



PROTECTING OUR LAKES
SINCE 1966



THREE LAKES
ASSOCIATION

2026 Annual Meeting

Celebrating 60 years

**August 6, 2026
5 - 8 p.m.
Summit Village Beach Club**



THREE LAKES ASSOCIATION

President's Message

Sixty years ago, at a meeting held on July 11, the Three Lakes Association was formed and commenced what it has been doing ever since, taking responsibility for the maintenance of water quality through a variety of programs. The focus has always been on environmental science, volunteer monitoring, increasing public education and awareness and encouraging people who live and vacation in this unique region to take responsibility for preserving what has been passed down to us. The organization's founding members were struck by the unique beauty of our lakes and in the face of environmental threats joined together to help preserve our lake's natural state. The name Three Lakes Association was chosen to highlight the interdependence of Lake Bellaire, Clam Lake and Torch Lake.

As stated in the organization's bylaws, the purposes of the Three Lakes Association are to test and monitor the water quality of our lakes and connecting rivers, to take the actions necessary to protect and preserve these waters, and to interact with other groups and organizations that share similar goals. These purposes reflect an acknowledgement that our natural resources and the waters of our beloved lakes have limited capacity to accommodate the cumulative impacts of population growth and development.

Even though Michigan waterways fall under the protection of several governmental bodies and despite the permitting process required to develop real estate, few if any local officials are charged with monitoring long-term environmental impacts. Local officials need our support. Those of us who live or vacation in the Elk River Chain of Lakes watershed have an obligation to care for and protect its natural resources. By taking responsibility and exercising initiative, by attending and speaking up at Township zoning and planning meetings, by reviewing permit applications, by testing water quality, by distributing informative publications, together we can help mitigate adverse impacts from population growth and development.

Every member of the Three Lakes Association is a contributor to these efforts. By showing a concern for preserving water quality all TLA members are bound together in this goal to protect and preserve our lakes. Thank you for your support and active involvement in this vital effort.

Fred Sittel



THREE LAKES ASSOCIATION

Agenda

- 5:00 p.m. Social Hour
6:00 p.m. Dinner
6:30 p.m. Business Meeting:
 Approve minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting
 Treasurer's Report
 Bylaws Update
 Election of Officers and Directors
 Ratify actions of the Board of Directors
7:00 p.m. E.coli Monitoring presentation by Caroline Keson, Nonpoint Source Program Monitoring
Coordinator for the Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)
7:20 p.m. Member questions and discussion
-

Meet our Board

Officers:

President – Fred Sittel
Vice President – Rick Doornbos
Treasurer – Ed Gourley
Secretary – Greg Fredericksen
Past President – Mike Bertram

Committee Chairs:

Water Quality – Rick Doornbos
Membership – Chris Herb
Education – Steve Laurenz
Publicity – Chris Herb

Executive Director:

Lois MacLean

Directors Emeriti for Life:

Tina Norris Fields, Becky Norris,
Norton Bretz

Zone Directors:

Zone Directors keep the board up to date on happenings in their townships, focusing on water related topics.

Clearwater Township:

Linda Anderson-Jaros, + Open

Milton Township:

Rick Doornbos, Greg Fredericksen

Torch Lake Township:

Casey Wiggins, + Open

Central Lake Township:

Steve Laurenz, Brian Hayes

Forest Home Township:

Fred Sittel, Chris Herb

Helena Township:

Mike Haley, Gary Mayes

Custer Township:

Gary Knapp, Sheri Greenhoe

Kearney Township:

Gary Bart, + Open

Directors at Large:

Mike Novak, + Open

Our Mission:

Provide leadership to preserve, protect and improve the environmental quality of the Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed for all generations with emphasis on Lake Bellaire, Clam Lake, Torch Lake and their tributaries.



THREE LAKES ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting

Three Lakes Association

59th Annual Meeting - August 7, 2025

DRAFT

The 59th annual membership meeting of the Three Lakes Association was held on August 7, 2025, at the Summit Village Beach Club on Lake Bellaire with 72 in attendance.

Introduction

Executive Director, Lois MacLean, welcomed everyone to the annual meeting noting that TLA can only do what it does because of supporters – Thank you! Lois introduced the summer intern team. Thanks went out to the businesses that contributed to the Science Education Outreach Program silent auction, the Dole Family Foundation for the grant for e.coli testing, Antrim Women’s Alliance and the Wierda Fund donors for support for the internship program. Additional thanks to the Summit Village Beach Club for the use of the facility, Leslie Meyers for arranging the food and beverages and to Sandy Munoz and her assistants, for the fantastic Italian Feast.

Lois introduced Fred Sittel who shared a brief summary of e.coli testing of seven tributaries of the three lakes, and gave a brief update on the golden brown algae study status. Fred also shared information regarding the silt and algae present at the Beach Club’s beach area.

Call to Order:

President Fred Sittel called the business meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and explained the process for the business meeting.

Approval of Preceding Year’s Annual Meeting Minutes:

MOTION by Leslie Meyers, second by Becky Norris to waive the reading of the minutes included in the packet of the 2024 annual meeting of the Three Lakes Association. Motion carried.

MOTION by Greg Fredericksen, second by Cynthia Pattie to approve the minutes of the 2024 annual meeting of the Three Lakes Association. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report:

The Treasurer’s FYE 2024 report 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.



THREE LAKES ASSOCIATION

2025 Draft Annual Meeting Minutes Continued

MOTION by Lois MacLean, second by Chris Herb to approve the Treasurer's report for FYE 2024 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.

Opened nominations from the floor. Linda Anderson-Jarosz volunteered to fill Clearwater Township opening with the term ending 2027.

No other nominations or volunteers offered.

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

Two-year terms ending in 2027

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

One-year term ending in 2026

Zone A (Clearwater)	** Open **
Zone F (Helena)	Gary Mayes
Zone H (Kearney)	** Open **

MOTION by Becky Norris, second by Brian Hayes to cast a unanimous ballot for the proposed slate of candidates of officers and directors, including the Zone A addition. Motion carried.

Ratification of Actions of the Board:

MOTION by Greg Fredericksen, second by Chuck Ward, that the membership ratify the actions taken by the Board of Directors since the annual meeting of 2024. Motion carried.

Acknowledgments and Recognition of Retiring Board Members:

Fred Sittel presented Art Hoadley a plaque in appreciation of his many years of service on the board, as a Director at Large and as our aerial photographer.



THREE LAKES ASSOCIATION

2025 Draft Annual Meeting Minuets Continued

Adjournment:

MOTION by Lois MacLean, second by Greg Fredericksen to adjourn the business meeting. Adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Program:

Fred introduced Antrim County Operator of Dams and Drain Commissioner, Leslie Meyers, who presented an update on the importance of addressing the dams and culverts in the chain of lakes as major maintenance projects before they become major emergencies.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Fredericksen
Corporate Secretary

End of Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report

THREE LAKES ASSOCIATION INCOME STATEMENT (UNAUDITED)

	December 31, 2025			2024
	Operating Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Revenue:				
Memberships	58,690	-	58,690	56,920
Contributions	16,431	1,700	18,131	17,314
Grants	2,310	9,442	11,752	14,984
Other Revenue	144	-	144	271
Releases From Restrictions	8,346	(8,346)	-	-
Investment Income	12,784	-	12,784	13,278
TOTAL REVENUE	98,705	2,796	101,501	102,767
Expenses				
Program Expenses:				
Water Quality	13,929	-	13,929	22,108
Education	12,353	-	12,353	10,780
Internship	9,387	-	9,387	7,687
Membership and Other	5,009	-	5,009	5,016
Total Program Expense	40,679	-	40,678	45,591
Administrative Expenses	33,304	-	33,304	33,754
TOTAL EXPENSES	73,983	-	73,983	79,346
NET INCOME (LOSS)	24,722	2,796	27,518	23,421
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	194,480	186,102	380,582	338,631
Gain (Loss) on Investments	25,437	-	25,437	18,529
ENDING FUND BALANCE	244,638	188,898	433,537	380,582



THREE LAKES ASSOCIATION

Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors

Per TLA By-Laws, Article V: Election of President and Secretary takes place in even-numbered years. Election of Vice President and Treasurer takes place in odd-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 2028)

President	Fred Sittel
Secretary	Greg Fredericksen

Zone C (Torch Lake)	Casey Wiggins
Zone D (Central Lake)	Brian Hayes
Zone E (Forest Home)	**Open**
Zone F (Helena)	Gary Mayes
Zone G (Custer)	Sheri Greenhoe
Zone H (Kearney)	**Open**

Directors at Large:

Mike Novak

Zone Directors: (Two-year terms ending in 2028)

Zone A (Clearwater)	**Open**
Zone B (Milton)	Rick Doornbos

(One-year term ending in 2027)	
Zone C (Torch Lake)	**Open**

Proposed Bylaws Change:

Article IV-Board of Directors, Section 2

Current:

All Directors of the organization shall be active members.

The Board shall consist of the elected Officers (4), the Immediate Past President, the Archivist-Historian, the Committee Chairs, the Zone Directors, the Directors at Large and the Emeritus Directors.

Proposed change:

All Directors of the organization shall be active members.

The Board shall consist of the elected Officers (4), the Immediate Past President (add:) for a period of two years, the Archivist-Historian, the Committee Chairs, the Zone Directors, the Directors at Large and the Emeritus Directors.

With the proposed change:

All Directors of the organization shall be active members.

The Board shall consist of the elected Officers (4), the Immediate Past President for a period of two years, the Archivist-Historian, the Committee Chairs, the Zone Directors, the Directors at Large and the Emeritus Directors.



THREE LAKES ASSOCIATION

Membership

Our members and donors make the important work of TLA possible.

Thank you for your commitment to water protection and your continued support!

Basic up to \$99

Ellen Addington
Randy Balconi
Gary and Carla Bart
John and Barbara Carton
Bob and Dorothy Clore
Mark Cowles and Patricia Zajac
Suzanne K. Davies
Larry Dittmar
Brian and Michelle Duly
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THREE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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Allan Cogan
Martie Conner
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Gregory Cooksey
Leslie and Robert Cooper
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THREE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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THREE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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***80 donors prefer to donate
anonymously.***

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Wendy Werkmeister

Grants and Funding

Antrim Women's Alliance donated in support of our Internship Program.

The Gerrit Lee Wierda Memorial Fund helps to fund our Internship Program.

The Dole Family Foundation helps to fund our water quality studies.

We sincerely appreciate the funding of our work to educate and preserve and protect our waters!

thank you!