

Great Lakes Environmental Festival (GLEF) September 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2023 2pm Zoom meeting

In attendance were:

Stephanie Baiyasi	stephaniebaiyasi@yahoo.com	989-450-6110
Ziggy Kozicki	zigpsych@sbcglobal.net	989-450-1451
Shirley Madden	gspmadden@gmail.com	313-478-5347
Gary Madden	genie42br@gmail.com	313-478-6250
Lee Trucks	ltrucks@jackpine.com	231-510-6785
Judy Cunningham	jpc4466@gmail.com	231-794-0005
Ramona DeGeorgio-Venegas	mona_degeorgio@yahoo.com	231-690-6197

Quorum was present.

Excused:

John Helge	Johnmhelge@gmail.com	616-915-2403
Peggy Raddatz	peg.raddatz@gmail.com	
Karla Smith-Kasten	reuse@mybarc.org	231-492-6138
Kevin Postma	ridesoldbike@gmail.com	

Newly Invited Member:

Andrea Paine	alpaine@umich.edu	231-233-5353
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Old Business

GLEF 8-5-23 meeting minutes were approved by Gary and seconded by Ramona.

New Business

- John Helge had notified us of the \$575 charge for Saturday, April 20, 2024 use of Manistee High School; the Manistee High School fee is for use of the commons area and the auditorium. The Commons area will be cleared out for the EXPO which John Helge will be in charge of. Vendors have access at 9am and public will have access 10am to 3pm. Shirley made a motion to approve up to \$1000 for use of Manistee HS and the liability insurance and other charges related to the use of the school for GLEF 2024. Those present voted and approved (passed 6 to 0). A check for \$575 will be dropped off to John. Ramona will ask her Boyer agent for a donation of insurance coverage for the GLEF event.
- Zig will contact to ask Dow Foundation for support.
- Ziggy discussed 3 events that we hope will occur on Friday, April 19 at MPHS:
 - Chef Les Northwestern Michigan College to discuss earth friendly foods.
<https://www.nmc.edu/programs/academic-programs/culinary-arts/index.html>

- LRBOI (Archie and Cory to discuss sturgeon planting and other restorative programs). <https://www.manisteenews.com/news/article/Photos-Young-lake-sturgeon-released-in-Manistee-17432921.php>
- Great Lakes Echo Journalist Genevieve Fox Fox.genev@gmail.com She is an environmental journalist. <http://greatlakesecho.org/>
- There was a discussion about Bioneers being online. Judy asked Ziggy to send information about Bioneers to the group. In Michigan Detroit Mercy will host the 18th annual Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit Conference on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 12-13 on the McNichols Campus. The link is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/great-lakes-bioneers-detroit-conference-18th-annual-2023-registration-707201106547>
- Shirley relayed that The Lakeside Club voted GLEF as one of the recipients from the Festival of Trees fundraiser. Last year \$5000 was given. Shirley will follow through about the application for a tree to decorate. Mary Ortiz may do the tree for us. Ramona discussed the possibility of making a wreath; Ramona suggested that the wine cork wreath could be for use of several holidays, maybe include different colored beads etc. Gary offered lots of corks to use with a hot glue gun!
- 8 billion trees has environmental items to sell. Should GLEF sell environ-items? The discussion concluded that it would not be effective or supported. Talk occurred about the potential for a “Green Store”, but perhaps too much trouble...? Two coffee shops in Manistee. Discussion about mugs occurred. Yellow Dog may be interested. Seems like an unlikely plan.
- Discussion ensued about a Raffle at the Expo. We would need a state license to do this. Decision about this continue and is being considered.
- Since we are having all events at the MPHS this year, Gary suggested using 2-3 classrooms for presenters and videos in the theatre. Food trucks in parking lot for Saturday? 2 local sources should be considered. (for example the hot dog stand and Victorian carport truck and pizza? Other sources should also be considered.). Gary will explore food truck availability.
- Ramona mentioned the potential of doing a pancake breakfast at Catholic Central. This requires an event leader.
- Consideration also given for environmental art in the Ramsdell upstairs with drinks?
- Bluefish dinner and speaker Friday evening, April 19? Shirley will check on date availability. Shirley will also explore art as a display during the dinner. Shirley is also looking into GLEF-related art.

- Zig will reach out to potential speakers which include:
 - Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome, Senior Director for Environmental Justice, White House Council on Environmental Quality.
 - Regina Strong, Environmental Justice Public Advocate, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.
 - Debra Shore, Regional Administrator, EPA Region 5
 - Jake Wilkinson, Manager, Energy Services, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.
 - Steven Tomaszewski, Global Director of Environmental Strategies and Operations General Motors.
 - Katie Lambeth, Environmental Justice and Tribal Liaison, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.
 - Chip Amoe, Director of Sustainability, Michigan State University
 - Emily Finnell, Great Lakes Senior Advisor and Strategist, Office of the Great Lakes, EGLE

Shirley discussed the potential agenda for a Friday night dinner. Shirley asked about speaker fee. This is not know at this time.

- Shirley offered a new GLEF award “Guardian of the Environment” and proposes that Manistee and other community businesses be contacted to offer an example how they have or will reduce or rid themselves of discarded plastics in their business. If they can replace, reduce and or replace plastics they become eligible for the award. Target may be restaurants. (Consider making a sticker for their business door etc. 2024 Great Lakes Environmental Festival Guardian of the Environment. Shirley will use a list of Manistee businesses and restaurants to send a survey about using less plastics etc. A follow up phone call will be made in early March to those who responded. The winner of the 'Guardian' award will have had to made significant positive changes to reduce their use of plastics, improve recycling etc.
- Invite vendor to expo that has substitute products for plastic.

Will send a letter in September with request in for contact person name and phone number and then in March will ask what they have done to reduce plastic use. Plaque and dinner for winner. Letter will ask:

1. What have you don't to reduce single use materials
2. What have you done to reuse materials in your business?
3. What have you done to recycle materials in your business?

Ramona mentioned Great Lakes Charter Fisheries Association as a possible organization with a speaker and also Michigan United Conservation Clubs and/or Michigan Outdoors Magazine.

- Shirley also suggested someone wear Smokey the Bear costume or Woodsey the Owl “Give a Hoot, Don’t Pollute!” the day of the Festival. Woodsey may be better (costume is smaller, too).
- The three main companies in Manistee Morton Salt, Martin Marietta and Packaging Corporation of America should be asked to become sustaining sponsors starting in 2024. Ask for a three year commitment.
- Judy discussed the Chamber of Commerce is onboard regarding the calendar. She will send out e-mail to people at Chamber and secure advertisement. In January as “Save the Date” and then March again “Save the Date” with more detail.
- GLEF handout to be shared at Bioneers Conference at University of Detroit Mercy Oct. 12-13 in Detroit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/great-lakes-bioneers-detroit-conference-18th-annual-2023-registration-707201106547> and CCESS Conference at Grand Valley State University October 17-18 in Grand Rapids Target students and educators. <https://www.gvsu.edu/cces/ccess-2023-program-62.htm>.
- GLEF 2023 participation categories for 2023 include: We will invite people to submit music, videos, art, posters, poetry, visual arts: two and three dimensional, plays, musical performance, etc. We will need to create new submission categories in the web page.
- Web Page updates will need to take place on October. Need to add more entry categories. Provide a more obvious link for contributions. Add new contributors.
- Gary, Shirley and a third yet to be determined person will write articles for the Manistee Advocate choosing the three R’s—Refuse or Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle as a theme. The same article can appear in other area publications.

Questions:

- What Is the General theme for GLEF 2024?

Suggestion on the table for theme is: The three R’s—Refuse or Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. To be specifics Students probably can relate to the three R’s—Refuse or Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle—as a framework for reducing plastic waste in the environment. “Every day, the equivalent of 2,000 garbage trucks full of plastic are dumped into the world’s oceans, rivers, and lakes. Plastic pollution is a global problem. Every year 19-23 million tonnes of plastic waste leaks into aquatic ecosystems, polluting lakes, rivers and seas” (UN Environment Program).

United Nations (2023). Plastic Pollution. UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

<https://www.unep.org/plastic-pollution>

- What is the submission deadline for GLEF 2024?
- Do we invite the Milarch people back in 2024?

- Ziggy would like each member of GLEF to write about what we want a speaker to discuss and get that back to Ziggy by next meeting.
- Who can approach the forest service so that they are involved in the 2024 GLEF (not Ramona as her contacts are retired)?

** We are still looking for an artist to design a logo. Ramona is waiting to hear back from two possible local artists.

Stephanie will send out a "When2meet" request to determine meeting date/time in October