

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 19, 2016
Appley Conference Center at White Eagle
Hamilton, NY



Present

George Kelley, President
Walter Dutcher, Treasurer
Janet Andersen, Secretary
Jack Baldwin
Donald Cook

Jim Cunningham
Tarki Heath
Rich Henderson
John Jablonski
Dean Long

Laurel Mann
Theresa Mayhew
Bob Rosati
John Slater
Robert Thill

Absent

Bill Harman, Vice President
Matthew Albright

Rebecca Schneider
Jan Shields

David Wright

Also in Attendance

Nancy Mueller, Manager

Scott Kishbaugh, DEC

- 1. Call to Order.** President George Kelley called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.
- 2. Minutes of the September 26, 2015 Meeting.** Laurel Mann moved and Bob Thill seconded that the September 26, 2015 Board meeting minutes be approved, and the motion carried.
- 3. Conflict of Interest Policy.** Jan Andersen reviewed the proposed changes to our conflict of interest policy. Robert Thill moved, and Terri Mayhew seconded, that the updated policy be adopted, and the motion carried. Dean Long asked that the minutes record that he abstained because NYS legislators do not sign conflict of interest agreements. Laurel Mann offered a draft template of a whistleblower policy. Dean Long and Nancy Mueller will draft a records retention policy. Jan will distribute these for our May meeting.
- 4. Treasurer's Report and Budget.** Walter Dutcher reviewed our financial status year for 2015. We had \$254K of gross income which will require that we obtain an accountant to review our books. He asked for suggestions for accountants. The board discussed the regulatory requirements and asked Walter to confirm. Although we had a loss in 2015, the balance sheet shows we have adequate funds on hand. Bob Thill reported on the investment returns and moved that an additional \$75K from funds on hand be put in the investment accounts, Rich Henderson seconded, and the motion carried. Rich moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Bob seconded, and the motion carried.
- 5. Office Report.** Walter Dutcher lead the Board in recognizing and thanking Nancy Mueller for her leadership on the NALMS conference. Nancy explained her role in getting the agreement for a minimum payment from NALMS for hosting the conference and said that she expected a payment of \$6000 to \$8000 this year. Regarding the NYS FOLA conference, Nancy provided a registration list and indicated that so far we are on track with last year. The "Give a Gift to NY Lakes" had received about \$3800 and she thanked all contributors. Waterworks is back from the printer and will be mailed shortly. She discussed attending regional meetings to provide NYFOLA visibility. We agreed that the tri-fold brochure on How to Hire a Lake Consultant should be given out at the conference and put up on the web, so 250 will be printed.
- 6. 2016 Conference Update.** After discussion, Tarki Heath moved, and Robert Thill seconded that MaryGail Perkins would be given the Lake Tear of the Clouds award. We discussed a need for more entries for media, newsletter, and lake steward nominations. Rich Henderson also provided some updates based on his review of past conference surveys, together with a new feedback form. Nancy Craft will no longer staff the registration desk, and Jason Wheelock has helped her in the past. He is willing to do this again, and

Rich asked that we pay Jason's expenses in exchange. Laurel Mann moved, and Terri Mayhew seconded that FOLA pay these, and the motion carried. Rich abstained. We agreed that the conference should have a formal welcome each day to orient attendees. Rich was asked to do that orientation. Dean Long will appoint moderators for each session. We agreed on measures to encourage the return of feedback forms. Walter will work on the getting the credit card machine ready for use during the conference.

7. **2017 Conference Venue.** Nancy Mueller was optimistic based on her work with an agent to find a new location. She will visit Otesaga in Cooperstown and report at the May meeting.
8. **Nominating Committee.** John Slater reported that the current board members up for reelection are Matt Albright, Laurel Mann, and Jan Shields. A new board member has been suggested and received strong endorsement from Nancy Mueller. The board agreed that these four members, assuming they are all willing to stand for reelection, will be the board nominees for directors. John Slater also mentioned that, assuming that Rich Henderson becomes President, we need a President-elect, and he solicited interest.
9. **Recess for lunch**
10. **2016 Budget.** Jim Cunningham presented a "what if" budget spreadsheet that allows board members to understand the effect of changes in various line items in the budget. He indicated that our outlook is for another loss this year. He introduced the concept of spreading the cost of Nancy's salary and the office across the various programs. We reviewed the effect of the increase in membership fees. We talked about publicity to reach Bass Masters and other audiences to increase our attendance at the conference, although we are currently at capacity.
11. **CSLAP.** Scott Kishbaugh reported that in 2015 the CSLAP program had 120 lakes and 123 sites, with 933 bloom samples. The HABs program extends beyond CSLAP lakes. Scott has completed 90 CSLAP reports. New in 2015: chloride sampling and growth of the on-line data entry, which was used by lakes for about 1/3 of the 931 reports. These came from 47 lakes (39%). This had value beyond freeing Nancy from typing, as it gave immediate information, in season feedback to the lakes, fewer data errors and questions, and can support DEC data input. In 2016, 126 lakes and 129 sites will participate in CSLAP. Scott discussed rising state attention to water issues (Water Task Force, PFOA). Rebecca Gorney is working on a HABs Plan, and Scott reported that UFI has a grant to study the rich data set provided by CSLAP. Scott also said that two new things were coming in the future: Regional reports will replace individual lake reports as more sustainable, and we are adding an AIS protocol for volunteers. Walter stated that the board had directed the CSLAP committee to manage to breakeven without office costs. We also reviewed that the DEC contract would end after this year, and Jim Cunningham, Jan Andersen, and Walter Dutcher were asked to begin working on a new contract with DEC.
12. **Long Range Planning.** Rich Henderson reported on the information that had been distributed on the board questionnaire. He sent out 20 email member questionnaires as a pilot, and received 5 back. He plans to put the member survey in the conference packet. The process continues to move forward.
13. **Executive Session.** The board went into executive session. Upon coming out, the board reported that Nancy Mueller would be given a raise for the FOLA payroll from \$1,100 to \$1,200 per two week period, effective April 1.
14. **Gift (aka scholarship).** The board discussed that although this is a valuable program, it might not be affordable. We could not agree on the process or timing.
15. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm. The next meeting will be on April 29, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Andersen

Janet Andersen, Secretary, NYS FOLA