

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 7, 2015

Delaware Room, White Eagle Conference Center
Hamilton, NY



Present

George Kelley, President	Jim Cunningham	Laurel Mann
Walter Dutcher, Treasurer	Tarki Heath	Theresa Mayhew
Janet Andersen, Secretary	Rich Henderson	Bob Rosati
Matthew Albright	John Jablonski	Robert Thill
Donald Cook	Dean Long	

Absent

Bill Harman, Vice President	Rebecca Schneider	David Wright
Jack Baldwin	Jan Shields	
Kathleen McLaughlin	John Slater	

Also in Attendance

Nancy Mueller, Manager	Scott Kishbaugh, DEC	Nancy Craft
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- 1. Call to Order.** President George Kelley called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.
- 2. Minutes of the September 27, 2014 Meeting.** Robert Thill moved, and Jim Cunningham seconded that the September 2014 Board meeting minutes be approved, and the motion carried.
- 3. Treasurer's Report and Budget.** Walter Dutcher reviewed our financial status. The balance sheet shows we have ample cash on hand and investments that total \$216,763. The P&L shows that in 2014, FOLA lost \$9,291, largely driven by an increase in operating costs and salary. We did not send the scholarship payment in 2014: that would have increased our loss by \$5,000. Walter and Jan Andersen prepared a preliminary budget which results in a loss of about \$16,000 in 2015. The board reviewed the assumptions and asked for more details by line item, which Walter will distribute. Operationally, Walter reported that an envelope with checks was lost in the mail and Nancy and Walter will explore actions. Robert Thill reported on the investment status. Robert Thill moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted, John Jablonski seconded, and the motion carried.
- 4. Office Report.** Nancy Mueller reported that the extra hours had been very useful and she was using some of the time to investigate contact information for lake associations in the hope of increasing membership. NALMS preparation is going smoothly, with many workshops proposed. Nancy also reviewed the key speakers at NALMS. She asked for the board to suggest more exhibitors and said that volunteers would be needed. Nancy spoke about the conference preparation getting underway and the next issue of Waterworks will be going out shortly.

5. **Scholarship Committee.** The board expressed general support for the program and agreed that the criteria needed to be clarified. Dean Long moved that the scholarship committee be asked to examine the policy and propose adjustments, including a written application for the lake association and students, a schedule, criteria for evaluation, and the possible expansion of the work product beyond a lake management plan to enable addressing specific issues. John Jablonski seconded, and the motion carried.
6. **Email Voting.** Rich Henderson brought up the issues with a lack of time to consider issues and asked for 72 hours for consideration. We reviewed the requirements for email voting in NYS, which is that the vote be 100% and unanimous. Robert Thill indicated that our bylaws allow an executive committee to carry on the business of the board between meetings.

Lunch. The board recessed for lunch at noon and reconvened at 12:45 pm.

7. **Long Range Planning Committee.** The four steps to the Long Range Planning Process include Mission and Values/Principles as Foundational Elements (Current state); Strengths, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat (SWOT) Analysis; Voice of the Customer; surveys; and Future State Vision. Rich Henderson reported that he had discussed our organization with some strategic planners, and he provided their feedback. Rich indicated next steps in the process are to prepare and distribute a questionnaire. He said he'd prepared some questions. Members of the committee said they are eager for greater visibility to, and involvement in, the process.
8. **CSLAP Committee.** Scott Kishbaugh reviewed the 2014 program, which is now down to report production. About half are done. Reports include new HAB data, a watershed use map, and aquatic invasives information. An executive summary Q&A is new this year and has been well received. The 2015 program has slightly fewer lakes, and will include some chloride sampling. The on-line reporting pilot will provide in season reporting and we hope will attract more users. The board decided that waivers will not go on line this year. Scott also discussed the plans for "CSLAP Friday" at the conference. He said that the DEC-FOLA contract update for the next two years is awaiting the division of budget approval. Training videos should be available by May.
9. **DEC update** Scott Kishbaugh reported that DOH may include beach closures on the HAB website and that something similar to the NYAlert program for sewage may be considered for HABs. Scott mentioned that a lakes atlas is under discussion and he would like to know FOLA's role and whether we agree that private lakes could "opt out". He mentioned that NY's position on alum continues to be that it is a pesticide and thus its use is illegal in lake management. On staffing, Scott said 2 of the 8 people in his DOW section are gone, and he may lose one more. So far the state has not approved his requests to hire replacements. Scott may try to get a summer intern for DOW.
10. **2015 NYSFOLA Conference Update.** Nancy Mueller reviewed the current agenda and we discussed how to fill the few remaining topics. We also discussed ways to get better conference feedback.
11. **2015 NALMS.** Update was covered in the office report.
12. **Nominating Committee.** The board had reviewed Rena Doing's resignation letter and accepted the resignation with regrets and appreciation for her service. Bob Thill reported that the Nominating Committee had put an article in Waterworks but had not received any nominations. The committee will prepare a slate of officers for election in May.
13. **DAM Users Group.** Bob Rosati reported that he had not spent any of the board allocation. He reviewed the topics for the conference and discussed his outreach activities.

14. Goodnow Flow. Nancy Mueller reported on this case involving the right of lake associations to collect dues. Jan Andersen moved and John Jablonski seconded that David Wright be authorized to represent FOLA on a pro bono basis in the Goodnow case and take actions according to his discretion, and the motion passed.

15. Advocacy. Nancy Mueller reported that members had asked FOL to write letters to the NYS legislature in support of legislation that would restrict plastic microbead use in personal care products. Don Cook reported on his discussions with representatives on this topic and requested the board provide rationale he could use in the letter. Jan Andersen moved, and Terri Mayhew seconded, that Don Cook as the FOL representative should write letters to the legislature in support of the proposed legislation, and the motion passed. We discussed the request for a FOL letter in support of amendments and funding of the revolving fund for septic repair. We felt we did not understand the proposed legislation well enough to act at this time.

16. New business:

- a. Walter Dutcher asked whether we should continue to pay an accountant to prepare the 990 and Char 500. The sense of the board was that in the absence of a requirement, and if it wasn't a great deal of work for Walter, that he should continue to prepare the reports. We agreed to revisit this because it might be prudent to have an accountant review the process and the results every few years.
- b. Walter also asked about routing the income and expense for the Western Regional Conference through FOLA and we agreed that as long as the workload wasn't too burdensome it was acceptable.
- c. Terri Mayhew said that she intended to use Facebook as well as the web to remind people of the newsletter contest deadline of April 1. She would also publicize the silent auction and the wine auction.

17. Next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 1, 3 pm, at White Eagle

18. Adjournment. Don Cook moved for adjournment at 3:00 pm, Jim Cunningham seconded, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Andersen

Janet Andersen, Secretary, NYS FOLA