

GLA ANNUAL MEETING Minutes

Saturday, August 6, 2022
Lake Geneva Country Club
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
9:30 a.m.

WELCOME — President Lillie called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m., recognizing the directors and officers in attendance. Lillie thanked the membership for their support and their attendance. He noted that it seemed the lake fared well so far this season, use of the lake was down a bit, but issues of water quality and lake use remain in the forefront of the GLA's concerns, which will be addressed in various ways during the meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION — EEF President Bill Thompson noted that twelve local scholars had received scholarships from EEF in 2022, and introduced ten of those who were able to attend. Deadline for high school, undergraduate and graduate scholarship applications is March 1 each year.

MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING, AUGUST 21, 2021 — A motion to approve the minutes as published was passed unanimously (Stuhley/Kenny).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORTS — The Nominating Committee proposed the following slates, which were approved unanimously:

EEF Directors for three-year terms ending in 2025: Casey Burmeister (first term), Brigid Cashman (first term), John Olson (first term), and Chuck Palma (second term). These were approved on a motion by Voris.

GLA Directors with three-year terms to expire in 2025: Brigid Cashman, Robert T. Morava, Jr., Paul Darley, Brian Griffith, Thomas Nickols, Karl Otzen, James W. McAvoy, Dana Hagenah, William B. Duncan. These were approved (Thompson/Gardiner).

Retiring GLA Treasurer Randolph was thanked, and new Board Member Darley was introduced.

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES:

Senator Stephen Nass noted that although the legislature is not in session, the rules committee remains active year round to review any rules submitted by administration. There will be a vote on rules submitted for the treatment of invasive species next week.

Because of redistricting, **Representative Tyler August** now serves all of the communities around Geneva Lake, a region that he formerly shared with Representative Amy Loudenberg. August serves on the Rules Committee mentioned by Nass. Unless challenged by the rules committee, administrative rules carry the force of law. Both he and Nass consistently remind fellow legislators that Geneva Lake is very different from most all other lakes in Wisconsin, and lake use rules often need to be modified for the local conditions. August has helped the Water Safety Patrol and Geneva Lake Law Enforcement to modify such rules.

Williams Bay and Fontana Village Presidents Bill Duncan and Pat Kenny spoke about actions their communities are taking for the health of the lake. Duncan described an ambitious plan to move Southwick Creek away from Highway 67 and into the Kishwaukee Conservancy. This would decrease salt and other contaminants from entering the creek, and the elimination of a culvert would aid the fish trying to make it upstream to their spawning areas. Controlling run-off from a nearby

gravel pit is ongoing and is an important part of the realignment of the creek.

Kenny, who is also the new chairman of the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, noted that Fontana has made numerous improvements in water retention, including a number of retention ponds and 24 roadside dry wells. Abbey Springs has expanded wet ponds, and efforts are underway to slow down the Pottawatomie Creek to decrease the sediment that flows into the Abbey Harbor. The Village has many more plans and hopes to accomplish two each year.

Fontana and Williams Bay are joining together to share seven full time EMTs.

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol —Ted Pankau and Brigid Cashman spoke on issues affecting the WSP. Pankau noted that traffic this year was down a little, after the two busiest years in recent history. Pankau cautions boaters who swim off the boats and don't realize the speed by which a boat can get away in high winds, noting that drownings have occurred when people get separated from the boat. The Patrol's "Clip Before You Dip" campaign encourages boaters to don the PFDs before jumping off the boat for a swim.

Brigid Cashman noted the drowning of an 81 year-old paddle-boarder. Wisconsin requires paddle boards to have a PFD aboard, but does not require them to be worn. An observer or spotter is no longer required for skiing or other sports where a passenger is being towed in the state of Wisconsin. However, individual municipalities can require a 3rd person observer through a stricter ordinance, as is mandated by the Joint ordinance of the 4 municipalities of Geneva Lake. In addition, the state of Wisconsin does not require a skier to wear a PFD (personal flotation device) or life jacket while being towed. However, through our local ordinance, one is required on anyone being towed here on Geneva Lake. PFDs must be worn on PWCs (wave runners). Modern, less cumbersome inflatable belts are now approved, but only if being worn.

Geneva Lake Law Enforcement Agency — Commander Tom Hausner noted that finding staff for lake patrols in the summer is harder than usual, but that the Agency is still covering the lake as best as it can. Over 160 citations are normally written each year. The July 4 weekend is the busiest of the year, and with the help of the DNR, five patrol boats were able to write many citations and warnings for bad behavior on the water. Hausner noted a huge increase in wake board boats and many related complaints about noise, both engine and music. Until all four lake communities agree on an ordinance, the GLLEA can do little in this area.

Geneva Lake Environmental Agency — Director Jacob Schmidt noted that state law requires all boats and trailers be free from aquatic plants. The GLEA has attendants at all five launches to inform boaters of the rules. A recent ordinance was passed that will forward monies collected from ticketed violations to the affected lakes area. The GLEA will be conducting its annual boat count. The DNR has a tip line for those who witness abuses such as leaves, etc. being raked into the lake. The CD3 Boat Cleaning machine moves among the various launch sites. GLEA President Kenny hopes that each launch site will have its own boat cleaning station one day.

Water Alliance for Preserving Geneva Lake —Charles Colman related the history and goals of the Water Alliance, which started three years ago, not as a new organization, of which there are already many, but as a medium for representatives from all of the organizations to meet, share, and coordinate ideas. The group has representatives from EEF, GLA, GLC, GLEA, DNR, SEWRPC, UW, and other entities, all interested in preserving the quality of Geneva Lake. It is administratively supported by the Geneva Lake Conservancy.

Colman listed a number of accomplishments of the Water Alliance, including following issues:

- Williams Bay gravel pit
- Southwick Creek realignment funding
- Shoreline buffer strips & rain gardens
- CD3 Boat Cleaning machine
- Testing of tributaries
- Identification of run-off issues
- SEWRPC mapping of creeks
- Keeping it Blue community publications

Colman reports that the lake is healthy but under pressure from heavy rains in creeks, and boat wake damage to piers and shorelines. Funding is insufficient to address all of the issues.

Issues on Other Wisconsin Lakes — Lynn Grayson reported on issues at Green Lake, Wisconsin and North Lake Wisconsin. Green Lake was determined to be ‘impaired’ in 2014 and has a large dead zone area where insufficient oxygen cannot support fish and healthy plant life. After a 3 year study, the Green Lake Association has embarked on an aggressive plan to decrease the phosphorus contamination that produced the dead zone, blue algae, and duckweed infestations. A very informative video produced by the Green Lake Association is available on our web site, and should encourage us to be proactive with Geneva Lake.

North Lake did an extended study on the impact of wake boat waves on sub surfaces of the lake, and found the effect was detrimental to the habitat of healthy aquatic growth, allowing invasive species to take hold in their stead. North Lake is trying to pass a ‘hazardous wake ordinance.’ Information on their two year study is also on our web site.

Real Estate Market Trends — Bob Rauland, from Berkshire-Hathaway Realty, formerly the Rauland Agency, highlighted real estate market trends especially those related to lakefront and lake access houses. Bob provided a hand out with current statistics and maps of Walworth County lakes. The handout was available in the room, and copies are available from the Rauland Agency.

The average price of an improved lakefront property so far this year (there have been 14) is \$4,600,000 plus, at an average of \$45,368 per lake front foot. Rauland was thanked for his forty some years of reporting at the GLA Annual Meetings and given a special gift in gratitude for his years of service.

There being no further reports, President Lillie adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m. (Duncan/Kenny)

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Smith
Executive Secretary