



58th Annual Meeting

**August 1, 2024
5 - 8 PM
Beach Club**

President's Message

Welcome to the annual meeting of the Three Lakes Association and thank you for your support. At TLA we are focused on being good stewards of our waterways and good stewards of your member dues and donations by leveraging each dollar to the maximum benefit of local water quality. We do that by engaging volunteers who perform water quality monitoring, invasive species management and water sample collection. We communicate regularly with local and State government on zoning and permit applications. We partner with similarly focused regional organizations and with Michigan universities to gain a deeper understanding of issues facing our lakes and rivers. Each summer volunteers work with area schools and engage our youth in projects to help assure the future of local water quality preservation. We keep members up to date on topics of interest and evolving threats with our Quarterly direct mail newsletter. Hard work by our members and volunteers makes protecting our lakes and the environment possible.

This summer we continue water quality monitoring of the three lakes and lower Intermediate River. We collected benthic diatom samples in Torch Lake in May and June to support GBA research by Dr. Jan Stevenson of MSU. This summer our volunteers are also looking for the presence of *E. coli* bacteria in tributary streams and will use cutting edge techniques for genetic identification of bacteria if warranted. Our summer interns are on the water again, this time investigating the extent of the invasive mussel infestation upstream of Torch Lake. They also will be exploring a novel way to assess the relative mussel colonization rate in waterbodies.

At TLA, we believe the most effective way to preserve water quality over the long term is by engaging the community with hands-on projects working alongside academic researchers and water quality professionals. We are privileged to have a growing membership and people willing to get their feet wet. There are also other opportunities to get involved such as making a commitment to serve on the board as a zone director and chairing a committee. Working together, people are making the difference in preserving our water resources.

Fred Sittel

Agenda

5:00 PM	Social Hour
6:00 PM	Dinner
6:30 PM	Business Meeting: Approve Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting Approve Treasurer's Report Election of Officers & Directors Ratify actions of the Board of Directors
7:00 PM	Speaker: Clifford Bloom, PC

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting

Three Lakes Association
57th Annual Meeting – August 3, 2023
DRAFT

The 57th annual membership meeting of the Three Lakes Association was held on August 3, 2023, at the Summit Village Beach Club on Lake Bellaire.

Introduction

Executive Director, Lois MacLean, welcomed everyone to the annual meeting, thanked Summit Village for the use of the beautiful facility, Leslie Meyers for setting it up and Leslie's daughter, Sandy Munoz, for the fantastic Mexican Fiesta. She then introduced President Fred Sittel for the business meeting portion of the gathering.

Call to Order:

President Fred Sittel called the business meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., explained the process for the business meeting and gave some comments on ongoing projects, specifically highlighting the work with Professor Jan Stevenson of MSU on golden brown algae, and the intern project study of the quagga mussels in Torch Lake using a Ponar grab device and a GoPro camera. He recognized Intern Carter Massey and directed attention to the video loop and pictures on display that showed the quantities of quagga mussels on the bottom of Torch Lake. Sittel noted that the organization is doing more on social media and that may be contributing to the membership in the organization being at 500. Sittel also noted that we have a fish photo contest in progress.

Approval of Preceding Year's Annual Meeting Minutes:

MOTION Moved by Greg Fredericksen, seconded by Ed Gourley, to waive the reading of the minutes of the 2022 annual meeting of the Three Lakes Association as presented in the packet. Motion carried.

MOTION Moved by Greg Fredericksen, and seconded by Jessica Kubin, to approve the minutes of the 2022 annual meeting of the Three Lakes Association. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer’s report was also included in the meeting packet. Treasurer, Ed Gourley, commented that the Association is financially strong and offered to respond to any questions. There were no questions.

MOTION Moved by Becky Norris, and seconded by Cheryl Lynn Fields, to approve the treasurer’s report for 2022 as presented. Motion carried.

Election of Officers and Board of Directors:

The proposed slate of candidates was included in the meeting packet. President Fred Sittel explained the schedule of terms as well as the vacancies we hope to fill.

Greg Fredericksen nominated and Kjell Svensson supported Mike Haley to fill the two-year vacancy for Helena Township. Mike agreed.

Bob Cook nominated and Rita Service supported Casey Wiggins to fill the one-year vacancy for Torch Lake Township. Casey agreed.

There being no further nominations offered, nominations were closed.

The final slate of candidates standing for election, is as follows:

Two-year terms ending in 2025

- Vice President..... Rick Doornbos
- Treasurer..... Ed Gourley
- Zone A (Clearwater)..... ** Open **
- Zone B (Milton)..... Greg Fredericksen
- Zone C (Torch Lake)..... Brian Hayes
- Zone D (Central Lake) Steve Laurenz
- Zone E (Forest Home)..... Fred Sittel
- Zone F (Helena)..... Mike Haley
- Zone G (Custer)..... Gary Knapp
- Zone H (Kearney)..... Gary Bart
- Directors at Large:..... Art Hoadley
- Directors at Large ** Open **

One-year term ending in 2024

- Zone C (Torch Lake)..... Casey Wiggins
- Zone H (Kearney) ** Open **

MOTION Moved by Rick Doornbos, and seconded by Bob Cook, to cast a unanimous ballot for the proposed slate of candidates for officers and directors as modified by nominations from the floor. Motion carried.

Ratification of Actions of the Board:

MOTION Moved by Leslie Meyers, and seconded by Tina Norris Fields, that the membership ratify the actions taken by the Board of Directors since the annual meeting of 2022. Motion carried.

Acknowledgements and Recognition of Retiring Board Members:

President Fred Sittel recognized three members who have passed away since our last meeting. All three have made significant, long-lasting contributions to TLA and will be missed.

Len Franseen passed in November 2022.

Dean Branson passed in December 2022.

Duane Drake passed in June of 2023.

President Fred Sittel noted that Tina Norris Fields is stepping down as a zone director. Tina has been a part of the association since its inception. Tina is a 3rd generation TLA member. Fred Sittel presented a card and a gift card to the Torch Conservation Center/True Blue Gallery. Tina has offered to continue as a volunteer and as the Historian / Archivist.

President Fred Sittel offered and Tina Norris Fields accepted a position of Director Emeritus.

MOTION by Rick Doornbos, second by Ed Gourley for the Board to approve Tina Norris Fields as a Director Emeritus. Motion carried.

A question was raised regarding Golden Brown Algae (GBA). Sittel noted that studies continue and there will be some results available from previous testing.

A question was raised regarding shoreline erosion from wake boats, wake boarding, etc. on Clam Lake. Fred commented that the DNR is reviewing the impacts of these new boats, noting that the energy created at the shoreline for a “standard” boat wake at 100 feet is about equal to a wake boat at 500 feet. He also stated it's difficult for law enforcement to manage this activity and they are more focused on safety related boating efforts.

Adjournment:

MOTION Moved by Leslie Meyers, and seconded by Lois MacLean, to adjourn the business meeting. Adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Program:

Lois MacLean thanked everyone for attendance and thanked Casey Wiggins and Mike Haley for stepping up to the positions of Zone Director.

Gary Bart introduced Marissa Duque and Chris Garrock of the Grand Traverse Land Conservancy, who gave a presentation on updates of conservancy projects recently completed and in progress in our area. Specifically highlighted was the recent acquisition of 28 acres with 650 feet of frontage on the north arm of Lake Bellaire as an addition to the Golden Days Loon Sanctuary. They let the membership know of a matching grant opportunity through August for up to \$15,000 with fund raising paddle events happening August 18 and 31. Information was also shared regarding the Milton Township Torch Lake Natural Area and summer volunteer opportunity events throughout Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse and Manistee Counties.

Contact mduque@gtrlc.org or cgarrock@gtrlc.org for more information.

Event details regarding volunteer opportunities are at: <https://www.gtrlc.org/volunteer/> or call 231.929.7911

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Fredericksen
Corporate Secretary

Treasurer's Report

THREE LAKES ASSOCIATION INCOME STATEMENT (UNAUDITED)

	December 31, 2023			2022
	Operating Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Revenue:				
Memberships	54,490	2,000	56,490	55,140
Contributions	11,433	2,760	14,193	19,883
Grants	2,240	15,429	17,669	9,273
Other Revenue	147	-	147	144
Releases From Restrictions	11,327	(11,327)	-	-
Investment Income	11,545	-	11,545	7,483
TOTAL REVENUE	91,182	8,862	100,044	91,923
Expenses				
Program Expenses:				
Water Quality	36,738	-	36,738	33,140
Education	10,134	-	10,134	6,376
Internship	7,752	-	7,752	9,065
Membership and Other	8,151	-	8,151	7,185
Total Program Expense	62,775	-	62,775	55,766
Administrative Expenses	30,589	-	30,589	32,930
TOTAL EXPENSES	93,364	-	93,364	88,696
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(2,181)	8,862	6,680	3,227
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	139,719	169,699	309,419	345,260
Gain (Loss) on Investments	22,532	-	22,532	(39,068)
ENDING FUND BALANCE	160,070	178,561	338,632	309,419

Proposed Slate of Officers & Directors

Per TLA By-Laws, Article V: Election of Vice President and Treasurer takes place in odd-numbered years. Election of President and Secretary takes place in even-numbered years. Terms run for two years. Terms for Zone Directors and Directors at Large are for two years; terms are staggered so that half the board is elected each year.

Officers:

(Two-year terms ending in 2026)

President	Fred Sittel
Secretary	Greg Fredericksen

Directors at Large:

(Two year terms ending 2026)

Mike Novak

Zone Directors:

(Two-year terms ending in 2026)

Zone A (Clearwater)	**Open**
Zone B (Milton).....	Rick Doornbos
Zone C (Torch Lake)	Casey Wiggins
Zone D (Central Lake)	Brian Hayes
Zone E (Forest Home)	Chris Herb
Zone F (Helena)	**Open**
Zone G (Custer)	Sheri Greenhoe
Zone H (Kearney)	**Open**

(One-year term ending in 2025)

Zone A (Clearwater)	**Open**
Zone C (Torch Lake)	**Open**