

**Gravel Lake Association**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting – minutes**  
**July 18th, 2026**

- I. Opening Remarks [2 min: 10:01] – Zoom etiquette, timekeeper = Tom K.
- II. Roll Call [2 min: 10:04]: C. DeSimone, Reed, Micheli, J. Pinkos, Carlos, Faustino, Hochsprung, Kelliher, Kurtyak, McGreal, A. Pinkos, Richards, Rinaldi, Vitkauskas, L. Zwartz, T. Zwartz
- III. Approval of minutes [2 min: 10:06] - 5/16/26, 6/6/26 motion to approve minutes motion by Ken H, second by Suzanne R
- IV. Treasurer's Report [6 min: 10:12] - Janice emailed report and gave report

*–spin the order of the day to Old + New Business–*

- V. Old Business [12 min: 10:24]
  - A. Trustee elections - two candidates interested in open role (Dorkin, Krueger) vacated by rick rogers.
  - B. Fund balance- separate from legal fund. Expanding legal fund? Linda: What projects do we have to spend money on in the near future? craig: lake manager overflow costs. Tom: How much do lakes usually carry in their legal fund? north of \$50,000 missy: there is a lake that drained their legal fund pretty quickly because of a mine that was trying to go in too close to the lake. liz - put more \$ in the funds in and educate membership as to why there is a heavy balance. tom- money doesn't have to be used patti: what have other lakes spent money on? linda: can they sue the ass? craig yes tom z; motion to raise legal fund to \$100,000 keep operating fund. phil rinaldi; seconds the motion. janice bump it slower because the apparel and poker run. moving 60,000 is too much. craig; moving us to into a discussion. suzanne: leave 60,000 in operating. tom; wait to move to money next meeting. tomz- amends to move to bring to \$75,000. Tom z- why do we need so much in operating. craig; lake manager cost come out of SAD. move 35,000 from operating balance to 75,000. tomk can we review process for moving money. motion passed
    - 1. Legal fund
    - 2. fundraising
  - C. Action items:
- VI. New Business [32 min: 10:56]
  - A. Shaw Rd. pedestrian sign funding - discussion & vote- porter twp agreed to place the sign, dugans court and entrance drive. phil -motion to pay \$1800 to pay for the signs, second by hochsprung. blinking motion carried. ken to draft a resolution. Janice; request invoice from the township. **craig to let them know that we need an invoice.**
  - B. Lake manager recommendation- ken presented: linda: thanks to the water quality committee for all your work. craig; putting us in a position to study our lake. jim; who funds this? ken: the SAD: special assessment district. suzanne: how much does it cost? about \$12,000. ken based on burn rate. it can keep funding for at least the next 3-4 years. craig to make a motion to adopt the lake manager resolution by linda vitkauskas phil: will the lake manager attend meeting? lauren: can you explain the partial year? second by reed. motion passed.
  - C. GLA representation, prioritization, etc.- craig gets pulled in a lot of directions. doesn't need to be the sole representation of the board.
  - D. GLA BoT ways of working; text group for quick communication but not deep discussions, email is better for those discussion. asking for more accountability from board members.
  - E. GLA mission statement: **jim and tom to take a look at the mission statement and possibly revise.**
  - F. Fireworks: liz - people who do the fireworks want to continue to do it but will accept donations. janice: dont think we should officially sponsor. tom k- we don't want liability
- VII. Committee Reports [25 min: 11:21] –
  - A. Safety: tom z- buoys chains are getting worn. two chains have snapped this summer. Tom replaced no costs as of now, but maybe soon. Budget it appropriate. looking at 5 AEDs committee is working on it.

- B. Communications: jim gave update. newsletter fall and winter issue coming. working on newsletter. please get jim photo of yourself and blurb about yourself
- C. Membership: paid members only get the gifts. please distribute. Janice to post on facebook and send email about giveaway to people will be reminded to pay their dues.
  - 1. Survey update ; take the survey
  - 2. Membership meeting on 8/22 - help needed? phil hosting. Janice to give notepad and to those with dues collecting. erik calabro from egle presentation for everything that requires a permit.
- D. Water Quality: boat wash Saturday 7/24, and Saturday 8/22 suspended program on mute swans, permitted but they discontinued it.
  - 1. Purple loosestrife control and phragmites.
- E. Events:
  - 1. Picnic - feedback - tom k- keeping bounce house. liz - bigger bounce house getting Garage sale - feedback 18 families participated. charity. made \$200 to pantry and \$150 to united christian services. Garage sale.
  - 2. 4th of July - feedback - suzanne- the boat parade posted? yes Fun run was great good job Tom.
- F. Fundraising: 1034 profits for the year.
  - 1. Poker Run will be cancelled. only got 2 docks. every other year?
- G. History:
- H. Government Relations: bart new committee chair working meeting. linda: can we ask about swamp road opening. data center and solar projects proposals at porter township meeting.

VIII. Announcements [5 min: 12:03 meeting adjourned]

- A. Next BoT meeting: 9/19/26 - in person + Zoom, officer elections
- B. Membership meeting: 8/22/26 - at Rinaldis'
- C. MLSA Region 3 reps: 9/26/26 (township hall, 9am-12pm)
- D. GLA board mixer (8/1)

IX. Adjournment [87 min: total: 11:27]

**2026 Calendar - Updated (September 2026)**

| Date                     | Event                            | Notes        |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Saturday, April 4, 2026  |                                  | Easter       |
| Saturday, April 11, 2026 |                                  |              |
| Saturday, April 18, 2026 | BOT                              |              |
| Saturday, April 25, 2026 | MLSA R3                          |              |
| Saturday, May 2, 2026    | MLSA Conf                        | Muskegon     |
| Saturday, May 9, 2026    |                                  | Mother's Day |
| Saturday, May 16, 2026   | BOT                              |              |
| Saturday, May 23, 2026   |                                  | Memorial Day |
| Saturday, May 30, 2026   |                                  |              |
| Saturday, June 6, 2026   | membership mtg + picnic + social |              |
| Saturday, June 13, 2026  |                                  |              |
| Saturday, June 20, 2026  |                                  | Father's Day |
| Saturday, June 27, 2026  | Garage sale                      |              |
| Saturday, July 4, 2026   | GLA 4th                          | 4th of July  |
| Saturday, July 11, 2026  |                                  |              |

|                              |                |              |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Saturday, July 18, 2026      | BOT            |              |
| Saturday, July 25, 2026      |                |              |
| Saturday, August 1, 2026     |                |              |
| Saturday, August 8, 2026     | Poker Run      |              |
| Saturday, August 15, 2026    |                |              |
| Saturday, August 22, 2026    | membership mtg |              |
| Saturday, August 29, 2026    |                |              |
| Saturday, September 5, 2026  |                | Labor Day    |
| Saturday, September 12, 2026 |                |              |
| Saturday, September 19, 2026 | BOT            |              |
| Saturday, September 26, 2026 | MLSA R3        |              |
| Saturday, October 3, 2026    |                |              |
| Saturday, October 10, 2026   | Halloween      | Columbus Day |
| Saturday, October 17, 2026   | BOT            |              |
| Saturday, October 24, 2026   |                |              |
| Saturday, October 31, 2026   |                | Halloween    |

## Meeting summary

### Quick recap

The Gravel Lake Association Board of Trustees held a comprehensive meeting to discuss various operational matters and make important decisions regarding the association's funds and services.

The board approved moving \$35,000 from the general fund to the legal fund, bringing it to \$75,000, with plans to review the process for transferring funds between accounts at the next meeting. A significant discussion centered on the recommendation to hire Kaiser as the new lake manager to oversee weed treatment and provide additional services, which the board approved.

The board also approved spending \$1,800 for pedestrian signs on Shaw Road and discussed ongoing safety initiatives including AED placement and first responder coordination. Key updates were provided on various committees, including the water quality committee's boat wash events scheduled for July 22nd and August 22nd, membership survey results showing 204 paid members, and plans for the upcoming August 22nd membership meeting at Rinaldi's property. The conversation ended with discussions about picnic planning, with feedback suggesting more family-friendly activities and games, and the board mixer event planned for August 1st.

## Next steps

### Bart

- [Attend township meetings and build relationships as part of the Government Relations Committee's initial steps.](#)

### Craig

- [Research the minutes to determine the process and requirements for moving funds between the general fund and the legal fund, and share findings with the board.](#)
- [Reach out to Eric Calagro from EGLE to invite him as a speaker for the August membership meeting.](#)
- [Create a post/form for property owners to report purple loosestrife for potential treatment by PLM.](#)
- [Send out details for the board mixer on August 1st.](#)

### Dan

- [Send an email blast to remind members about the first responder program and solicit more participants.](#)

### Jen

- [Post on the Facebook page about the boat wash events on July 24th and August 22nd.](#)
- [Coordinate with PLM for a potential purple loosestrife treatment day, based on reported locations.](#)
- [Send an email blast to paid and unpaid members about the upcoming membership meeting and thank you gifts.](#)

### Ken

- [Draft a resolution for the Porter Township regarding the pedestrian signs and ensure an invoice is received before payment.](#)
- [Coordinate with Kaiser and Associates for the Lake Manager role, including identifying the project manager and arranging their attendance at meetings.](#)

### Missy

- [Assist Craig in researching other lake associations' legal fund practices and amounts.](#)

### Phil

- [Bring a map to the next safety committee meeting showing proposed AED locations to ensure adequate coverage.](#)

### Sherry

- [Hold a History Committee meeting to brainstorm ways to increase responses to the history survey.](#)

## **Collaboration**

- [Tom Kelleher and Missy: Review and potentially revise the GLA mission statement, with the possibility of a broader group activity in the fall.](#)
- [Picnic Committee: Consider feedback on kids' games and determine if a subcommittee or additional volunteers are needed for next year's picnic.](#)
- [Trustees for Lewis, Sandy, and Winkler beaches: Distribute welcome baskets to new members.](#)

## **Summary**

### **Boat Wash Event Planning Meeting**

The meeting began with informal discussions about weather conditions and personal updates before transitioning to organizational business. The group discussed upcoming boat wash events scheduled for Wednesday the 22nd from 10 to 3 at the public access, with plans to announce this on social media. Meeting procedures were established, including Tom Kelleher's role as timekeeper, and the group addressed technical issues with background audio and participant connections. The formal meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM, though the transcript ends before substantial agenda items were discussed.

### **Treasurer's Report and Trustee Elections**

The meeting began with technical issues regarding duplicate participants causing audio echo, which were resolved. The group conducted a roll call and approved minutes from May 16th and June 6th without objections. The treasurer's report showed July revenue of \$16,242.55, including membership dues, donations, and various income sources, with expenses totaling \$11,904.51, resulting in an operating fund checkbook balance of \$101,830.37. The discussion concluded with updates on trustee elections, where two candidates from Winkler were identified, and consideration of expanding the legal fund balance, which currently stands at \$40,000.

### **Legal Fund Increase Discussion**

The board discussed increasing the legal fund, with Craig suggesting moving \$75,000 and potentially reaching \$100,000 in the future. Thomas proposed establishing stricter requirements for moving money from the legal fund back to the general fund, requiring 80-90% board consensus. The group agreed to research appropriate fund balances by consulting with other lake associations before making a final decision on the amount to transfer.

### **Board Fund and Staffing Updates**

The board discussed increasing the legal fund, with Thomas initially proposing \$100,000 but later amending the motion to increase it by \$35,000 to \$75,000 after concerns about draining the

general fund. The board approved a motion to pay \$1,800 for pedestrian signs in Porter Township.

Ken presented a recommendation to hire Kaiser as the new lake manager, which the board approved, with the cost to be covered by Special Assessment District funds. Craig requested board support in representing the GLA, noting he needed help with various tasks and requested assistance from other trustees.

### **Communication Methods and Mission Review**

The group discussed communication methods, with Craig expressing concerns about using text groups for large groups or deep discussions, suggesting email and meetings as better alternatives. Tom recommended setting up quick meetings for important topics to avoid lengthy email exchanges. The team also reviewed their mission statement, with Tom noting it felt too legalistic and not welcoming, and Missy suggesting a collaborative activity using sticky notes to revise it. Regarding fireworks, Liz reported that Kyle and Tommy, who handle the show, prefer to maintain flexibility over timing and content without association direction, though they welcome donations.

### **Buoy Chains and Safety Updates**

Thomas reported that buoy chains are wearing out due to rust and high winds, causing two chains to break this summer, and he will continue replacing them with more expensive stainless steel chains as needed. The committee discussed progress on safety initiatives, including first responders and AED placement, with plans to review optimal locations and potentially install five AEDs around the lake. The fundraising committee reported a profit of \$1,324 from apparel sales but decided to cancel this year's Poker Run due to low participation, and they will gather feedback on potential changes for future events.

### **Membership and Water Quality Updates**

The meeting covered updates on membership, water quality initiatives, and upcoming events. The membership committee reported 204 paid members and discussed distributing thank-you gifts to paid members, with plans to send an email announcement and post on social media. Jen provided updates on boat wash events scheduled for July 22nd and August 22nd, and Craig and Ken discussed purple loosestrife control, noting that PLM handles general vegetation but not purple loosestrife specifically, and proposed advertising for property owners with the invasive plant. The group also discussed plans for an upcoming membership meeting on August 22nd, including potential speakers and logistics.

### **Board Meeting Updates and Events**

The board discussed several upcoming events and issues. For the picnic, there was debate about whether to increase children's activities, with Tom Kelleher suggesting a subcommittee handle kids' games while he maintains the bounce house, and Thomas advocating for more family-focused events using his property. The garage sale raised \$360 with 18 families participating, with proceeds donated to local charities. Sherry reported progress on the lake history project with 14 completed surveys, though more are needed. Bart provided an update on the government relations committee, noting that Lasa agreed to increase per-quarter rates and that a solar farm proposal is being discussed, along with a township resolution for a one-year moratorium on solar farms, data centers, and battery storage. The next board meeting will be held September 19th in person and via Zoom, with officer elections to be conducted.

[View in Zoom](#)

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