

Cedar Lake Improvement Board Meeting Minutes
Regular Public Meeting
Greenbush Township Hall
Greenbush, MI, 48738
Friday, October 10, 2025

1. Call to order at 10:01 AM.
2. Board Roll Call. Present: Brummund, Kline (pending appointment, not counted for quorum), Dutcher, Strauer, Vaughn. Absent: Campbell and Dailey. There is a quorum.
3. Conference Call Meeting Operating Protocol & Housekeeping was reviewed.
4. Public Comments – None.
5. Approval of 10-10-2025 Agenda as presented. Motion made by Brummond/Dutcher. Motion carried.
6. Review and approve minutes from 7-11-2025 Regular Meeting. Motion made by Brummond/Dutcher. Motion carried.
7. Old Business
 - a. Update on search for a new scribe.
 - i. Commissioner Brummond stated Kelly VonFintel, of Alcona MSU Extension, would like to take the position. Ms. VonFintel arrived, and introductions were made.
 - b. Chairman Vaughn stated Mr. Adam Kline is expected to be the Oscoda Township representative to the CLIB and was observing the meeting.
 - c. Update on Midwest Glacial Great Lakes Partnership Grant:
 - i. The \$84,000 grant was awarded earlier this year. All federal paperwork has been completed and accepted by federal authorities.
 - ii. We are still awaiting funding due to the government shutdown.
 - iii. We are being told it will be distributed this Fall should the government return to work. At the moment, the funding delay is not causing a problem except creating a delay with some of the scientific work that Kieser was going to do. The first shovel into the ground is still expected to be Fall 2026 during the dry period as the area to be worked on is a wetland area. EGLE will not want us to disturb wetlands during a wet part of the year.
 - iv. Engineering, permitting and bidding still need to be done.
 - d. Response to Oscoda Township Letter dated 4-09-2025: The letter was sent to the Township on 8-12-2025. A copy of that letter is in the Board Notebook and Board Packet.
8. New Business
 - a. Chair request for year-end accounting support for preparation of FY 2026 Budget, Public Hearing, Budget Resolution, and upcoming FY 2025 Audit.
 - i. The Board had previously employed Nick Cordes from our accounting firm to assist in the preparation of the budget that was presented during the December 2024 meeting. Chairman Vaughn would like Mr. Cordes to repeat that service to assist Chairman Vaughn who has been doing it for many years, and to help present the budget at the next CLIB Board meeting.
 - ii. Hiring Mr. Cordes would likely be an expense between \$800-\$1,000. Chairman Vaughn has asked Mr. Cordes if he would be willing to provide this service and he (Mr. Cordes) believes that is a service he is able to provide.
 - iii. Chairman Brummond commented that the board should utilize Mr. Cordes throughout the year on an as-needed basis for other accounting services.

- iv. Motion by Brummond to authorize the Chair to contract with Nick Cordes for services of closure of the 2025 year and assistance in preparation of the 2026 budget. Seconded by Dutcher. **ROLL CALL:** Brummond YES, Dutcher, YES, Strauer, YES, Vaughn, YES. Motion carried. No nays.
- b. Chair request to solicit for bids for gravel driveway installation at Jones Ditch.
 - i. After selling the parcel east of Cedar Lake Road, the residential driveway that existed at 3325 W. Cedar Lake Rd went to the new owners. The CLIB will need a new driveway to access the property along Jones Ditch. The land division application submitted to the county in 2024 included a survey locating the new driveway and included an approved Road Commission permit for a driveway. It is described as a "24-foot minimum, 15-inch, corrugated steel pipe". It is staked out on the property. There has been no need, thus far, to start any construction, as we have not needed heavy vehicle access to the property. With the upcoming grant project, we are going to need our own access to the property from Cedar Lake Rd.
 - ii. If approved by the Board, we need to receive bids to have a driveway installed. The driveway was not included in any of the grant project's scope of work, so the money is going to have to come from our General Fund.
 - iii. It was noted by Drain Commissioner Strauer that county permits are only good for one-year. Chairman Vaughn stated he would get an updated permit from the Road Commission prior to soliciting bids.
 - iv. Chairman Vaughn stated he would solicit for bids in the local papers. Drain Commissioner Strauer made a motion to allow Chairman Vaughn to solicit for bids. Seconded by Dutcher. Brummond asked when this project might happen. Vaughn stated Spring 2026. **ROLL CALL:** Brummond YES, Dutcher, YES, Strauer, YES, Vaughn, YES. Motion carried. No nays.
- c. High levels of *E. coli* and total coliform discovered in northwest end of Cedar Lake.
 - i. During the Cedar Lake Summer Vegetation Survey in early July 2025, the Kieser & Associates (K&A) survey team observed a small area in the northwest end of the lake that had "luxuriant growth" of filamentous green algae and *Chara sp* (AROS 358 along the near shoreline in the northwest end of the lake in front of two residences). It was an excessive amount of growth in this small corner, and no other instances of this type of growth were found anywhere else on the lake during the survey. The growth was so thick that you could not access the area with a power boat.
 - ii. As a precaution, and with authorization from the Chair, K&A collected a limited number of water quality samples from select nearshore locations on July 2, 2025.
 - iii. The samples were tested for total and soluble reactive phosphorus, and screened for the presence of *E. coli*, a common gut-tract bacterium associated with fecal wastes from mammals and avian species.
 - iv. Mark Kieser, of K&A, joined the meeting via telephone, to talk about the field screening results, and to discuss possible sources of the contamination. Mr. Kieser is the CLIB's watershed consultant scientist. He has been affiliated with the CLIB for 20 years. Natalie Crum, also of K&A, was also on the phone. She helped with the survey.
 - v. The field screening testing results revealed the potential for very high levels of *E. coli* bacteria that could be harmful. The K&A report of the initial July findings is in the Board Notebook and Board Packet.
 - vi. During July, K&A and the Board Chair rigorously engaged DHD2, EGLE, and the two property owners. DHD2 visited the site and concluded that the septic systems were in compliance with DHD2 standards, and there was not much more they could do to help locate the *E. coli* source. They did not test the nearshore lake water as they claimed their *E. coli* beachfront sample collection protocol was inappropriate due to the lake bottom conditions (too shallow, too much muck).

- vii. Meeting with EGLE's Non-Point Source pollution staff also proved to be frustrating as EGLE has limited authority and funding to intervene in potential water contamination from septic systems that appear to be in compliance.
 - viii. The K&A report of the initial July findings was shared with DHD2 and EGLE in July.
 - ix. To further document water quality conditions and search for the *E. coli* source, K&A executed a second and more detailed water quality sampling plan on 8/27/2025. Those testing results are being incorporated into a second K&A Report that Mark Kieser summarized for the CLIB at the 10/10/2025 Meeting. The testing included total and soluble reactive phosphorus at Great Lakes Environmental Center, and lab testing for *E. coli* and Total Coliforms at Enviro Lab Services in Oscoda, an EGLE certified lab.
 - x. Annotated Maps for Total Phosphorus (TP), Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP), *E. coli*, and Total Coliform were reviewed with the Board and explained by Mr. Kieser. The maps are included in the Board Notebook and the online Board Packet for reference.
 - 1. Note: A completed copy of the second K&A report is pending and is not included in the Board Notebook and Board Packet. An electronic copy of the second report will be uploaded to the CLIB website when completed.
 - xi. Based upon the data collected so far, Mr. Kieser reported that it is unknown if the *E. Coli* is caused by animal or human sources. He recommended that genetic (DNA) testing would be the logical next step.
 - xii. Mr. Kieser was asked about the cost for DNA testing to find out if the bacteria is human or animal. He estimated \$150-\$300 per sample. He also estimated that six surface water samples for DNA markers should be collected, and another six samples from be shallow ground water sites along the shoreline. Testing can be done in November when the Kieser team returns to the area for data retrieval on the lake hydrology sensors.
 - xiii. Chairman Vaughn stated that the two property owners that are near the problem area are extremely cooperative and have given permission for CLIB to test the water on their property.
 - xiv. A motion was made by Dutcher/Strauer to authorize the Chairman to contract with Kieser & Associates to perform genetic DNA testing of surface water and groundwater samples at a price not to exceed \$5000. **ROLL CALL:** Brummond YES, Dutcher, YES, Strauer, YES, Vaughn, YES. Motion carried. No nays.
- d. Late Summer Vegetation Survey
- i. Natalie Crum of Kieser & Associates gave the update on the survey they conducted on August 26 & 27. There was a good mix of native plants in the lake. There was also an excessive amount of *Chara* sp. observed during the survey. Eurasian Watermilfoil and starry stonewort were also found. In the southern portion of the lake there are a lot of water lilies and a good distribution of native plants. There was a little increase in the appearance of Eurasian Watermilfoil.
 - ii. The contractor from Solitude was contacted to treat the nuisance species.
- e. Lake Treatment Update
- i. Cedar Lake was treated with aquatic herbicides on September 18, 2025.
 - ii. A total of 14 acres were treated. Nine spots of lakeshore phragmites were treated along the shoreline.
 - iii. Treatment maps located in Board Notebook and Board Packet.
- f. Review and approve bills that have been paid since the 7-10-20 meeting or are now due.
- i. Summer Property Tax Bills for CLIB Property in Greenbush Township. All bills \$0.00 as property is exempt. No action required by the Board, info only.
 - ii. Bloom Sluggett PC, professional services through 7-31-2025, Inv. 26839, \$2,833.00 (paid).
 - iii. Bloom Sluggett PC, professional services through 8-31-2025, Inv. 26991, \$102.00 (paid).
 - iv. Kieser & Associates, 2025/2026 Watershed Consulting Contract, professional services, Inv. 25-135, \$3,337.50 (paid).

- v. Kieser & Associates, 2025/2026 LakeScan Contract, professional services, Inv. 25-134, \$3419.60, (paid).
- vi. Kieser & Associates, 2025/2026 Watershed Consulting Contract, professional services, Inv. 25-146, \$5,188.00 (paid).
- vii. Great Lakes Environmental Center, Inc, Cedar Lake Water testing, Inv. 35628, \$158.00 (paid by CLIB, then credited back to CLIB by K & A).
- viii. Enviro Lab Services, Clear Lake Water E. Coli Testing, Inv. 004208, \$550.00 (paid).
- ix. Alcona County Review, WMP Public Meeting Display Ad, Inv. 30087, \$203.50 (paid).
- x. Oscoda Press, WMP Public Meeting Display Ad, Account # 99203325, \$280.75, (paid).
- xi. Solitude Lake Management, June Lake Survey, Inv. PSI87443, \$900.00 (paid).
- xii. Solitude Lake Management, July Aquatic Herbicide Lake Treatment, Inv. PSI 1187482, \$7,640.51 Paid).
- xiii. Solitude Lake Management, September Aquatic Herbicide Lake & Phragmites Treatment, Inv. PSI204809, \$5891.47 (paid).
- xiv. US Postal Service, PO Box Annual Service Fee, \$78.00, (paid).
- xv. Mike's Computer Repair CLIB Website updates May through Sept 2025, Inv .1935, \$65.00 (paid).
- xvi. Kieser & Associates, 2025/2026 LakeScan Contract, professional services, Inv. 25-143, \$4,510.00, (new).
- xvii. Kieser & Associates, Credit Memo 2025/2026 Watershed Consulting Contract, professional services, Inv. 25-165, \$1,418.25 (new).
- xviii. Kieser & Associates, 2025/2026 LakeScan Contract, professional services, Inv. 25-143, \$4,510.00, (new).
- xix. Motion by Brummond/Strauer to pay bills f(ii) through f(xv). **ROLL CALL:** Brummond YES, Dutcher, YES, Strauer, YES, Vaughn, YES. Motion carried. No nays.
- xx. Motions made by Vaughn/Strauer to pay bills f(xvi) through f(xviii). **ROLL CALL:** Brummond YES, Dutcher, YES, Strauer, YES, Vaughn, YES. Motion carried. No nays.

9. Public Comment

- a. Martin Leach, President AICLA Board. Concerned about amount of *Chara* on the lake bottom at his property on the lake. Asked the board if anything that was discussed today had anything to do with a low lake level. Mr. Leach also said he had a case of swimmer's itch this summer for the first time ever. Chairman Vaughn responded by saying that drought conditions ensued at the end of August, which is the likely cause of the low lake level.
- b. No other public comment.

10. Next regular meeting: Friday, December 12, 2025, at 10 AM at the Greenbush Township Hall. This will also be a public budget meeting.

11. Motion to adjourn by Dutcher/Vaughn. Motion carried, adjourned 11:28 AM.