

**GENEVA LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY (GLEA)
WILLIAMS BAY, WISCONSIN
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes.
July 20, 2023**

**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.**

The GLEA meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm, Thursday, July 20, 2023, by Chair P. Kenny, Room 108 Lowrey Hall, George Williams College Campus, Williams Bay, WI.

Roll Call

Members Present: P. Kenny (F), T. Dunn (L.G.), J. Weiss & C. McAdam (L) A. Rasch (W), L. Lundberg & R. Umans (W.B.)

Staff Present: J. Schmidt (Director), A. Townsend (Admin. Asst.), A. Wisnionski (Intern), T. Jochman (Attorney).

Guest Present: D. Malmin, M.J. Fesenmaier, J. Lovell.

Members and Staff Absent: R. Pappas (F), T. O'Neill (L.G.), D. Rasmussen (Attorney), T. Peters (Consultant).

General Business:

Public Comments

No public comments were made.

1. **Recognition and presentation of service award to former board members.**
 - a) **Town of Walworth Citizen Representative, Jim Lovell was presented a plaque.**
 - b) **City of Lake Geneva Elected Representative, Mary Jo Fesenmaier was presented a plaque.**
2. **Motion by R. Umans to approve June 15, 2023, minutes. Seconded by J. Weiss. CU.**
4. **Monthly Review Items:**
 - a. **Motion to approve June 2023, Income Statement by R. Umans. Seconded by J. Weiss. CU.**
 - b. **Motion to approve June 2023, Balance Sheet by R. Umans. Seconded J. Weiss. CU.**
 - c. Bookkeeper's June 2023 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 June-July 2023 by R. Umans. Seconded by J. Weiss. CU.**
 - * **Motion to approve Intern's report for June-July 2023 by R. Umans. Seconded by J. Weiss. CU.**

Possible action on the following business.

1. Water Quality/AIS

a) Water Alliance

J. Schmidt reported that the GLC has conducted several drone boat counts surveys. J. Schmidt also presented the Lake Use Survey results, and 276 people answered the survey. 40% said yes to using fertilizers and herbicide products on their property. 28.64% of respondents are familiar with GLEA. 32.88% are satisfied with the current lake management, 39.27% are neutral, and 20.55% are unsatisfied with the current management of Geneva Lake. AIS Management, Water Quality Monitoring, and Boating regulations were top concerns for respondents. 41.01% yes, they would be comfortable supporting and contributing to lake management. 47% are unsure or need more information. 38% would like to see an increase in launch fees, to support lake management efforts.

b) Beach Testing

There have only been a couple of advisories issued this season. GLEA is now collecting Bigfoot Beach samples and delivering these with our samples to Madison.

c) Big Foot Beach State Park Storm Drain/Culvert issue

The city of Lake Geneva removed the grate that covered the culvert because it was becoming clogged. Since the removal of the grate, when it rains, water rushes through the park into the Lagoon and is causing erosion issues. The lagoon is connected to Geneva Lake via a culvert and only flows during storm events. The State Park wants the grate to be put back in place, and the City of Lake Geneva is unwilling to because it will become clogged. This is a water quality and nutrient issue for Geneva Lake. The State Park would appreciate any help with this issue. **Motion by P. Kenny to have the Director attend a city council meeting and present information regarding the water quality and nutrient issues it is causing to Geneva Lake. Seconded by J. Weiss. CU.**

d) Local AIS Ordinances Chapter 30 - Update

The Ordinance is moving forward in the City of Lake Geneva, Village of Fontana, and Williams Bay. It was presented to the Town of Delavan Lake Committee. The City of Delavan and the Town of Geneva have expressed an interest in adopting something like this locally.

e) Pier Painting

Some calls have been received regarding pier painting and people scraping the paint chips into the water. It was suggested that information educating the public on painting piers be published in the newsletter.

2. Grants

a) AIS Prevention 4 CD3 Units-Update

A thank you to all that came out to the dedication ceremony. All usage is the same exception for Williams Bay, with 2 and Fontana 26 usages. The Village of Fontana staff has been extremely helpful in keeping track of the usages.

b) Clean Boats Clean Waters-Update

Hours as of 7/19/23 @ 1:30 pm

Fontana: 169; Lake Geneva: 126; Williams Bay: 198; LP: 56.5; Hillside: 41; Linn total: 97.5.

c) Geneva Lake Garden Club Grant

The grant has been submitted to help fund the PI Survey.

3. Funding

a) Friends of Geneva Lake Environmental Agency

J. Schmidt wanted the board to review the Friend's bylaws before formally setting up the 501 © 3 with a tax id and incorporating this group officially.

4. Projects/Equipment

a) GLEA Boat-Update

Gordy's and Gage Marine have helped us with boats this summer.

b) Boat Count

C. Colman will be taking us out to conduct our annual boat count on Tuesday, August 1. We have also invited two Walworth County Health Department interns to join us for the boat count.

c) Fish Kill

Early this summer, there was a fish die-off; DNR and GLEA both investigated it. All water quality results were well within the normal ranges for this time of year and believed to be caused by spawning stress, boat activity near shore, and water warming up too quickly.

d) Near Shore Fish Survey

The overall number of species found is significantly down from the 1970s. Pier density and boater behavior are most definitely a factor for these nearshore fish populations. As we were sampling, I witnessed the impact of Wake boats outside the slow no-wake buoys. This is cause for concern, as we could no longer sample some sites because of the overdevelopment of the shoreline due to riprap because of erosion. If these forage fish populations drop anymore, Geneva's fisheries very well could cause collapse if this trend continues. **Motion by J. Weiss to pay invoices for the Near Shore Fish Survey, not to exceed \$8,600.00. Seconded by R. Umans. CU.**

e) SEWRPC Aquatic Plant PI Survey

SEWRPC will start the PI Survey on Monday, July 24, 2023. Gage Marine is donating a pier barge for the survey to be conducted.

f) Drone and ROV footage of SSW

J. Bushey has expressed an interest in getting some ROV and Drone Footage of the colony site outside of Trinke Estates, as J. Bushey is currently conducting the Drone boats. P. Kenny asked that J. Schmidt reach out to Fontana Fire Chief to see if they would be able to assist with this, and J. Weiss also said the Town of Linn Police Department might be willing to help as well.

5. Marketing/Fundraising/Events/Conferences

a) Website

A. Wisnionski and A. Townsend have been keeping the website updated.

b) Social Media

A. Wisnionski has been keeping our social media up to date and posting all the fieldwork she has been doing.

c) **Annual Mailing / Newsletter**

The annual mailing went out on 7/20/2023. The newsletter is expected to be mailed out next week.

d) **Advanced Lake Leaders**

J. Schmidt made a request to the board to attend two Advanced Lake Leaders Sessions. J. Schmidt helped facilitate the river clean-up with Living Lands and Waters and the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership.

Motion by J. Weiss to have J. Schmidt attend the River Clean Up, Friday, September 15, and the Advanced Lake Leaders, on Thursday, Sept 21, and Friday, Sept 22. Seconded by R. Umans. CU

e) **Visit Lake Geneva**

The GLEA are official members of Visit Lake Geneva.

6. Office

a) **Lease/ Office Space**

Our lease is up on December 31, 2023.

b) **Photo IDs and Guest Policy**

GWC is keeping the doors to all buildings locked for students' safety. We will have Photo IDs for office staff and name badges for board members and staff. There will also be badges for guests visiting our offices. That way, students and staff can identify guests visiting our offices.

7. Technology/Equipment

Recently used, an underwater Aqua-VU camera to identify Cladophora in depths of 45+ feet, which has been correlated to the Zebra Mussel populations. A camera like this would be extremely beneficial to help with the monitoring of populations all around the lake. Will add to the 2024 Budget.

8. Municipalities Updates and Reports

a) City of Lake Geneva – no updates.

b) Town of Linn – no updates.

c) Village of Fontana – no updates.

d) Village of Williams Bay- no updates.

e) Town of Walworth-no updates.

9. New/ Other business items

L. Lundberg brought in a Northern Pike and presented that they have a parasite that prevents them from growing. J. Schmidt informed the board that this was the justification used to stock Muskies in the lake to establish a top predator species.

10. Next Meeting Date

a) August 17, 2023.

11. 2024 Municipal Contribution Request

J. Schmidt requested an increase in the municipality's contributions to the GLEA for next year. Due to the rate of inflation and the unknown of our lease. Will wait to see how the 501 © 3 works out and possibly request in small increments.

12. Human Resources

a) **Employee Handbook**

The GLEA is looking at updating the 2006 employee handbook.

b) **Staffing**

We need to hire another full-time staff member. Need to have a person for administration and one for science to manage this agency effectively. Need to write up a proposal justifying the need for another employee.

Attorney David Rasmussen has elected to step back from the agency.

Attorney Tyler Jochman has expressed an interest in representing the agency.

Closed Session

1. Consider motion to convene into closed session: per Wisconsin Statue 19.85(1)(c) – Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – Employment and compensation.

a) Lake Biologist

b) Attorney

Motion by J. Weiss to convene into a close session: per Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(c) – Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – Employment and compensation. Seconded by R. Umans. CU.

Motion by J. Weiss to Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene to Open Session. Seconded by R. Umans. CU.

Motion by J. Weiss to approve the representation agreement that was discussed in the closed session. Seconded by R. Umans. CU.

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm by J. Weiss. Seconded by R. Umans. CU.

Dated June 20, 2023. 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 8/24/2023