

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 29, 2011
3:15 pm
White Eagle Conference Center
Hamilton, NY



Present

Helen Sick, President
Bill Harman, Vice President
Walter Dutcher, Treasurer
Janet Andersen, Secretary
Jack Baldwin
Donald Cook
James Cunningham

Rich Henderson
John Jablonsky
George Kelley
Don Keppel
Nick Klupacs
Dean Long
Theresa Mayhew

Kathleen McLaughlin
Bob Rosati
Rebecca Schneider
Jan Shields
John Slater
Robert Thill

Absent

Matthew Albright
Rena Doing

Barbara Marko
David Wright

Also in Attendance

Nancy Mueller, Manager

Scott Kishbaugh, DEC

- 1. Call to Order.** President Helen Sick called the meeting to order at 3:15pm.
- 2. Minutes of the March 26, 2011 Meeting.** Don Keppel made a motion to waive reading of the minutes and to accept the minutes as written, Bob Rosati seconded, and motion carried.
- 3. Treasurer's Report.** Walter Dutcher commented on the year-to-date financial reports that he distributed at the meeting. Year to year, the total program revenues were down, reflecting somewhat lower conference revenues. Walter responded to questions about the valuation of the Diet books in inventory and accessibility of funds in the money market account. He indicated that the building assets were a challenge to the organization to direct their use wisely. Theresa Mayhew moved and Jan Andersen seconded to accept the financial report, and the motion was approved.
- 4. Office Report.** Nancy Mueller reported that with single day attendees, the conference would probably have attendance around 150 people, lower than the record breaking 2010 levels but still a good number, with 60 lakes represented. Nancy expects more questions to come in from members as the season starts. In response to a question about lake associations reactions to higher CSLAP fees, Nancy reported that two lakes had dropped out, but she felt that the reason was primarily because Westchester County was not paying the CSLAP fees, and that the increased fees did not have an impact. There was some association confusion about shallow and deep fees, and we should clarify that next year. Also some lakes did not realize they were supposed to be rotating out. Nancy was asked to assess whether any of the lakes that rotated out dropped their FOLA membership, and she will report in the next meeting. Nancy confirmed that Madison County would pay the CSLAP fees for participating lakes in the county. John Slater moved, and Nick Klupacs seconded, that the office report be accepted, and the motion passed.

5. Board of Directors Term Expirations. The committee reviewed the list of directors whose terms were expiring, and all expressed an interest in continuing to serve. Bill Harman motioned and Jack Baldwin seconded that the board recommend to the membership that these directors be reappointed. Jan Andersen moved, and Nick Kuplacs seconded, that Richard Henderson from the Black Lake Association be recommended to the members as a new director of the board. Rich introduced himself to the group. The motion passed. The board also reviewed the proposed slate of officers.

6. Marketing Committee. Jim Cunningham reported the Marketing Committee had been created at the March BOD meeting, with the purpose of growing the organization, improving the membership, and reaching out to other groups with complementary interests. The marketing committee agreed to ask who sponsored membership, and to give awards for those bringing in the most members in categories of individual, lake association, county, and business. The marketing committee had prepared posters and postcards advertising Diet. Jim mentioned a desire to have a CSLAP training DVD. He also wanted to focus on students and offer a scholarship, although the criteria is yet to be established. Our conference may be at a time that is during final exam prep for many students. Bill Harman and Rebecca Schneider offered to join the marketing committee.

8. CSLAP. Scott reported that the 2011 program was ready to go forward, made easier because UFI has supported the sample kit preparation. The state budget concerns do not seem to be impacting CSLAP at this point. The simpler reports of a scorecard and summary lake report are well received and were distributed to all 2010 lakes prior to the conference. The CSLAP committee had created special studies that would be discussed at the conference. There is more to be done to get CSLAP well represented on both the FOLA and DEC websites. A new item may be added to the CSLAP program in 2011, working with SUNY ESF to provide additional HAB screening. Greg Boyer of ESF has agreed to run a microcystin screen on our samples, probably using the color filter (which is currently thrown out). The administrative, logistical, and legal process questions need to be finalized but Scott and Nancy are working on those. The hope would be to provide more timely feedback on HABs and to improve our understanding of the relationship between our current parameters and HABs.

9. DEC Baitfish Regulations. Nancy had emailed a DEC proposal which was open for public comment. After extensive discussion of the pros and cons, including simplification for lake users, the educational benefit of the existing rules, and recognizing that the board may not fully understand the ramifications of the changes, we agreed that the board did not have adequate information to take a stance at this time.

7. NYSFOLA website. Walter reported that this was the first chance he had to engage in a face to face meeting with Don. We agreed that the board members should work on ideas to be discussed at the next meeting. The website is also related to the marketing committee work.

10. 2012 Conference Date and Location. The current 3 year contract with White Eagle ends this year. After discussing considerations for alternate locations, John Slater moved, and Bill Harman seconded that Nancy Mueller be authorized to negotiate a three year contract with White Eagle, and to establish the 2012 conference on the first weekend in May, and the motion carried.

11. New Business. (A) There was general recognition that the dedication of Nancy Craft at the registration desk and her handling the silent auction, raffle, and book sales all are important to the smooth functioning of the conference. Dean Long moved, and Bill Harman seconded, that a special recognition award be given to Nancy Craft, not to exceed \$250, in appreciation of her support. The motion carried with one director opposed, and one abstaining from voting.

(B) There was discussion about whether Nancy Mueller more properly fit the category of employee or a professional services subcontractor. Jan Andersen moved, and Bill Harman seconded, that Jim Cunningham, in concert with whatever experts and advisors he felt necessary, should evaluate the alternatives, make the appropriate decision about Nancy's employee status, and make changes if required, and the motion carried.

(C) Dean Long reported that a speaker from the DEC had been upset by public comments by a board member, and indicated an unwillingness to return to future FOLA conferences. The board was concerned that any speaker would feel this way, but especially concerned that it was a member of the DEC, who is such an important partner in FOLA activities. We agreed that it reflected poorly on the board as a whole, and all board members were reminded that as board members, we have a responsibility to the organization that is greater than our private concerns, and we must remember to act in accord with that responsibility. Bill Harman moved, and Robert Thill seconded, that Nancy would draft a memo to be signed by the President on behalf of FOLA, and the motion carried.

At 5:05 pm, Robert Thill moved, and Theresa Mayhew seconded, that the meeting should be reconvened after the general membership meeting, at the log cabin, on April 30, and the motion carried.

12. Meeting Reconvened. Helen Sick reconvened the meeting on April 30 at 8:55 pm. The board welcomed the newly elected board members, Rich Henderson and John Jablonski.

13. Election of officers. Don Keppel moved, and Walter Dutcher seconded, that the secretary be authorized to cast a vote for the election of the slate of officers:

President: Jim Cunningham
Vice President: Bill Harman
Treasurer: Walter Dutcher
Secretary: Janet Andersen
Past President: Helen Sick.

The motion passed, and the secretary cast the vote for officers as directed.

14. Remarks by the New President. Jim Cunningham indicated that he would like to have more board communications in addition to our in-person board meetings, and would look to set up a video- or conference-calling facility for FOLA. Skype and Adobe Connect were mentioned.

15. Scholarship. There was an extensive discussion of a scholarship program. Bill Harman suggested that a \$2000 incentive to encourage students to become lake managers would be helpful, and suggested partnership with and funding by lake associations that want lake management plans prepared. There were discussions of presentations at FOLA, submission of papers or poster sessions, solicitation of separate funding by individuals, associations, and businesses. Members need to be careful not to get benefits from scholarship donations.

Considerations included establishing a separate fund, and approaches including an endowment and a dedicated scholarship fundraising activities were discussed. Naming the scholarship after Bill Harman was suggested, although there were concerns about perceived conflict of interest. The board agreed that a process and criteria must be established. Jim suggested a scholarship committee, and in addition to Jim, initial members are Janet Andersen, Rich Henderson, Robert Thill, and Walter Dutcher.

16. Establishment of a Finance Committee. The discussion of funding for the scholarship generated the discussion of a need for a finance committee. Initial members were Walter (chair), Bob Thill, Janet Andersen, and it was suggested that Dave Wright be asked to join.

17. Establishment of a Conference Committee. Jim suggested that the conference could have more professional attendees, or town planning or zoning board members, if CEUs or other professional development hours were offered. A conference committee was established, with initial members being Dean Long, Nancy Mueller, Bill Harman, and Jim.

18. Federation of Lakes. Jan Shields, as the Federation of Lakes representative, asked the board for direction on the topics that had been brought forward at the members meeting.

(A). Tax break for land buffers. The board indicated that this was too vague and that the criteria, amounts, and costs to the state needed to be examined. John Jablowski will work with Jan Shields to develop a proposal or white paper for FOLA to consider.

(B). Transport law. It is felt that this was shorthand for the larger invasive species law that had been discussed by Leslie Suprenant that included the four tier categories, limits on sale and transportation, etc. Dean Long will get a copy of the draft law and distribute it to the board for consideration.

(C). Baitfish. We reopened the discussion and again agreed that we did not have enough information to make a comment at this time.

(D). Alum. After discussion the board agreed that we would not take a position at this time. Jan Shields will get back to the members who spoke at the meeting with our decisions.

19. Next meeting date. Don Keppel moved and George Kelley seconded that Nancy Mueller would work on the next meeting date and communicate it to the board.

20. Regional meeting. Jim Cunningham reiterated that a regional meeting might be helpful as part of the marketing of FOLA, and asked Kathleen McLaughlin and Janet Andersen to consider a Lower Hudson regional meeting. They agreed to work on one, starting with an assessment of whether this would be well received.

21. Adjournment. George Kelley moved and Theresa Mayhew seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 9:50 pm, and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Andersen

Janet Andersen, Secretary, NYS FOLA