



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear LGIA Members,

As we move through another beautiful season on Lake Gogebic, I want to share a look back at what we've been up to, along with a few updates and opportunities ahead.

Looking Back

- It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Annual Membership Meeting on July 25. We kicked things off with coffee and donuts at the Fire Station, reviewed survey results from our members, and welcomed Kris Nault and Corey Kovacs from the DNR for a great presentation on fish cribs, stocking, and habitat alternatives. Thank you to Karen Ekstrum for organizing supplies, and to Kathy Whitburn for baking and generously donating treats for the event.
- This summer we also installed additional fish cribs to support habitat restoration, and continued our ongoing CLMP water quality monitoring and lake level tracking. Thank you to everyone who took part in the MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz back in June and July, your observations help us keep tabs on invasive species across the lake.
- We also took part in the Annual Loon Count and were delighted to spot two adults and four chicks on Lake Gogebic, a great sign for our loon population! Check out our Facebook page for video of the family.
- We also want to recognize our anglers who kicked off Walleye Season with us and shared their opening-day catches, and a big thank-you to Julie and Trevor Meinke and Ed and Carole Tuckey for representing LGIA at our spring Adopt-a-Highway cleanup.

Bylaw Updates

Your Board has been working through a bylaws revision process this year. The headline item, and the only change requiring a full membership vote, is a proposal to reduce our Board size from a range of 9–21 directors down to 5, better matching the number of active volunteers we actually have. A number of related housekeeping updates (meeting quorum rules, staggered terms, and special meeting procedures) are also being refined at the Board level. This Fall Dinner is where we plan to hold a special election of the members, please watch your email and our social pages as this moves toward to the vote, your voice matters here..

New Faces Stepping Up

At our July membership meeting, several members stepped forward to fill some much-needed roles — and we couldn't be more grateful:

- Pat Pelissero — Newsletter & Communications
- Steve Waslawski — Bylaws
- Kent VanTimmeren — our new Subject Matter Expert/Agency Watchdog, keeping an eye on agency partnerships and issues affecting the lake
- Nicole Finch & Kathy Whitburn — Communications

If you've been looking for a way to get involved, whether it's water quality monitoring, lake projects, grants, or communications, we'd love to have you. There's a place forevery skill set.

Looking Ahead

- Fall Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup, After a successful spring event, we're reconsidering a second cleanup this fall to build on the momentum and get even more members involved. Let us know if you'd like to participate, watch your email and our Facebook page.
- Fall Dinner — Join us Tuesday, October 7th at the Root Cellar! More details to follow soon.

A Personal Note

I also want to share some news of my own. Serving as your Board President has been one of the great privileges of my time on Lake Gogebic, and I'm grateful for every project, meeting, and conversation we've shared along the way. That said, family and work obligations need more of my time and attention right now, so I've made the decision to step down as Board President. I'm not going far, though, I'll be staying on the Board to continue supporting LGIA in whatever way I can. Thank you for trusting me with this role, and for all the ways you show up for this lake we love.

Warm regards,
Carole Tuckey
President, Lake Gogebic Improvement Association

Speaking with one voice for the
welfare of the entire lake

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9/24/26: Monthly Board
Meeting (via Teams,
5:00pm CDT)
10/7/26: Fall Dinner and
Special Meeting (Root
Cellar, 4:00pm CDT)
10/22/26: Monthly Board
Meeting (via Teams,
5:00pm CDT)

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The **Special Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 4:00 CST **at the Root Cellar**, 11071 East Shore Rd. on Lake Gogebic, in conjunction with the fall dinner. The purpose of the meeting is for the members to vote on a by-law amendment.

The Board of Directors voted to recommend the following by-law amendment to the membership at its August 27, 2026 regular meeting. In accordance with Article XIV of our by-laws, the affirmative vote of a majority of the membership is required for the proposed change.

Background

- Our current bylaws require a board size of at least nine (9) but no more than twenty-one (21) Directors.
- Our present board of 12 members has repeatedly failed to achieve quorum and has been unable to conduct business at scheduled meetings.
- In a recent member survey, 92% of respondents supported either reducing the board size to better align with active volunteers, or trusted the Board to decide, with 0% opposed.
- A change in the number of Directors requires approval by the members in accordance with our bylaws.
- The Board of Directors recommends approval of the amendment below.

Proposed Amendment

Amend Article VII, Section 3 of the by-laws to require a board size of five (5) by striking the words “at least nine (9) but not more than twenty-one (21)” and inserting “five (5).”

Current Wording

“The number of Directors of the Corporation shall be at least nine (9) but not more than twenty-one (21).”

New Wording

“The number of Directors of the Corporation shall be five (5).”

How to Vote

- **IT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE LGIA THAT THIS AMENDMENT PASS.**
- **AFFIRMATIVE VOTES FROM 51% OF ALL MEMBERS IS REQUIRED FOR THE AMENDMENT TO PASS.**
- **AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 WE HAVE 141 ELIGIBLE VOTING MEMBERS, MEANING A MINIMUM OF 72 AFFIRMATIVE VOTES**
- **MEMBERS CAN BE PRESENT IN PERSON OR BY PROXY. IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL OUT AND RETURN THE PROXY FORM BELOW ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS.**
- **IF YOU HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY WITH OR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROCESS FEEL FREE TO CALL (612) 382-8640 OR (224) 715-2482.**

Proxy LGIA Special Meeting

October 7, 2026

Instructions for Completing this Form

Enter your name as the proxy giver on the line provided in section A.

Enter the name of the person you are authorizing to serve as your proxy holder who will be in attendance at the meeting on the line provided in Section B.

Enter your name as the proxy giver on the line provided in section C.

Optional: If you wish to add specific directions or restrictions as to how the proxy holder may act and vote at the meeting, enter them on the line(s) provided in section D. If you have no specific directions or restrictions, then leave section D blank.

Sign and date your proxy in section E. Unsigned proxies cannot be accepted.

A. Proxy Giver Identification

Name: _____
Please print

B. Proxy Holder Identification

Name: _____
Please print

C. Authority to Act as Proxy

I, _____, the undersigned, hereby appoint the above-named proxy holder to attend,
Please print

act, and vote in my place at the Fall Meeting of members of the Lake Gogebic Improvement Association to be held on October 7, 2026. and at any continuation or adjournments of said meeting. This proxy may be revoked by me at any time by notice in writing to the proxy holder and to the secretary of LGIA. The proxy holder may not further assign the rights and duties detailed in this proxy to another. The proxy holder may act in the same manner and to the same extent, and with the same power as I, the proxy giver, could act if I were personally present at the meeting, subject to any specific directions or restrictions in section D.

D. Specific Directions and/or Restrictions (Optional)

E. Signature of Proxy Giver

Signature _____ Dated _____

Please return this signed form by **September 30, 2026** using any of the following methods:

- By mailing it to LGIA, PO Box 75, Bergland, MI 49910-0075
- By emailing a printed and scanned copy to info@lakegogebicia.com
- By taking a digital picture and texting it to [612.382.8640](tel:612.382.8640)

Minutes of the Lake Gogebic Improvement Association Annual Meeting

West Shore Firehall July 25, 2026

1. Meeting called to order by President Carole Tuckey: 9:03 am
 2. Introduction of the current Board Members
 3. Pledge of Allegiance
 4. Tuckey shared the results of the LGIA member survey with the group, with 62 total respondents providing the data:
 - 4.6 out of 5 support the continued operation of the Association
 - 77% support the Board restructuring
 - 92% strongly support reducing the board's defined size/quorum change
 - 63% named the fish crib and habitat restoration as a priority program
 5. Tuckey recommended the Board work with a parliamentarian to devise a course of action to re-write the by-laws to allow for the suggested changes.
 6. Tuckey suggested an environmental assessment of the dam
 - this must come from the public in the form of a concern and/or complaint
 - the dam is evaluated yearly, and FERC is notified of the results, with UPPCO being the responsible party
 - citizens groups can inform FERC about the dam on their own
 7. C. Tuckey introduced Corey Kovacs and Kris Nault, biologists for the DNR, who gave an informative presentation about lake health and management, fish populations, rationale behind stocking and slot limits, and habitat improvement
 - a lively Q&A session followed, with spirited comments from the membership
 8. President Tuckey thanked our DNR guests for coming, and for the LGIA members who attended the meeting.
 9. Meeting adjourned: 11:07 am
- Submitted by Dwight Aukee, Secretary

Annual Meeting Photo: Presentation by Kris Nault and Corey Kovacs of the Michigan DNR



Summary of the LGIA Member Survey

A survey for our LGIA members was sent out in July and findings report was prepared for our LGIA Board of Directors. A total of 62 members responded to the survey, which is fantastic - almost 50%. Overall, members expressed strong support for continuing the organization, reducing board size, and preserving dues, while identifying communication and geographic distance as major barriers to participation.

- **Organizational importance:** Members rated continued LGIA operations as important; 65% rated it extremely important, 27% rated it a very important, and 8% rated it a 3, important. No respondent rated it below 3.
- **Priority programs:** Water quality monitoring through CLMP was selected by 77% of respondents, followed by fish cribs and habitat restoration at 63%. Member communications, shoreline protection, and grant funding each received 39%; invasives education and Adopt-a-Hwy received 29%, and community events received 21%.
- **Dues preference:** Sixty-eight percent wanted to keep the current \$15 annual dues, while 18% had no strong opinion, 6% favored optional or donation-based dues, 6% supported reducing dues to a symbolic amount, and 2% favored eliminating them. The report recommends retaining dues because they reinforce membership identity and help define voting eligibility and quorum requirements.
- **Board restructuring:** Support for reducing the defined board size was substantial: 56% strongly supported it, 26% were neutral, and 10% supported it with reservations. Five percent wanted more information, no respondent opposed the change, and the report states that 92% were either supportive or neutral.
- **Recommended actions:** Members present supported the Board's plan to start the process of voting on reducing its size, restart dues collections; launch committees and establish a regular communications cadence. In addition, priority items are to fix the website; activate proxy voting immediately; and acknowledge lake-level and wildfire concerns. The highest priority item is reducing the Board size to allow for efficient decision making.



New Governance Committee

A new ad-hoc Governance Committee was created at the August 27, 2026 Board meeting. VP/ Treas Karen Ekstrum began working with member Steve Waslawski to propose a reduction in the number of directors 5. The proposed change was presented approved at the August 27 Board meeting. The next step is the Special Meeting to obtain a vote from the membership announced above. We chose October 7, 2026 as the date to allow sufficient time to gather enough attendees and proxies to achieve the 72 affirmative votes required for this amendment to pass.

We plan a deep dive review of the remaining by-laws to have them reflect our plan to operate in a committee driven format. In addition, the by-laws require an update to ensure they comply with regulatory changes to the Michigan Non-Profit Act and allow more electronic communication processes, including voting.

If you are interested in joining the Governance Committee, we'd love to hear from you. You can send an email to info@lakegogebicia.com or call Karen at 612.382.8640.



Treasurer Report

Lake Gogebic Improvement Association August 27, 2026

ZEAL CREDIT UNION: A/C # 4105861 - GENERAL ACCOUNT

OPENING BALANCE: 01/01/26 \$5,348.30

DEPOSITS:

DATE	FROM	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Multiple	See attached	March Memberships	\$55.00
Multiple	See attached	July Memberships	\$55.00
07/27/26	Annual Meeting	50/50 Proceeds	\$115.00
07/27/26	Donation	Dusty Barclay (50/50 winnings)	\$115.00
07/27/26	Donation	Miscellaneous	\$10.00
07/27/26	Donation	Ed Tuckey	\$50.00
Multiple	See attached	Fish Crib Sponsorships	\$2,250.00
Multiple	See attached	August Memberships	\$255.00
TOTAL YTD DEPOSITS:			\$2,905.00

CHECKS WRITTEN:

CK#	DATE	PAID TO:	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
779	10/25/2025	MI Waterfront Alliance	Membership	\$150.00
780	4/2/2026	Mike Vore	CLMP Fees (South)	\$200.00
eft	4/22/2026	MSU	CLMP Fees (North)	\$60.00
eft	7/15/2026	Secura Insurance	Comm Liability + D&O	\$1,081.00
781	7/17/2026	Dan Ofstad	Fish Crib Cedar*	\$1,380.00
782	8/11/2026	Trevor Meinke	Fish Crib Supplies	\$501.31
783	8/22/2026	USPS	PO Box Rental	\$62.00
TOTAL YTD CHECKS:				\$3,434.31

BALANCE AS OF: 08/27/26 \$4,818.99

*Actual cost \$1,480, net of \$100 donation

CD ACCOUNT BALANCE:

OPENING BALANCE: 01/01/26 \$9,154.52

DATE	DESCRIPTION	RATE	AMOUNT
10/31/25	Interest - 182 days	3.75%	\$168.03
	Next maturity 10-31-26	3.76%	\$172.10 estimated
BALANCE AS OF: 08/27/26 \$9,154.52			

Project Updates: Lake Levels as of 9-1-2026

From Mark Malmberg

- On July 25th, Upper Peninsula Power Company reported that Lake Gogebic water levels dropped below the allowable limits set forth by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Due to the dry summer and minimum discharge requirement for the West Branch of the Ontonagon River, this deviation continues today.
- Minimum lake level for mid-June through mid-September is 1,295.2' msl. At time of writing, the level is around 1,294.71' or roughly 6" below the required minimum and about 10" below this time last year. Minimum discharge rates from the dam are currently 30 cf/s with a current reported flow of about 40 cf/s.
- UPPCO Generation Supervisor, Nolan Miles, shared with the LGIA last week that all flash boards have been installed in the dam all summer. They have also replaced the old wood boards with aluminum, helping to minimize seepage. The remaining seepage is acceptable as it helps maintain minimum discharge requirements. UPPCO has had crews at the dam throughout the summer to block any larger leaks to minimize excess discharge. They intend to try and maintain the best level possible for the next month or so.
- The included chart below shows FERC limits set for lake level and discharge throughout the course of the year. Important note for this and future years: the allowable lake drawdowns and target levels in mid-September and October. These drawdowns could be especially important for all of you fall boaters or anyone planning a permitted shoreline restoration project.
- The included graphs on the next page show lake level and flows for the summer periods of 2025 and 2026.
- Visit waterdata.usgs.gov to view lake level and discharge graphs at home.

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
September 15 to February 28/29	1,293.7	1,295.7
March 1 to March 31	1,293.7	1,294.7
April 1 to April 24 (or ice out)	1,293.7	1,296.2
April 25 (or ice out) to June 10	1,295.7	1,296.2
June 11 to September 14	1,295.2	1,296.2

	<u>Lake Gogebic Trigger Elevation (feet msl)</u>	<u>Minimum Flow</u>
Sept. 15 through Apr. 24	> 1,293.9	50 cfs
Sept. 15 to Apr. 24	≤ 1,293.9	30 cfs
Apr. 25 through June 30	> 1,295.9	50 cfs
Apr. 25 through June 30	≤ 1,295.9	30 cfs
July 1 through 31	> 1,295.7	50 cfs
July 1 through 31	≤ 1,295.7	30 cfs
August 1 through September 14	> 1,295.5	50 cfs
August 1 through September 14	≤ 1,295.5	30 cfs

	<u>End-of-Month Target Elevation (feet msl)</u>
January & February	1,293.9
March	1,294.2
April through June	1,295.9
July	1,295.7
August & September	1,295.5
October	1,294.7
November & December	1,294.2

Project Updates: Lake Levels (Charts)

- These graphs show lake level and flows for the summer periods of 2025 and 2026.

Continuous data

West Branch Ontonagon River Near Bergland, MI - USGS-04036000

[Subscribe to WaterAlert](#)

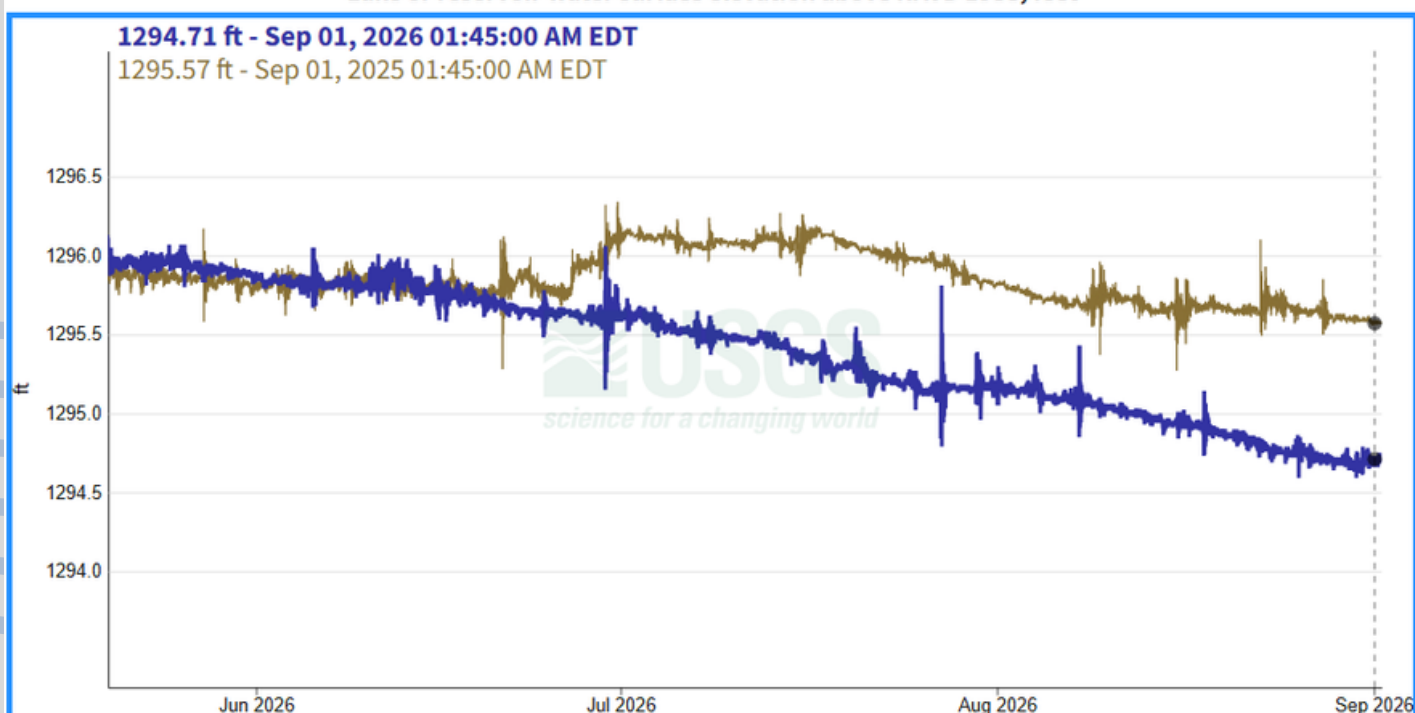
- using graph zoom -
September 1, 2025 - September 1, 2026
Discharge, cubic feet per second



Lake Gogebic Near Bergland, MI - USGS-04035995

[Subscribe to WaterAlert](#)

- using graph zoom -
September 1, 2025 - September 1, 2026
Lake or reservoir water surface elevation above NAVD 1988, feet



PROJECT UPDATES: FISH CRIBS

From Trevor Meinke

Thanks to a great group of volunteers on the LGIA crib team had another successful year. One of the key components in the project was the LGIA member support sponsoring the cribs to cover the cost. This is a key component in keeping this program active for future years. The sponsors were able to pick a location for placement if the permit guidelines were met. Upon launch the GPS coordinates were documented and later published and available to all active LGIA members. Fish and fisherman have been observed using the cribs-which is encouraging. If you may have interest in sponsoring a crib or cribs in the future watch for information to be posted in 2027.

A big thank you to all sponsors!!!



PROJECT UPDATES: CLMP WATER QUALITY MONITORING

From Jim Dawley

- At the LGIA monthly board meeting on August 27th, Jim reported that final water samples (chlorophyll, phosphorus, etc.) were submitted on August 25 at the Land O' Lakes drop-off center, completing that portion of the season's testing.
- A few remaining temperature and dissolved oxygen readings will wrap up the monitoring season. Statewide CLMP reports are not expected to be published until early next year.

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEW LGIA VOLUNTEERS!

As mentioned by Carole in her President's Note, we had some new faces raise their hands at the Annual Meeting and volunteer for various LGIA roles. Here's an introduction to a few of them.

Kent Van Timmerman: My wife Cheri and I moved permanently to Lake Gogebic nearly 5 years ago from Lower Michigan near the little town of Belding. We are both retired. I worked 38 years for an automotive parts supplier in Grand Rapids, and Cheri, for just as many years, as an Occupational Therapist. We owned a small farm for most of that time where we grew various crops including hops for the craft brewing industry. We both love living on Lake Gogebic year round very much. We both enjoy fishing, particularly ice fishing, snowmobiling, kayaking, camping, sightseeing, and traveling to visit our 4 children and 10 grandchildren. Even though I did a fair amount of deer and duck hunting down state I have not yet done much here in the UP so far.

I have volunteered to interface with the various agencies on behalf of LGIA in order to gain understanding of all the various laws, programs, grants, and anything that may have an impact on Lake Gogebic and to pass that information along to the group.

Cheri and I are looking forward to living for many years here in the beautiful Western Upper Peninsula and developing relationships with you all.

Steve Waslawski: My family and I have been enjoying our seasonal time on the lake for the past 25 years since buying a small log cabin on East Shore Road. I am sure many of you would recognize it from the lake since so many boaters seem to enjoy the fishing out front. We had planned on spending a lot more time at the cabin since retiring in the lower a couple of years ago but life happened and things got busy. As things slow down we remain hopeful that splitting our time between the lake and chasing after our grandchildren downstate will prove rewarding.

Having spent years both working within and updating organizational bylaws, I have offered my assistance along with others to review and update the Association Bylaws ensuring they continue to meet our needs, remain compliant and take advantage of the technologies that can assist us. As a former bylaws committee survivor, I recognize that revising bylaws is akin to eating an elephant. Patience and perseverance are required.

Pat Pelissero: I'm originally from Bessemer and my parents bought their place in the Bergland Bay in 1965. So, I basically grew up on this lake by spending the summers here. Even after leaving home, I would still visit for a week or two with my children and for our annual Pelissero brothers fishing trip. My wife, Story, and I have had our own place on the East Shore since 2017 and love that part of the lake. We spend a majority of our time fishing and relaxing. We currently live in Denver and work at the lake in the summer.

I've been part of the LGIA since 2021 and I volunteered to help develop and publish the newsletter. I welcome your feedback on what you want to see in this publication and look forward to being an active member of the LGIA. Send any feedback to my email: pjpelissero@gmail.com.

LAKE GOGEBIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Bergland, MI 49910**

***BOARD MEMBERS &
OFFICERS***

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