

Great Lakes Environmental Festival (GLEF) December 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2023 6pm Zoom meeting

In attendance were:

Stephanie Baiyasi	stephaniebaiyasi@yahoo.com	989-450-6110
Ziggy Kozicki	zigpsych@sbcglobal.net	989-450-1451
John Helge	Johnmhelge@gmail.com	616-915-2403
Shirley Madden	gspmadden@gmail.com	313-478-5347
Gary Madden	genie42br@gmail.com	313-478-6250
Judy Cunningham	jpc4466@gmail.com	231-794-0005

Quorum was present.

Excused:

Peggy Raddatz	peg.raddatz@gmail.com	
Lee Trucks	ltrucks@jackpine.com	231-510-6785
Ramona DeGeorgio-Venegas	mona_degeorgio@yahoo.com	231-690-6197
Karla Smith-Kasten	reuse@mybarc.org	231-492-6138
Kevin Postma	ridesoldbike@gmail.com	
Andrea Paine	alpaine@umich.edu	231-233-5353

12.7.23 meeting began at 6:00 PM

Unfinished business includes:

- Letters/Articles to Manistee News Paper about the 3 Rs. Gary, Shirley, and Ramona. In progress.

Judy Cunningham will send in a reduce, reuse, recycle, & remember article. Judy wrote a letter to the editor Manistee News Advocate paper regarding reduce, reuse, recycle, & remember and shared with GLEF members. Feedback was positive. She will send it in.

Gary Madden has an article ready to go as well and will send. Gary showed his “no idle zone” sign. Will print info about no idle to distribute at GLEF expo. Gary is interested in reducing idling will have booth at expo. Gary will also send in an article the News Advocate.

Shirley Madden has been attempting to involve restaurants in the recycle effort and reduce plastic use. Shirley will develop a list. A Sit down with local business people is being proposed. John Helge suggested all businesses would receive the Guardian of the Environment award if they participated. Twenty-two businesses are being asked to reduce or eliminate plastic use. John suggested we put a call out to seek Guardian of The Environment nominations. Shirley sent letters to 22 local businesses regarding the Guardian of the Environment.

Shirley will let us know which businesses each of us will take as ours to encourage and interview to get them to participate in the effort. Ask them also if they want to be a sponsor of GLEF. John suggested that we open this up to more people for the Guardian of the Environment. Shirley will write a letter to the editor to get more people interested.

GLEF could certify businesses as “Guardian of the Environment” with a sticker, etc. for their business door. A candidate for example could be Goodwill which is not using plastic bags anymore. Must bring your own bag or purchase from them or walk out with item and no bag. Are there other local nominees?

New Business

- Confirm and vote that the 2024 Guardian of the Great Lakes Environment Award will be Dr. Joan Rose from MSU. Motion made and approved by unanimous consent.
- We need to thank our sponsors also with recognition at the GLEF dinner, April 19, 2024.
- We need to invite all politicians to attend the award dinner and the expo.
- Approve \$200 to pay for Russ Franzen to Perform at the GLEF Award Dinner at the Bluefish April 19. He has a history of Great Lakes Songs to Share. Vote for approval. 6 yes votes. Russel Franzen is also going to perform in the expo hall during the expo April 20, 2024. He will be staying with Gary and Shirley while in Manistee.
- Approved price for tickets to sell for this GLEF Award Dinner event. Plan to have tickets printed before the end of the year and distribute to people to sell. Shirley is gathering information (seating capacity, menu, price). The goal is to sell out this event before March 1, 2024. Shirley will create Bluefish menu \$40/person and \$75/couple. She will also check on appetizers and desserts. Vote: Approved 6-0.
- Call for everyone to find local business people who would like to get recognition and some promotion for protecting the environment? We can ask them to buy dinner tickets and join us on April 19th so we can also recognize their accomplishments? We should build a network of people who share the environmental interest. Shirley and Gary are initiating this project.
- John Helge will be developing the expo and this year we will have the opportunity to have the presentations and expo in the same building.
- GLEF will have a 5K run. Janice Davidson and Manistee Recreation will be involved. Onekema Honor Society can help with 5K.
- In process notification to STEAM teacher’s three counties, Manistee, Benzie, Mason county schools to become involved at GLEF to assist and participate. National Honor Society members are being considered as a participant. John Helge.
- We will have a 2024 electric car display at the high school. High school students from area high schools can help out at this event. Question: Should we invite classic car owners to also attend? Have an auto show for the public. Past and future?
- Lakeside Women will sponsor the 2024 GLEF. A sponsor award will take place December 18, 2023 at Ramsdale.
- We will place past presentations from GLEF 2023 on the web page.

- Ziggy Kozicki is developing the presentation schedule.
- (1) Dr Joan Rose will be the Keynote Presenter on Saturday April 20. Can we pause the expo for 30 minutes while she makes her presentation? We should invite all expo people to hear and see her presentation.
- (2) We have the opportunity to have Genevieve Fox, an environmental journalist, meet with high school students on Friday 4.19.2024 to talk to them about environmental journalism. She will also likely write a story about her experience to be published. This will of course put a spotlight on GLEF and Manistee and also give students a great opportunity to consider a career in journalism or some other environmental occupation.
- (3) Chef Les from the Culinary School in Traverse City would like to do something to promote her program and environmentally friendly food options. Should we consider her involvement in a lunch to be available at the High School at noon 4.20.24 that she and her students prepare and a presentation to follow? Our cost would be ingredients and cleanup if we can have access to the school food prep facility. Table and distribution opportunity. Paper packaging.
- (4) Rafael Auras, a professor and researcher at MSU (unconfirmed). Recycling plastics. MSU researchers developing compostable food packaging.
- (5) Marshal Kilgore “Exploring Eco-Anxiety in modern times.
- We have a film submitted from GVSU. We will have a new video from Great Lakes E Films, “One Health and One Water” (Kozicki & Baiyasi, 2024) to share. Room to show video non-stop would cost more. The common area is locked. Will show on big screen with captions.
- Since the documentary “Great Lakes: One Water for Life” received the 2023 Philo T Farnsworth award, it will be shown again at the 2024 GLEF. Will show on big screen with captions.
- Is it time to ask the three big companies of Manistee Packaging Corporation of America, Morton Salt, and Martin Marietta to become sustaining sponsors? John Helge will contact these local business organizations.
- Can someone ask the U.S. Forest Service to present and also offer a tour of the National Forest? Could we offer a dial-a-ride excursion for people with a guided tour?
- We will not have a tree give away in 2024.
- We plan to film the 2024 presentations. Ziggy and Stephanie with help of students?
- Will ask the Governor to recognize GLEF as an environmental event that promotes community involvement in managing our natural resources. John Helge
- This Holiday Time is a good time to grab a sponsor and ask them to join in supporting the 2024 GLEF.
- Consideration for T-shirts for GLEF volunteers is being explored. Ziggy and Stephanie.
- We need to place our event on calendars before January Judy will arrange.
- Do we want to have a bus tour to the recycle center. No, create a video presentation instead.

Next meeting to be decided by response to When2meet link:

<https://www.when2meet.com/?22807630-6BBnr>