

# Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority

Douglas & Saugatuck, Michigan

## AGENDA

Douglas City Hall  
86 W Center St.

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting

1. **Call to Order:** By Chair
2. **Roll Call:**
3. **Approval of Agenda:**
  - A. April 20, 2021  
Motion to approve the March 16, 2021 meeting agenda as (presented/amended) – Roll call vote
4. **Approval of Minutes:**
  - A. March 16, 2021 meeting minutes  
Motion to approve the March 16, 2021 meeting minutes as (presented/amended) – Roll call vote
5. **Approval of Invoices:** No invoices
6. **Public Communications:**
  - A. Written - No communication
  - B. Verbal (Limit of three (3) minutes)
7. **Unfinished Business:**
  - A. Township Resolution of Intent to Join KLHA..... Update
  - B. Role of KLHA..... Discussion
  - C. Recording Duties..... Discussion
  - D. Aquatic Weed Treatment..... Update
  - E. Buoys.....Update
8. **New Business:**
  - A. EGLE – Kalamazoo River Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment
9. **Public Comments** (Limit of three (3) minutes)
10. **Reports:**
  - A. Committee Reports
    - i. Harbor Safety Sub-Committee – VanLoon
      - a. Navigational Lights Update
    - ii. Douglas Harbor Authority – LaBombard
  - B. Staff Reports
    - i. LaBombard
    - ii. Heise
    - iii. Frey
11. **Authority Member Comments:**
12. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn

To attend and participate in this remote meeting of the Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority, please consider joining online or by phone.

Join online by visiting:

Join by phone by dialing:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84795220627>

**+1 (312) 626-6799**

Then enter  
“Meeting ID”:

847 9522 0627

Those who are hearing impaired and require additional accommodations are encouraged to contact (269) 857-4751 or [info@ci.douglas.mi.us](mailto:info@ci.douglas.mi.us) as soon as possible.

# Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority

Douglas & Saugatuck, Michigan

Douglas City Hall, 86 W Center St., Douglas, MI 49406

March 16, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

Remote Meeting

MINUTES - **DRAFT**

1. **Call to Order:** By VanLoon at 7:10 PM
  - A. Adopt Remote Meeting Special Procedures.  
Motion to adopt the Remote Meeting Special Procedures carried unanimously by roll call vote.
  - B. Nomination of Officers  
Chairman – North moved to nominate VanLoon  
Vice Chairman – North moved to nominate Naumann  
Treasurer – Position will remain vacant  
Secretary – North moved to nominate Klungle
  - C. Election of Officers – each by a majority roll call vote  
Chairman – Motion by North, with support from Naumann, to approve VanLoon as Chairman. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.  
Vice Chairman – Motion by North, with support from VanLoon, to approve Naumann as Vice Chairman. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.  
Treasurer – Vacant  
Secretary – Motion by Naumann, with support from North, to approve Klungle as Secretary. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
2. **Roll Call:** Present – Mike VanLoon, Cathy North, Robert Naumann  
Absent – Mark Klungle, Ken Trester  
Also Present – Douglas City Manager, Rich LaBombard; City of Saugatuck City Manager, Ryan Heise; Saugatuck Township Interim Township Manager, Joe Frey
3. **Approval of Agenda:**
  - A. March 16, 2021  
Motion by Naumann, with support from North, to approve the March 16, 2021 meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
4. **Approval of Minutes:**
  - A. October 20, 2020 meeting minutes  
Motion by North, with support from Naumann, to approve the October 20, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
5. **Approval of Invoices:** No Invoices
6. **Public Communications:**
  - A. Written: None

- B. Verbal (Limit of three (3) minutes): Jon Helmrich – Introduced Joe Frey, the new Saugatuck Township Manager.  
Joe Frey – Glad to meet everyone and hopes to meet in person soon.
7. **Unfinished Business:**
- A. Aquatic Weed Treatment: City of Douglas signed another contract with Aquatic Doctors and increased the limits of aquatic weed treatment from the boat launch at Schultz Park to the boat launch at Union Street, with one treatment in April and one in June.
- B. Township Resolution of Intent to Join KLHA: Saugatuck Township did what it was required to do and is now waiting for both Saugatuck City Council and Douglas City Council to approve.
- C. Role of KLHA: Members present would like to table this discussion until all municipalities have members represented in the KLHA.
- D. Recording Duties: Members present like the idea of all three municipalities sharing the secretary duties and video hosting, but would like to table this discussion until all municipalities have members represented in the KLHA.
8. **New Business:**
- A. 2021 Meeting Schedule  
Motion by Naumann, with support from North, to adopt the 2021 Meeting Schedule of the Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority.  
Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
9. **Public Comments:** LaBombard introduced Ryan Heise, the new City of Saugatuck City Manager.  
Heise – Looking forward to working with this group.
10. **Reports:**
- A. Committee Reports
- i. Harbor Safety Sub-Committee – VanLoon: Has been trying to get ahold of the Coast Guard to find out whether navigational lighting on the Blue Star Bridge is needed. Hasn't received an answer yet from the Coast Guard but will keep trying.
- ii. Douglas Harbor Authority – LaBombard
- Point Pleasant: Updates were given on the newly acquired Point Pleasant Marina, which will be where the Douglas Harbor Authority will meet for their meetings, and that the projects needed to convert the property from a private marina into a public space will be started next year.
  - 42° N' Rowing: The City of Douglas is constructing a rowing dock at Wade's Bayou for the 42° N' Rowing Club to use for their rowing shells, as well as the general public to use with kayaks, paddle boards, etc.
  - Schultz Park Boat Launch Apron: The City will be adding a concrete apron at the top of the Schultz Park boat ramp which will be beneficial for launching and retrieving boats.
  - Buoys: Buoys Unlimited will be out sometime in April to put the buoys in on both sides of the bridge and will pull them out in October, which is

part of our charge to aid the navigation process. Also, both City managers are looking into a request that has come along to name the Blue Star Bridge after a Saugatuck citizen who has recently passed away.

**B. Staff Reports**

LaBombard – Provided a list of duties of the KLHA for the benefit of the new members, which includes: navigation, aquatic weed management, bridge navigation lighting, dredging, and PCB mitigation in the Kalamazoo River.

Heise – Originally, the City of Saugatuck reached out to private land owners on the east side of the river and is now reaching out to the owners on the other side and also in the City proper to find out if they want to join in the aquatic weed treatment of milfoil.

Frey – No comments.

**11. Authority Member Comments: No Comments**

**12. Adjournment:** Motion by Naumann, with support from North, to adjourn at 7:50 PM.  
Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.



**KALAMAZOO RIVER TRUSTEES**

*Restoring Your Natural Resources*

## Kalamazoo River Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment

*Prepared by*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Michigan Department of Attorney General

April 2021

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

The Kalamazoo River Natural Resource Trustees (Trustees) published the *Final Restoration Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Restoration Resulting from the Kalamazoo River Natural Resource Damage Assessment* (“Programmatic Restoration Plan”; MDNR et al., 2016) and accompanying *Record of Decision for the Kalamazoo River Natural Resource Damage Assessment: Final Restoration Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (“Record of Decision”; NOAA et al. 2016) to identify an overall restoration approach, define the framework to implement the Trustees’ restoration program, and provide analysis of the environmental impacts associated with the potential restoration efforts. This Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan) uses the criteria established in the Programmatic Restoration Plan to evaluate and select specific restoration projects and evaluates potential environmental impacts from those projects.

## Background and Status of Kalamazoo River NRDA

Natural resources in Michigan have been injured by releases of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from Kalamazoo-area paper mills that contaminated sediments, floodplain soils, water, and living organisms in and near Portage Creek and the Kalamazoo River, collectively referred to as the “Kalamazoo River Environment” (KRE). The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, the Michigan Department of Attorney General, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (collectively referred to as the Trustees) are in the process of determining the extent of injuries to natural resources caused by these releases of PCBs and how to restore these injured natural resources and the services they provide to both other natural resources and the public. This evaluation is known as a natural resource damage assessment (NRDA), which is authorized under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (more commonly known as the federal “Superfund” law) [42 United States Code (U.S.C.) §§ 9601–9675] and other statutes.

The restoration actions discussed in this document arose from the ongoing NRDA process being conducted by the Trustees. The Trustees took the first step in the formal NRDA process in May of 2000 with the issuance of a Preassessment Screen (MDEQ et al. 2000a). The Trustees developed a Stage I Assessment Plan in November of 2000 to guide performance of the assessment (MDEQ et al. 2000b) and then proceeded to implement that plan. The Trustees prepared two Stage I assessment reports and released them in 2005: a Stage I injury assessment (MDEQ et al., 2005a) and a Stage I economic assessment (MDEQ et al., 2005b).

The Trustees have continued assessment work while negotiating with potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to resolve NRDA liability through restoration of natural resources and the services they provide. The Trustees have reached settlements for NRDA in two bankruptcies and also reached a settlement with NCR Corporation in late 2019. To plan for restoration, the Trustees wrote a Restoration Plan / Environmental Assessment (RP/EA) for Operable Unit #1 (OU1) of the site in 2013 (MDNR et al., 2013) and the Programmatic Restoration Plan in 2016. The Trustees began restoration under the RP/EA for OU1 by implementing the removal of the Alcott Street Dam and restoration of Portage Creek in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 2018.

## Proposed Action, Purpose and Need for Action

The proposed federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.] addressed in this Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan is the selection of restoration projects to be funded from NRDA settlements along with Trustees oversight of the implementation of these projects. Restoration is necessary to compensate the public for natural resource injuries resulting from the release of hazardous substances from facilities that operated in and along Portage Creek and the Kalamazoo River. A restoration plan is necessary to facilitate effective restoration actions, including by providing for public input on the proposed restoration actions, and to comply with NEPA.

The actions proposed in this Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan will accomplish the following:

- Meet statutory objectives of restoring, replacing, rehabilitating, or acquiring the equivalent of natural resources and services potentially injured or destroyed as a result of releases of hazardous substances.
- Provide a diversity of sustainable habitat types within the Kalamazoo River watershed to enhance fish and wildlife resources potentially injured by the release of hazardous substances.
- Provide for public use and enjoyment of natural resources.

## Relationship to Programmatic Restoration Plan

This Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan picks up where the Programmatic Restoration Plan and its Record of Decision left off. The Programmatic Restoration Plan describes and evaluates preferred categories of restoration projects relative to the types of injuries observed in the KRE, but does not select specific projects other than the removal of the Otsego City Dam and the Otsego Dam. The Programmatic Restoration Plan does, however, lay out a process by which the Trustees will select specific restoration projects and the criteria by which they will be evaluated. Using the programmatic approach, goals, objectives, and selection criteria identified in the Programmatic Restoration Plan and a request for restoration project ideas from the public (described below), the Trustees are now ready to evaluate and propose specific projects for an initial round of restoration implementation with approximately \$12.4 million of available funds.

In this Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan, the Trustees propose a Preferred Alternative that would best meet the goals and objectives identified in the Programmatic Restoration Plan with the restoration project ideas developed with public input. The Trustees are now seeking public review and comment on this Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan and will consider and address public comments as the Supplemental Restoration Plan is finalized.

## Restoration Evaluation Process

On December 11, 2019, the Trustees announced that they were seeking restoration project ideas from the public through an online restoration portal and described the NRDA-specific eligibility and evaluation criteria that would be used to select specific restoration actions. The public and stakeholders submitted 83 ideas between the December 2019 announcement and March 18, 2020, the Trustees' published deadline for submitting ideas for this first round of project selections. After combining duplicate submittals, separating some submittals into two or more distinct project ideas, and screening the project ideas using the NRDA eligibility criteria, the Trustees ranked the resulting 54 restoration project ideas using the NRDA evaluation criteria. The top ranking project ideas across the categories of restoration identified in the Programmatic Restoration Plan (Table ES-1) have been further developed

and evaluated as the Preferred Alternative within this Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan. Lower ranking project ideas that are not proposed for funding in this first round of funding are summarized in the Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan and could be considered, along with modified or new project ideas, in future rounds of funding, if available from proposed or future settlements. The Trustees would seek additional public input as part of any such future rounds of funding.

**Table ES-1. Proposed restoration projects in the Preferred Alternative and relevant restoration categories as described in the Programmatic Restoration Plan (MDNR et al. 2016)**

Proposed Project	Restoration Categories
Plainwell Dam Area Restoration	Aquatic and riparian habitat restoration
Allegan City Dam Removal Engineering	Barrier removal
Nature Preserve along Kalamazoo River in Allegan	Habitat conservation
Plainwell Diversion Dam & Mill Race Dam Removal and Channel Restoration	Aquatic habitat restoration and barrier removal
Trowbridge Township Restoration and Access	Riparian habitat restoration
Davis-Olmsted Drain Improvements	Aquatic habitat restoration and barrier removal
Reed Court Floodplain and Stormwater Improvements	Riparian habitat restoration
River Bluff Park Shoreline Restoration	Riparian habitat restoration
Commerce Lane Railroad Trestle Removal and Bank Restoration	Aquatic and riparian habitat restoration
Mussel Translocation and Riffle Success Evaluation	Aquatic restoration
Kalamazoo River Shoreline Frontage and Acreage Acquisition near Calkins Dam	Habitat conservation
Manlius Township Land Protection	Habitat conservation
Parchment Restoration Plan/Urban Wildlife Corridor	Riparian habitat restoration
Koopman Marsh Restoration	Aquatic and riparian habitat restoration

## Affected Environment

The affected environment consists of the Kalamazoo River watershed, which encompasses 5,230 square kilometers (2,020 square miles) in southwestern Michigan and is described in detail in the Programmatic Restoration Plan. In brief, the watershed includes a variety of land uses and a diversity of habitats that support a broad range of aquatic and terrestrial species. The land use is dominated by agriculture, with



forested land, wetlands, and urban areas also being significant. The Kalamazoo River and its tributaries consist of cold and cool headwater streams with warm water rivers in the middle and lower portions of the watershed. The dominant natural terrestrial vegetation communities are both dry and wet hardwood forests, wet lowland forests, and grassland-savanna complexes. Economically, the Kalamazoo River watershed currently supports a mixture of agricultural production, light and heavy industry, and recreational businesses (Kalamazoo River Watershed Public Advisory Council, 1998).

## Environmental Consequences

This Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan analyzes potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed projects that constitute the Preferred Alternative for restoration in the Kalamazoo River watershed.

The analysis is summarized in Table ES-2 below. The Preferred Alternative is unlikely to have significant adverse impacts on the environment. This alternative would meet the mandates under NRDA statutes and regulations to restore natural resources and services injured by releases of hazardous substances and is consistent with the goals and objectives outlined in the Programmatic Restoration Plan. The Preferred Alternative would have direct beneficial effects and only minor, short-term adverse impacts. The No-Action Alternative would not have direct beneficial effects or adverse impacts but would allow the degraded conditions of habitats in the Kalamazoo River watershed to continue, which would not be consistent with the Programmatic Restoration Plan.

**Table ES-2. Summary of positive (+) and negative (-) environmental impacts for the No-Action and Preferred Alternatives**

Resource Area	Term	No-Action	Preferred
Water resources and water quality	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Moderate (+)
Geological resources and sediment quality	Short	None	Minor to moderate (-)
	Long	None	Moderate (+)
Biological resources - fish	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Minor to moderate (+)
Biological resources – aquatic invertebrates	Short	None	Minor to moderate (-)
	Long	None	Minor to moderate (+)
Biological resources - wildlife	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Moderate (+)
Biological resources – vegetation	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Moderate (+)
Biological resources – endangered species	Short	None	None to minor (-)
	Long	None	None to moderate (+)

Resource Area	Term	No-Action	Preferred
Cultural resources	Short	None	None to minor (-)
	Long	None	Moderate (+)
Air quality	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Minor (+)
Climate and climate resiliency	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Moderate (+)
Socioeconomic resources and environmental justice	Short	None	Minor (-) to minor (+)
	Long	None	Moderate (+)
Recreation and land use	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Moderate (+)
Noise	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Minor (+)