

Gravel Lake Association
Board of Trustees Meeting – Minutes
September 19th, 2026

- I. Opening Remarks [2 min: 10:00] – Zoom etiquette, Tom is timekeeper.
- II. Roll Call [2 min: 10:04]: C. DeSimone, Reed, Micheli, J. Pinkos(x), Carlos, Faustino, Hochsprung, Kelliher, Klauer, Kurtyak, McGreal(x), Cranston(x), Richards(x), Rinaldi, Vitkauskas, L. Zwartz, T. Zwartz
- III. Approval of minutes [2 min: 10:06] - 7/18/26, 8/22/26 (revision) vitkauskas motion and reed second
- IV. Treasurer's Report [3 min: 10:09] - report sent via email by janice.
- V. Committee Reports [25 min: 10:34] –
 - A. Safety:
 - 1. speed limit (on roads) - TABLE-pulling buoys out this week. Tom K- congrats on getting pedestrian signs. Vickie- has our portion been paid? Craig assume that it'll be an invoice.
 - B. Fundraising: no updates. no sale for Halloween. Phil will work on volunteers to sell. Alyssa is good with that.
 - C. Communications: Jim out but gave update. starting to work on fall/winter issue. newsletter out before christmas. send bio for about you portion of website. Suzanne wrote a newsletter. - Jen to touch base with Bart on getting info in about govt relations committee
 - D. Membership: Are all notepads delivered? yes. new paid members will get them. Janice is retiring as membership chair early next year.
 - 1. Survey update – TABLE
 - E. Water Quality: approved going forward with Kaiser and associates. Kaiser uses visual, sonar, cameras and rakes at a deeper depth. 3rd week in August. Ken compared the surveys and they were very similar. Out on the channel to treat algae and starry stonewort. Spot treatment will be done this fall. Kaiser is working with PLM. Craig - plant survey. focusing on natives and level of commentary. Happy with it so far. Kaiser will assist in education Suzanne- how did starry stonewort get so bad? Treating Phragmites also.
 - F. Events:
 - 1. Halloween / Fall Festival -Contact Mary if you are able to volunteer. Mary will put up a post. Tom K- want to change the date of the picnic and the social. One option is to separate the picnic and social. Looking for feedback from the board. Tom move everything to June 19th?
 - G. History: Sheri - stories are trickling in. Hand out candybar with email at GL trick or treat. When is a good time to call in for a phone interview. Linda V- can help to interview and help put the stories to paper. Liz- family friends
 - H. Government Relations: Lauren gave update. Kristen garrison joined the group. Frank, lauren, brent, jen, ken bart. advocacy LASA mailing out rate increase. govt relations committee has been attending. public hearing on bankson lake sewer project. Craig- impressed with the committee. maintaining polite and cordial. Tom? is Rumor of pickle ball courts here behind township hall.
- VI. Old Business [10 min: 10:44]
 - A. Trustee elections - appoint Krueger at October meeting
 - B. Fund balance
 - 1. Legal fund – email update on previous motion. $\frac{2}{3}$ majority for board approval to spend legal funds.
 - C. GLA mission statement - (Jim, Tom K, Missy) - table Missy- is it a board vote or a membership vote. The only thing that requires a membership vote is changing the dues. Suzanne to see if it's a board vote or membership vote. Lauren- heat map for workshop to make sure mission statement includes every person's perspective. Suzanne was able to get an answer. IT IS a membership vote. Are we a directorship or a membership organization?
- VII. New Business [30 min: 11:14]
 - A. Officer elections

1. President [2 min]-nomination for president. Linda V nominates Craig. no other nominations. Carries.
 2. Vice President [8 min] Nominations for VP. Suzanne nominates and Jen accepts. Tom Z - nominates Phil. Ken H seconds. Phil accepts. Jen Micheli- is elected VP with vote (9-5)
 3. Secretary [2 min] open to nominations - (leave it open)
 4. Treasurer [8 min] Vicki- nominated by phil, second by Tom K Carries.
- B. GLA 2027 calendar

VIII. Announcements [5 min: 11:19]

- A. Next BoT meeting: 10/17/26 - in person + Zoom
- B. Membership meeting: June 19th
- C. MLSA Region 3 reps: 9/26/26 (township hall, 9am-12pm) - Liz- marcellus highscool pulled pork sandwiches

IX. Adjournment [80 min: 11:13]

2027 Calendar - Updated (September 2026)

Date	Event	Notes
Saturday, April 3, 2027		
Saturday, April 10, 2027		
Saturday, April 17, 2027	BOT	
Saturday, April 24, 2027		
Saturday, May 1, 2027	MLSA Conf	Muskegon
Saturday, May 8, 2027		Mother's Day
Saturday, May 15, 2027	BOT	
Saturday, May 22, 2027		
Saturday, May 29, 2027		Memorial Day
Saturday, June 5, 2027		
Saturday, June 12, 2027		
Saturday, June 19, 2027	Membership Picnic and social	Father's Day
Saturday, June 26, 2027	Garage sale	
Saturday, July 3, 2027	GLA 4th	4th of July
Saturday, July 10, 2027		
Saturday, July 17, 2027	BOT	
Saturday, July 24, 2027		
Saturday, July 31, 2027		
Saturday, August 7, 2027		

Saturday, August 14, 2027		
Saturday, August 21, 2027	membership mtg	
Saturday, August 28, 2027		
Saturday, September 4, 2027		Labor Day
Saturday, September 11, 2027		
Saturday, September 18, 2027	BOT	
Saturday, September 25, 2027		
Saturday, October 2, 2027		
Saturday, October 9, 2027	Halloween	Columbus Day
Saturday, October 16, 2027	BOT	
Saturday, October 23, 2027		
Saturday, October 30, 2027		Halloween

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 meeting focused on planning upcoming events and conducting officer elections. The board discussed scheduling challenges for the annual picnic and social event, ultimately deciding to move everything to June 19th due to conflicts with rental company availability and personal commitments. Officer elections were held with Craig DeSimone re-elected as president, Jen McKelly elected as vice president, and Vicki Carlos elected as treasurer. The board reviewed updates from various committees including safety, fundraising, communications, membership, water quality, and government relations. Key water quality updates included the successful implementation of Kaiser & Associates for detailed lake surveys and the discovery of collaborative work with PLM on channel treatments. The Government Relations Committee reported active attendance at multiple township meetings, building relationships with local officials and tracking developments regarding potential solar farms and data centers. The board approved the 2027 calendar with confirmed dates for board meetings, membership events, and key activities including the picnic on Father's Day weekend, July 4th celebrations, and Halloween Fall Festival.

Next steps

Alyssa

- [Reach out offline to coordinate Halloween weekend fundraising sales and provide instructions for volunteers.](#)
- [Prepare the membership survey results to share with the board at the October meeting.](#)

Everyone

- [Send photos for the fall-winter Gravel Acre newsletter to the communications chair.](#)
- [Send photos and bios for the About Us webpage to the communications chair.](#)
- [Connect with Alyssa regarding the possibility of selling at Halloween, and coordinate volunteer instructions.](#)
- [Deliver any extra membership pads/paper to those who paid after the cutoff, and consider selling extras.](#)
- [Look for a new membership chair, as Janice is retiring at the end of the year.](#)

- [Expect a recommendation from Kaiser Associates over the winter regarding long-term preventative measures for the channel.](#)
- [Attend or volunteer for the Halloween Fall Festival: contact Mary via Facebook Messenger.](#)
- [Check with the rental company \(Rock\) to confirm availability for the picnic/social on June 19th.](#)
- [Actively prompt and assist others in submitting history stories, especially targeting specific individuals \(e.g., Cresswells, Cunninghams, Edwards\).](#)
- [Attend the Government Relations Committee meetings \(third Monday of every month\) and continue attending community meetings.](#)
- [Review and discuss proposed new mission statement/tagline at the next meeting, using a "heat mapping" approach for feedback.](#)
- [Recruit a new secretary, as the position is vacant.](#)
- [Recruit someone to attend the MLC Annual Conference in Muskegon \(weekend of May 1st\).](#)
- [Send out Google Calendar invites for the 2027 calendar events to the board.](#)
- [Attend the Region 3 reps meeting \(next weekend, 9am-12pm\) if interested.](#)

Phil

- [Pull the buoys out this weekend, weather permitting.](#)

Sheri

- [Set up a table at Trick or Treat/Halloween to solicit history stories and distribute information.](#)

Summary

Picnic Event Planning Discussion

The group discussed scheduling a picnic and social event, considering various dates including June 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th, as well as July 3rd for Gravel Lake. They debated whether to separate the events or keep them together, with concerns about Father's Day interference and attendance numbers during summer months. The discussion ended with consideration of potentially moving the membership meeting to August and holding the event on June 12th at a private location instead.

Concert Discussion and Planning Meeting

The meeting began with technical troubleshooting as Tom tested audio and video functionality. The group discussed a recent concert they

attended featuring Mark Bainbridge and his band at Indian Run golf course. Tom and another participant coordinated the storage of hoses, with Tom requesting they be placed by his back door for pickup the following week. The conversation then shifted to casual discussion about weather and running across the country, with participants sharing personal anecdotes about getting caught in the rain.

Board Meeting Safety Updates

The meeting was called to order with Tom serving as timekeeper. The board conducted a roll call and approved minutes from July 18th and August 22nd after a revision regarding a garage sale was incorporated. The treasurer's report was sent via email and no specific questions were recorded for the minutes. Phil reported on safety committee activities, including plans to pull buoys weather permitting and the successful installation of pedestrian signs, which received positive feedback at a recent township meeting.

Fundraising and Communications Updates

The team discussed fundraising updates, with Alyssa reporting they won't be selling for Halloween weekend but are open to finding a volunteer to sell at that time. Communications updates included progress on the fall-winter newsletter, website updates, and plans for signage placement around Fall Festival. The group also noted pending items including invoicing for pedestrian science work and the need to connect on membership survey results for the October board meeting.

Membership and Water Quality Updates

The group discussed membership updates, with Alyssa confirming preparation of materials for October and noting that Janice will retire as membership chair at year-end. They reviewed water quality initiatives, where Kaiser & Associates began detailed lake surveys using sonar, cameras, and rake throws, with results showing good alignment with PLM's visual surveys. The team plans collaborative work with PLM on channel treatments next week and Kaiser will provide long-term preventative recommendations over the winter.

Shoreline Management and Picnic Planning

The group discussed managing shoreline issues and invasive species, with plans to meet with landowners and use EGLE resources for education. They addressed concerns about Phragmites and purple loosestrife, noting that a large Phragmites patch had been present for two years. The main discussion focused on scheduling conflicts for next year's picnic, with options to either separate the social event from the picnic, move everything to Father's Day weekend (June 19th), or move everything to July 25th. The group ultimately decided to move the picnic to June 19th to avoid scheduling conflicts with other events.

History Event Coordination Planning

The group discussed coordinating two events, deciding to link them earlier than August and potentially on the 19th, though this date is not final pending confirmation with the Brown Company. Sheri reported that history stories are coming in and shared plans to set up a table at Halloween events with forms for collecting stories from residents, including both homeowners and long-term renters at Gravel Lake. The board discussed actively promoting the history collection effort, with members offering to help contact potential contributors and assist with formatting submissions.

Government Relations Committee Update

Lauren provided an update on the Government Relations Committee's activities, including new member Kristen Arnett and recent meetings with community leaders. The committee has attended 4 Porter Township Board of Trustee meetings, 4 Planning Commission meetings, and 3 LASA meetings, with plans to continue engagement in October. Bart expressed satisfaction with the committee's active participation, noting it exceeded his initial expectations, while some community members have noticed Gravel Lake's increased involvement in local meetings.

Pickleball Projects and Board Updates

The board discussed updates on pickleball court projects in Lawton and Decatur, with Thomas reporting on potential funding from the senior center. The group reviewed the process for changing the mission statement, determining it requires a membership vote, and discussed officer elections where Craig DeSimone was re-elected as resident, Jen McKelly was elected as vice president, and Vicky Rinaldi was elected as

treasurer. The conversation ended with a review of the 2027 calendar, with proposed dates including May 15th for a board meeting and weekend of Father's Day for a membership meeting.

Upcoming Events and Scheduling Planning

The group discussed upcoming events and scheduling, including a garage sale on the 26th, GLA 4th of July on July 3rd, and various board and membership meetings through October. They agreed to revive Google Calendar invites for meetings as a way to increase attendance. The conversation ended with thanks to Suzanne and Janice for their 22 years of service, and an announcement about a community fundraiser for Marcellus FFA Alumni featuring pulled pork sandwiches for \$5 next Saturday.

Attendees: Everyone Else (Organizer), Thomas A. Zwartz (External), Alyssa Cranston (External), Lauren Klauer (External), Jamie Paramski (External), Sheri Kurtyak (External), Tom Zwartz (External), Craig (External)

[View in Zoom](#)

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 896 5442 2089

Passcode: GLA

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