

Glen Lake Association
Annual Meeting
August 11, 2007
(To Be Approved at Annual Meeting 2008)

Board Members present: Sarah Litch, Charles Ofenloch, Gary Humphreys, Pat Smith, Carl Oleson, John Rockwood, Andy DuPont, Jack Laitala and Joan Kramps

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by President Sarah Litch at 9:39 AM.

Sarah welcomed everyone and introduced the Board members who were present.

The minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting were published in the Fall Newsletter. Aline Getchell moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Seconded by Bob Snell. The motion was approved.

The treasurer's report was available for all members to review. The report was accepted.

Sarah Litch made the following introductions:

1. Proctors: Sue Dutmers, Barbara LeJeune, Robert Novak
2. Nominating Committee: James Dutmers, Jerry Morawski, Shirley Hoagland
3. Parliamentarian: Chuck Barnell

President's Comments: Sarah Litch stated that the stewardship of our water is in our hands. Twenty percent of the fresh water is here in the Midwest. The Glen Lake Association is working to protect this valuable resource. In its efforts to do so the GLA has 18 committees and 101 committee members. She then asked all committee members present to please stand and be recognized. A Power Point presentation was then introduced to highlight the work of the committees.

Water Quality: The members of this committee are Emery Blanksma, Andy DuPont, Mike and Candy Hasselbeck, John Hayes, Barb LeJeune, Bruce Lichliter, Mike Litch, John and Carol Lund, Elaine Pentilla, Jerry and June Powley, and Lake Biologist, Rob Karner. Testing is done by these people in Big and Little Glen Lakes, Big and Little Fisher Lakes, the Crystal River, Brooks Lake, and Hatlem Creek. Volunteers do the testing for phosphorus, chlorophyll a, water clarity and conduct an Aquatic Plant Survey, while the Rob Karner is responsible for the testing with the hydrolab, and also Shoreline Restoration and Surveys.

The Plant Survey has been done in both Big and Little Glen for five years, but Big Fisher was added this year. Little Fisher will be added next year. A total of 230 sites were sampled, and no invasive plants were found. The only nuisance plant found was some curly leaf pondweed in Big Glen. It was dug up and removed from the lake. So far we have no Hydrilla or Eurasian Milfoil in our lakes. It is very important to not dump aquariums into lakes. Sarah sited an example in Arbutus Lake. A homeowner objected to the harvesting a small amount of Eurasian Milfoil from his property. Within three years, 400 acres of the lake were filled with this invasive plant. Members were reminded of the importance of keeping phosphorus levels in the lake low. Aquatic plants provide 50% of the oxygen in the water, but we do not need them taking over. Extra copies of the Landowners Handbook and Checklist were available for those who did not have one, or who needed an additional copy.

Hatlem Creek Sub-Committee: John Hayes has received some grant money for this project and will continue to look for more funds in the future. Monitoring and testing has been done in several sites to give us a good baseline. There is some evidence of elevated nitrates and E.coli in some areas, and this will be watched. This project was undertaken due to a concern about pollution in the creek, and then flowing into Glen Lake. The plan of action is to continue monitoring, make the community aware, address the elevated levels of nitrates and E. coli, improve the habitat, and search for new funding to work on some of the problems along Hatlem Creek.

Lake Biologist: Rob Karner worked on 6 projects in 2007. These were Water chemistry, Swimmer's itch, Shoreline naturalization, Plankton studies, Ordinances, Watershed Management Plan and Invasive species. Samples of the bottom sediments in the lakes are tested for 10 metals. Samples from the last few years show a slight rise, but this is

of no concern right now. Pictures of some of the 15 completed Shoreline Restoration projects were shown. Rob emphasized that lake friendly practices need to be undertaken by all riparians. A deeper root system along the space will trap phosphorus and prevent run-off into the lake. He stated that he is very willing to make home visits and make suggestions for lake – friendly landscaping. Curly leaf pond weed was the only nuisance plant found in our lakes. There was one patch of it in Big Glen, and a wheelbarrow full of it was raked up and removed.

In the Swimmer's Itch program, Rob works with Harvey Blankenspoor and team from Hope College, and SiCon in an effort to remove merganser duck broods from Glen Lake. Adults with no broods cannot be trapped. Four broods were taken this year, as late as early August, which is quite unusual. Last fall a large flock of 200 to 300 mergansers on their migration route were seen on the lake for a few days. It is not known if that could have caused a set back in our program. The number of cases reported this year was higher, but could have been because the lakes got warmer earlier.

To report cases of swimmer's itch, go to www.swimmersitch.org. Do not call Rob Karner or Sarah Litch!

The Cladophora Survey has been done on the lakes for the past 28 years. The data shows trends in nutrient loading. Mapping data leads to prioritizing home visits. The Plankton Study this year is showing that the Zebra Mussels are decreasing the number of plankton.

Karner has also visited with area Realtors. Most new riparian owners now receive a copy of the Landowners Handbook, and a visit to learn about good lake stewardship.

Invasive Species: Boat Wash Program: The members of this committee are Denny Becker, Chair, Carole Becker, Stan and Lorraine Kuk, and Tom Flerlage, operations. The staff members this summer are Sallyanne Morris, Lead, Paul Hall, and Hazel Flaska. Denny Becker reported that the purpose of this program is to prevent non-native invasive species from entering our lakes. We do have zebra mussels, but have so far been able to keep other invasive species out. Besides physically keeping invasive species out, our mission is also to inform and educate the public as to what these organisms are and how to prevent an infestation. Handouts which have been used at the boat launch were also available at the meeting. The program hours were expanded this year to begin at 6:00 AM and to continue through the month of September. The staff this year was older and more mature to provide a more confident presence on the job. The committee was instrumental in obtaining a trash receptacle and pickup service at the launch site. In the future a self wash option might be provided for after hours use. The statistics show that there was a significant increase in boats this summer. This may be due to the longer hours as well as the fact that it has been a wonderfully warm and sunny summer. Zebra mussels and aquatic plants were found on 6 % of the boats. Although there is now a Township Ordinance that boats must be washed, there was one person in July who was not willing to cooperate.

Fisheries, Wildlife, Recreation and Water Safety: Carl Oleson is chair of this committee. The members are Felicia Bloom, Gary Croskey, Ken Fosmore, Annette Lewis, Carl McBride, John Pepler, Ed Ricker, John Soderholm, and Bob Smith. Carl Oleson reported that this committee has undertaken a number of projects. They maintain the Memorial Park at the dam site on the Crystal River with the leadership of Joanne Sprouse. They are in charge of the buoys and signs marking shallow and no wake zones, installing and removing them from the lake each year. They deal with Boating and Water Safety issues. Flyers and brochures are used to educate and promote safety and etiquette according to State of Michigan laws and suggested etiquette guidelines. They are also working to promote a healthy fish and wildlife environment in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources and the National Park Service.

Wayne Kalchik, Leelanau County Sheriff's Department Marine Patrol, reported that there are 4 officers in the county, and that one of them is usually on the lake each day. The Department offers a Boating Safety Class at the Glen Lake Yacht Club in early July. This program certifies children 12 and over and thus allows them to operate larger boats on their own. They also do safety inspections of boats. He emphasized that children age 6 or under must wear a personal flotation device (PFD) with a neck flotation at all times when on a boat. PFDs must be available for each person on a craft, including kayaks. Personal water crafts (PWC) are not to be used after dusk or before dawn. Boaters can use any lake bottomland for temporary anchor, but it is illegal for them to get out and walk around. This would be considered trespassing. In answer to a question he stated that the number of boats moored on a property is controlled by Township Ordinances, not the sheriff's department.

Mike Borkovitch, Leelanau County Conservation Officer, reported that he is the only Conservation officer in the County. This means that he must cover the land, and the lakes and rivers as well. He spoke about keyholing, or funneling, in terms of access sites. With increased use, these areas will become full, and parking and other facilities will become inadequate. This can lead to problems in the future. Another issue he commented on was the commercial harvesting of minnows for bait. This upsets the natural balance of the lakes. He asked that such activities be reported to

him through the Sheriff's department. He is very aware of the problems caused by cormorants, geese and mergansers, but laws prevent major control programs.

Gary Croskey, Michigan Department of Transportation, stated that the Glen Lake Narrows Bridge would be replaced in 2009. He said that the new bridge would be somewhat wider and longer than the present bridge, and would have ramps rather than stairs down to the water on each side. Drawings and pictures were available, as well as detour maps, for all to see. He also announced a public meeting next week to answer any questions that area residents had.

Todd Kalish, DNR Fisheries Biologist, complimented the GLA on being much more active in stewardship of their lakes than other area lake associations. He provided two handouts concerning management of lake fish populations and a history of fish stocking since the 1890's. Glen Lake has been stocked with 20,000 lake trout each year since 1894. He will be working with Carl Oleson on finding a better location for stocking, as the seagulls and cormorants cause many problems during the operation at the bridge. They have also planted other species of fish in the lake to see what works best. They encourage residents to come out and ask questions while they are working in the area. He stated that the DNR would support this committee and the GLA in an effort to reconnect Little Glen and the millpond, as well as Little Fisher and Tucker Lake, to improve the environment for the fish.

Water Level: Jack Laitala is chair of this committee. Members are Charles Ofenloch, Vik Theiss, and Mike Sutherland. The alternate members (non-voting according to court order) are Dave Haughn, John Kassarian, Bruce Lichliter, Amy Peterson, Jerry Powley, John Spring, and Dave Stockman. Laitala reported that the committee had the lake level in good shape at ice out in early spring, but today, after more than 24 days with no rain, warm temperatures and sunny skies, the levels are very low. Daily lake level readings can be seen on the GLA website – www.glenlakeassociation.com. The 2007 Water Management Plan was approved by the Technical Committee, and then by the court, as is required. Several graphs and pictures were presented. The objectives of the Water Management Plan call for keeping the lake level at 596.60 feet above sea level, and the river flow at 31 cfs (cubic feet per second). It is hoped that a new means of making these measurements can be incorporated into the new bridge. The GLA will work closely with MDOT to facilitate this. Laitala and the committee have been working with some hydrology and dam experts. They have learned that adjustments to the dam affect the river flow faster and to a greater degree than the influence they have on the lake. The groundwater watershed provides 60 % in the inflow into the lakes. The committee will use information gathered this year to make recommendations for next year's Water Management Plan.

Newsletter: Sarah Litch and Dale VanHouzen are co-chair, and Sue Meserve is a member of this committee. Sarah Litch asked for the cooperation of all members in keeping their address in our files up to date. Changes can be made on the website – www.glenlakeassociation.com.

Auxiliary: The chair of this committee is Felicia Bloom. Members are Bob Bloom, Carolyn Chormann, Ann Davy, John Davey, Charlotte Fornowski, Joan Kramps, Barbara LeJeune, and Mary Whiteside. Special Helpers are Dick Budinger, Bob Meserve, Sara Ofenloch, Marie Pfeifer, Pat Smith, Joanne Sprouse, and Nate Whiteside. A total of 4480 pieces of mail were sent as part of 9 mailings, including Newsletters. Too many problems with Bulk Mail means that we are back to sending Newsletters by First Class.

Development: This committee's members are Charles Ofenloch and John Pepler, co-chair, Dick Chormann, Howard Dean, Jim Duff, Jim Dutmers, Terry Morawski, and Jack Otto. In 2006 the Development Committee held a Fundraiser, received a \$60,000 challenge for new money, and took in \$243,438 in cash, pledges and Township contributions. In 2007 they are planning to send a letter to riparians who have never contributed to the Preservation Fund, send out a year end appeal, and a Preservation/Endowment campaign is being planned to secure funding for special projects in the future.

Preservation Committee: Jane Haley and Charles Ofenloch are co-chair. Members are Sarah Litch and Joanne Sprouse. This Fund had expenditures in 2006 of \$90,900 for Water Quality, Water Level (Dam), Water Safety (Dredging) and Invasive Species programs. The approved 2007 budget shows expenses of \$81,105 for the four above mentions programs. Thus, \$50,000 - \$60,000 are coming out of the Preservation Fund for programs. This represents approximately \$100 per member family. The committee proposes that these program expenses be paid out of the General Fund.

Membership and Records: Mike Litch is chair, and members are Felicia Bloom, Ann Davey, Gary Humphreys, Charles Ofenloch, Carl Oleson and Bob Snell. Year end statistics showed that in 2006 the GLA had a total of 576 members.

There were 424 riparians, 60 associates, 79 adult family and 13 businesses. At this point in 2007 there are still 137 members who have not renewed their memberships, and a letter will go out to them soon. Litch emphasized that it was important to increase the membership in order to meet the challenge of funding our programs. He proposed a challenge that each member bring in one new member, and to encourage lapsed members to rejoin.

Website: Chair of this committee is Jack Laitala, and members are Mike Litch, Bob Snell, and Dale VanHouzen. There have been 3459 hits to our site since it began, and a total of 774 since last year. There have been a few new direct links added, including one for reporting swimmer's itch. Visit www.glenlakeassociation.com often!!

Long Range Planning: John Rockwood is chair, and members are Bill Batterson, Jeanine Dean, Chip Hoagland, Sarah Litch, Jim Lively, Dave McManus, Charles Ofenloch, and Jerry Powley. This is a new committee for the GLA, and was formed to address the issues and challenges in the future. The goals set were to maintain the beauty of the area for future generations, retain/increase property values, ensure excellent water quality, and enhance recreational opportunities. Along with these goal came some concerns: Present and new invasive species threaten the lakes' water quality; development has and will affect the appearance of the area; substandard septic systems and materials dumped in the watershed are adding pollutants to the lakes; and, regulations affecting the Glen Lake area are inconsistent among the four Townships involved. Rockwood stated that with this in mind, the GLA needed to continue to protect the watershed and support the Watershed Management Plan. In order to protect the water quality, the Association would encourage septic system inspections. In all its work for the area, it is important for the GLA to work with other organizations, such as the National Park Service.

New Watershed Management Plan: Sarah Litch introduced this new document which was professionally written and a cooperative effort between the Conservancy, the Friends of the Crystal River and the GLA. This will prove to be valuable information as we face the future.

Road Ends: Charles Ofenloch spoke to the membership about HB4463 and HB4464 which were passed in the Michigan House of Representatives, but have not yet gone to the Senate. These bills would allow private citizens to put in docks up to 250 X 4 feet at any of the 12 to 13 road ends on the Glen Lakes. They could be there from May 1 through September 30, allowing commercial activities right next to private property. What the bills do not take into consideration are the problems of parking, bathrooms, noise and garbage. Local government could regulate such endeavors, and Glen Arbor Township has already approved an option to have an ordinance. Ofenloch encouraged all present to contact their Senators to discourage the passage of these bills.

Results of Election: It was announced by the Proctors that Andy DuPont and Carl Oleson were reelected to the Board for another term, and that Shirley Hoagland and Matt Weisen would be joining the Board of Directors for their first terms.

Closing Comments: Sarah Litch announced that Nan Martin and Jack Otto have become honorary members. A Dedication Ceremony would take place right after the meeting at the GLA Memorial Park at the Dam site. These two names will be added to the plaque mounted there.

Sarah also gave awards for distinguished service to the GLA to Bob Snell and Jane Haley, who are no longer on the Board, and also to Charles Ofenloch for outstanding service as past president.

Thanks were also given to John Martin for providing the Glen Lake Association with nice, convenient office space.

President Litch thanked everyone for coming, and reminded all members that our many programs are being done for the area that we all love and appreciate, but to not forget that the cost of these programs is about \$250 per member.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 PM.