

Cedar Lake Improvement Board
Regular Public Meeting
Greenbush Township Hall
Greenbush, MI, 48738
Friday, February 20, 2026
10:00 AM ET

Call to order.

1. Board Roll Call. Present: Brummund, Kline, Dutcher, Vaughn, Campbell, Dailey. Absent: Strauer. There is a quorum.
2. Public comment.
 - i. John Klocek, Greenbush-Comments regarding contamination of Cedar Lake.
 - ii. Jeff Linderman, Oscoda-Verbally withdrew his FOIA appeal. He stated he will send a confirming email to the Board.
3. Addition to today's agenda by the Chairman, to discuss Correspondence received by email. Will add to agenda as item 8e. Brummund moved to accept today's agenda with two modifications: 1) Delete item 8d (FOIA Appeal) and, 2) in its place, add 8e as Correspondence. Seconded by Dutcher. ROLL CALL: Vaughn YES, Dutcher YES, Kline YES, Dailey YES, Campbell YES, Brummund YES. Motion carried.
4. Review and approve minutes from December 12, 2025, Board Meeting. Motion made by Dutcher to approve the minutes, seconded by Dailey. All ayes. Motion carried.
5. Old Business.
 - a. Update from Mark Kieser of Kieser & Associates. He presented the February 18, 2026, Technical memo on the November 24, 2025, shallow groundwater testing results.
 - i. Mark Kieser attended via conference call.
 - ii. Shallow groundwater sampling took place along 150 feet of western residential shoreline south of Jones Ditch and on the CLIB property. Six samples were taken along the residential shoreline. There was no flow in Jones Ditch, so no samples were taken from that location at that time. Furthermore, a groundwater sample was scheduled to be taken on CLIB property downgradient from the former septic tank/drain field on the northside of Jones Ditch. After several attempts, no groundwater recovery was achieved, and therefore, no samples were collected at this CLIB property location. Sampling for Jones Ditch and the CLIB property will be rescheduled for the spring.
 - iii. Additional groundwater samples were collected from each location for future analysis for DNA specific indicators to find out what source the contamination comes from i.e., beaver, human, or geese.
 - iv. Soluble phosphorous (SRP) was found in all 6 residential test wells ranging from 2.9 to 30.4 ppb (parts per billion). 2 ppb is considered normal. The highest elevated levels of SRP (30.4 ppb) in test well #5 indicates that there is an onshore source of phosphorus at that location. The homeowner reported he had found an old gravel septic drain field on the east side of the original home on the property. The original home was demolished to make room for a new home built about 2 years ago. The owner did not remove the old gravel drain field from the yard. This is the assumed source of the elevated SRP.
 - v. There were only two very low numbers of *E. coli* in two of the test wells (1 & 4 CFU/100ml). Total coliform levels were very low compared to surface water sampling done previously. No active bacterial discharge is coming from the old septic system, so it is not likely to be the source of the *E. coli*.
 - vi. The test results for the November sampling are on the CLIB website.
 - vii. Mr. Kieser was asked several questions concerning the course of events from the discovery of the presence of *E. coli* amidst luxuriant nearshore vegetation in field screening samples

collected on July 2. He described the difference between screening samples and laboratory grade samples and how the state agencies can only use laboratory grade samples in their evaluations of water quality.

- viii. He commented on the actions taken by the CLIB to (1) notify the affected property owners, (2) the actions taken by the CLIB to notify District Health Department #2, who then engaged EGLE after CLIB encouragement, (3) the follow-up and responses from those two agencies, and (4) the decision to do our own laboratory grade *E. coli* and phosphorous testing since the regulatory agencies chose to do no testing of their own.
- ix. He recapped the second round of surface water testing by K&A that occurred on August 27, 2025, where 12 laboratory grade samples were collected in front of two residences, and 6 laboratory grade samples were collected in and around Jones Ditch (2 in the ditch, 3 in surface waters in front of CLIB property, and one at the mouth of Jones Ditch) Four background levels/control samples were also collected.
- x. Referring to the technical report on the August 27 sampling event that that was published on November 18, 2025, he noted the *E. Coli* levels did not exceed state standards of 300 CFU/100ml for full body contact. No exceedance, no violation.
- xi. When asked how much of the surface area of Cedar Lake was affected by the discovered *E. coli*, he replied worst case 0.26 acres; or 0.024% of the total Cedar Lake surface area of 1,075 acres.
- xii. Dave Dailey, board member, asked Mark how far out into the lake did the contamination spread. Mark referred to the readings from the four background/control samples collected away from the primary site. The sample at 150' directly east of the site shoreline came in at 40 CFU/100ml, and the three samples approximately 300' south of the primary site came in at 60 CFU/100ml each. These samples were well below the state standard of 300 CFU/100ml for full body contact. Mark said this indicated that the *E. Coli* contamination did not spread into the lake and was limited to the immediate shoreline waters in front of the two residences.
- xiii. Chairman Vaughn noted that the only regular water testing in Cedar Lake is performed by DHD2 in the summertime at the Greenbush Township Park with all results posted to the EGLE BeachGuard web site.
- xiv. Jeff Linderman, lake resident, asked if any rainfall events were considered that could have impacted the testing. Before answering, Mark checked the 2025 rainfall reports from the CLIB owned recording rain gauge and found that a 1.68" rain event occurred on 6/30/2025. Other rain events in July and August were small.
- xv. All reports are on the CLIB website.

b. Update on Midwest Glacial Lakes Fish Habitat Partnership Grant administered by the Fish & Wildlife Service.

- i. The grant is for \$84,310.
- ii. Due to the federal government shutdown in November many grants are still delayed.
- iii. Justin Chiotti (the FWS contact for the grant) said, as of February 17, that we are approved for the grant, but now it just needs to finish going through their system before we can get the funds released. Correspondence with Mr. Chiotti is included in the Board Packet.

6. New Business.

- a. Review and approve bills that were paid since the 12-12-2025 meeting or are now due.
 - i. Kelly VonFintel, Scribe Services for two (2) 2025 CLIB Meetings, \$200.00 (paid).
 - ii. Kieser & Associates, Watershed Consulting Contract, professional services, Inv 26-211, \$1,499.00 (paid).
 - iii. Kieser & Associates, Watershed Consulting Contract, professional services, Inv. 25-207, \$2512.50 (paid).

- iv. Alcona County Review, 2026 Regular Meeting Notice Display Ad, Inv. 30505, \$58.00 (paid).
 - v. Oscoda Press, 2026 Regular Meeting Notice Display Ad, Account #99203325, \$116.88 (paid).
 - vi. Bloom Sluggett PC, professional services through 12-31-2025, Inv.27639, \$774.00, (new).
 - vii. Bloom Sluggett PC, professional services through 12-31-2025, Inv. 27792, \$102.00, (new).
 - viii. Straley Lamp & Kraenzlein, PC, professional services for 2026 budget preparation, Inv. 43571, \$750.00 (new)
 - ix. Rex Vaughn, reimbursement for office supplies (color printer ink), \$61.87, (new).
 - x. Motion made by Brummund, seconded by Dailey to approve payment of bills. ROLL CALL: Brummund YES, Campbell YES, Dailey YES, Kline YES, Dutcher YES, Vaughn YES. Motion approved.
- b. Consumers Energy Foundation 2026 Planet Award Grant Opportunity.
- i. Rex Vaughn emailed the Board on January 28 letting them know about a grant opportunity from Consumers Energy that might be worth the time investigating.
 - ii. The grant could be worth \$250,000 if awarded.
 - iii. The deadline for a Letter of Intent was February 4.
 - iv. Rex then asked Mark Kieser of Kieser & Associates to review the grant and asked him if he thought it would be worth the time to apply. He responded in the affirmative.
 - v. On January 28th, a 3-way call was held with Rex, Mark Kieser, and Rich Castle of Consumers Energy to ask if a lake board would qualify for this grant. It does.
 - vi. Mark Kieser has agreed to prepare a Letter of Intent and will also prepare the final bid package, should we make the cut, at no cost to CLIB.
 - vii. The Letter of Intent was submitted on time.
 - viii. February 23 is when we should find out if we made it through the first round.
 - ix. Commissioner Brummund made a motion, seconded by Dailey, to continue with the grant application process for this grant. Voice vote, motion carried.
- c. A motion was made by Dailey, seconded by Dutcher, to remove item 8c from the agenda since Mr. Linderman withdrew his FOIA appeal. ROLL CALL: Kline YES, Dutcher YES, Vaughn YES, Brummund YES, Campbell YES, Dailey YES. Motion carried.
- d. Correspondence.
- i. There were four pieces of citizen correspondence, two from local citizens (April Zaitshik, Tammi Bennett) asking for responses to their requests and questions on the *E. coli* event during the summer of 2025, and two letters were from Mr. Linderman accusing the CLIB of various deficiencies and claiming the Board had not tested CLIB property for *E. coli*. Copies of the letters will be added to the 2/20/2026 Board Packet on the CLIB website.
 - ii. The information presented earlier in the meeting by Mr. Kieser confirmed the CLIB property was tested for *E. coli* on August 27, 2025. The testing results also confirmed there was no exceedances of *E. coli* state standards and therefore no violation of water quality regulations.
 - iii. Since Mr. Linderman was present at the meeting, the Board considered if they should ask him what type of response he wanted. Dailey asked Mr. Linderman if his questions were answered.
 - iv. Mr. Linderman said he would prefer a written response from the Board.
 - v. Vaughn asked the Board who would be willing to write the letter.
 - vi. Campbell stated that he didn't think the board should respond unless it is in the form of a question & answer post on the website. A "frequently asked question" (FAQ) section on the website would be helpful, and it would reach more people.

- vii. A motion was made by Campbell that we prepare and post an FAQ on the *E. coli* testing that was completed in 2025 on CLIB's website with help from Mark Kieser, Rex Vaughn, Jesse Campbell and Carolyn Brummund. Seconded by Brummund. ROLL CALL: Brummund YES, Campbell YES, Dailey YES, Kline YES, Dutcher YES, Vaughn YES. Motion carried.

7. Public Comment.

- a. John Klocek, Greenbush- Reiterated his concern about notifications not being made about *E. Coli*.
- b. Mark Laszlo, Cedar Lake-Asked if pike are still going up the stream and asked why beaver cannot be removed. He was given the website at www.cedarlakeIB.org.
- c. Frank Kramarz, Greenbush- Complimented the board on the work that they are doing for the community. He also spoke about the obligation of the drain commissioners because it's up to them to maintain lake level. He then addressed Mr. Linderman as a riparian and Oscoda Board member.
- d. Jeff Linderman, Oscoda-thanked the Board for giving him the FOIA that was requested and then questioned who was notified about the *E. Coli* levels within the Board.

8. Next regular meeting: Friday, April 10, 2026, at 10 AM at the Greenbush Township Hall.

9. Motion to adjourn by Dutcher/Dailey. All ayes. Motion carried, adjourned 12:15 p.m.