weiss (Town of Linn), J. Lovell (Town of Walworth), L. Lundberg & R. Umans (Village of Williams Bay), J. Schmidt (Director), T. Peters (Consultant), A. Townsend (Admin. Asst.)

**Guest Present:** Dr. Tom Slawski (SEWRPC), D. Malmin, T. Dunn, C. Roan, and D. Roan.

**Members Absent:** R. Pappas (Village of Fontana), T. O'Neill (City of Lake Geneva), B. Whiting (Town of Linn), D. Rasmussen (Attorney), A. Wisnionski (Lake Manager Asst./Intern).

**GLEA Board of Directors Meeting Called to order at 6:29 pm by Chairman P. Kenny.**

**Roll Call**

**General Business:**

**Public Comments**

T. Peters expressed his concern for the future of Geneva Lake. Science must and has to dictate lake management decisions while maintaining transparency. Personal beliefs, opinions, and politics cannot affect how Geneva Lake is managed. This is why I wrote a letter to the editor informing the public about what is at stake here, and I am concerned about these special interest groups trying to over lake management.

**1. Motion by R. Umans to approve October 20, 2022, minutes. Seconded by J. Lovell. CU.**

**2. Monthly Review Items:**

- a. **Motion to approve October - November 2022 Income Statement by R. Umans. Seconded by J. Lovell. CU.**
- b. **Motion to approve October - November 2022 Balance Sheet by R. Umans. Seconded by J. Lovell. CU.**
- c. Bookkeeper's October - November 2022 Disbursement Report was made available for review.
- d. Bookkeeper's ongoing Donation Report was made available for review.
- e. Action on Staff Report:  
- **Motion to approve Director's report for October – November 2022 by J. Lovell. Seconded by M.J. Fesenmaier. CU.**

**Possible action on the following business.**

**1. Whole Lake PI Survey**

We have received the final report. Forged Duckweed and SSW populations have increased, but the Geneva Lake Aquatic Plant community is still healthy and has good biodiversity. SSW was found in all three lagoons of Trinke Estate. Recommendations are to continue with monitoring. We received the final invoice. **Motion by J. Weiss to pay invoice. Seconded by R. Umans. CU.**

**2. Grants**

**a) AIS Prevention 5 CD3 Units**

The grant has been submitted for the 5 CD3 units. We hope to get a response by February or March.

**b) Adopted Grant Resolution**

The DNR recommended using titles only rather than actual names. To prevent an issue if there are staff changes, the GLEA will still be able to carry through on the grant. **Motion by J. Weiss to have M.J. Fesenmaier sign the resolution. Seconded by J. Lovell. CU**

**c) Clean Boat Clean Waters Grant**

The Clean Boat Clean Water grant has been submitted.

**d) Cost Share CBCW**

The DNR has confirmed we will be able to cost share. However, an agreement will be needed from each municipality that wants to cost share, stating that they agree to the terms, which includes completing the 200-hour requirement at

their launch. We will need to be invoiced by each municipality. This will be submitted to the DNR for reimbursement. We can reimburse each municipality up to \$12/hr., which the grant covers. However, the municipality must ensure that the 200-hour requirement has been met at its launch. GLEA will host a CBCW training again this year as well. The GLEA will work with each municipality to ensure that the data is correctly entered into the SWIMS database.

### **3. Water Quality / AIS**

#### **a) CD3 Machine**

**Motion stands from October 20, 2022, board meeting to send the invoice and letter to the GLC.**

#### **b) Water Alliance**

J. Schmidt reported that several GLEA board members have been contacted by the Water Alliance Chairs, lodging complaints against J. Schmidt, saying he is unwilling to work with any of the partners on the lake management plan update. J. Schmidt has copied the GLEA board on the Lake Management Plan correspondence. The GLEA Board realizes that this is an external organization issue. That is outside of the control of the GLEA Board. The GLEA Chairman, P. Kenny, stated that it is unfortunate that J. Schmidt has had to go through this and is being treated this way, especially during his first year while he is still learning a new job; they never even gave him a chance. J. Schmidt stated that this proves why we must look at all the options for lake management and what the municipality wants that structure to look like. When they treat people like this without being an official organization, what will happen if they become an official local government unit with authority?

#### **c) Lake Management Plan**

J. Schmidt introduced Dr. Tom Slawski, Chief Environmental Biologist with SEWRPC, and provided background on why he felt it was necessary to have someone from outside of the partners corroborate that the claims being made against him are indeed false. J. Schmidt apologized to Dr. Slawski, that he and his team are stuck in the middle of this and explained that it has been like this throughout the whole process. First, it was DNR, and now it is SEWRPC. Dr. Slawski thanked J. Schmidt for inviting him to the Board meeting. Dr. Slawski stated that SEWRPC and GLEA have a long working relationship that was developed even before T. Peters was the Director of GLEA, and that J. Schmidt has continued to carry on with this tradition. Dr. Slawski stated that the GLEA had been the only partner to provide any actual scientific data to this project thus far. Dr. Slawski provided some additional background to the board, like how the GLC decided that the GLEA did not need to be included in scheduling a date for the stakeholder meeting. Dr. Slawski explained that SEWRPC felt this meeting could only be held with the GLEA attending. J. Schmidt responded, stating that the GLEA was not able to attend the initial date picked by the GLC. Dr. Slawski replied, stating the commission would not be in attendance either due to the GLEA not being available to attend. Dr. Slawski indicated that he has been a part of some dysfunctional Lake Management Plans but never anything to this magnitude of dysfunctional while also exploring lake management organizational restructures. Dr. Slawski commented that he had appreciated the efforts of J. Schmidt to try and improve communication with the partners. Dr. Slawski gave an update after numerous conversations and requests about communication needing to improve and reported some improvement, which provides him with hope for this project. J. Schmidt also stated that he is hopeful about this and sees this as a step in the right direction. J. Schmidt told Dr. Slawski he is looking forward to working on this project with SEWRPC and the other partners. The GLEA Board thanked Dr. Slawski for coming to talk to the board and apologized for how challenging this project has been.

#### **d) Local AIS Ordinances Chapter 30**

Our attorney is currently working on drafting this ordinance. He will be using Fontana as an example. We should have a draft for review early next year. We will focus on the Villages and City first, then work on drafting this for the Towns as they rely on County ordinances.

#### **e) Beach Testing (Lake Geneva)**

The DNR was contacted about reactivating Lake Geneva back into the grant. Our contact person is out of the office until February.

### **4. Projects/Equipment**

#### **a) USGS Stream Gage**

The City of Lake Geneva will not complete the bridge project, so the USGS Stream Gage project is uncertain.

### **5. Marketing / Fundraising / Events**

#### **a) Website**

Director, Intern, and Admin. Asst. are keeping up the website.

#### **b) Social Media**

Director and Intern have been trying to keep our social media updated with photos of fieldwork; however, the Director has not had much time to do fieldwork.

#### **c) Holiday Letter**

The holiday letter has been sent out, and we have started receiving donations.

**d) In Search of Eagles**

GLEA will host a site on Saturday, January 21, 2023, with KMLT as part of the Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. We will be in Williams Bay or Fontana.

**e) Ice-On Contest**

The Ice-On Contest has been sent out to the schools. We can receive entries by mail, email, fax and directly on our website.

**f) Wisconsin Lake Convention**

The Convention is from April 18 through 22. J. Schmidt has booked a room but still needs to register for the convention. **Motion by J. Lovell to have J. Schmidt go to the Wisconsin Lake Convention. Seconded by J. Weiss. CU.**

**6) GLEA Discussion**

**a) District/Commission informational meeting**

Topics for this meeting will be the difference between a District, Commission, and other lake structure types. WDNR is going to be virtual. It will take place on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm, at the Fontana Village Hall. We are going to record this meeting via zoom. This will be a GLEA meeting, but for information only.

**b) Lease/Office Space**

There is some uncertainty about what will happen with our lease at GWC. GWC will still be a school until December 2023. We have yet to receive an official answer regarding what will happen to our offices.

**c) Development within Geneva's watershed**

There has been a significant increase in development within Geneva Lakes Watershed. The concern is about the impacts of the development on Geneva Lake. It is adding more stress to an already stressed system. The GLEA board asked that J. Schmidt express and address his concerns to each community and municipality. The board suggested writing the editor and some educational outreach for the public.

**d) Projects for 2023 Overview**

The GLEA projects will consist of CBCW, boat count, beach sampling, Sub PI focusing on access sites and locations of forked duckweed, educational outreach events, and a nearshore land fish study,

**e) Director Time Off**

J. Schmidt will be out of the office from January 6 through 19, as approved by the GLEA Board.

**f) Staffing**

J. Schmidt would like to keep T. Peters on as a consultant for the GLEA. He has been extremely helpful in the management plan process. We discussed hiring another full-time person to help with fieldwork and projects. **Motion by J. Lovell to keep T. Peters on as a consultant. Seconded by R. Umans. CU.**

**7) Budget**

**a) Option 1**

No additional staff person, intern only.

**b) Option 2**

Additional staff person and intern, intern fund used to cover the intern cost.

**c) Approval of Budget**

The GLEA board asked J. Schmidt to present another budget at the next meeting.

**8) Technology**

**a) IT Consultant**

The files were saved with the same name and duplicated. This will be a more significant and expensive project than initially expected. The files have been saved with the same name and duplicated. There are three computers with files saved directly to the desktop; he could not give me an estimate. Get another opinion.

**9) Municipalities Updates and Reports**

**a) City of Lake Geneva**

M.J. Fesenmaier reported that the parking fee would be increasing.

**b) Town of Linn**

J. Weiss reported that the Town of Linn attorney and other town staff met with DNR personnel to discuss piers in excess of 100 feet. J. Weiss mentioned the local ordinance that the five municipalities around the lake signed off on and DNR approved. The DNR said that if it does not pose a safety or navigational hazard and is a reasonable design, DNR will approve the permit. The local ordinance the municipalities have agreed on does not impact the DNR decisions.

**c) Village of Fontana**

P. Kenny parking stickers will be permanent, and parking fees will also be increasing. The village has amended its zoning to address the 100ft excess of a pier. That will be shared with other GLEA board members.

**d) Village of Williams Bay**

No updates.

**e) Town of Walworth**

No updates.

**10) New / Other Business items**

No new other business was mentioned.

**11) Next Meeting Date**

- a) December 15, 2022- Informational Meeting
- b) February 16, 2023- Regular Monthly Board meeting

**Motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm by J. Weiss. Seconded by J. Lovell. CU**

Dated December 12, 2022. Upon approval, posted at the GLEA office and website <https://www.gleawi.org/>.  
These minutes were recorded and transcribed by Jacob Schmidt, Director. Aimee Townsend, Admin. Asst.

**APPROVED 3/16/2023**