

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Crandon Public Library (no Zoom)
Friday, March 16, 2024

Call to Order: 9:30 am by President Pam Schroeder who declared a quorum.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Present: Pam Schroeder, Bob Ebben, Clair Carty, Curt Haga, Mark Smith, Steve Kircher, Mark Truyman, Greg Schmitz, Derek Thorn, and Kathy Babcock.

Board of Directors present via ZOOM: No Zoom connection.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Excused: Vi & Lee Lamers, Larry Sommer, Jim Zach, and Steve Kircher.

Board of Directors Absent: Mike Henderson, Pat Schultz, Patty Orlovsky, and Dan Verbanec.

Guests: none.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion to accept the minutes from 01/19/24 was made by Curt Haga and seconded by Greg Schmitz. Motion passed unanimously. We did not have a meeting in February.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bob Ebben distributed and reviewed the register report, net worth, and current budget. A motion was made by Mark Truyman, seconded by Mark Smith to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

GRANT UPDATES

CoVantage -- Bob Ebben contacted CoVantage to see if we can apply for another grant. He spoke to Morgan Thiel. She suggested that we submit a request again and indicated that the application is on line. She indicated that the next grant request reviews would be done in July. Bob will work on this and will contact pertinent board members for needed information.

Visit Forest County (formerly known as the Chamber of Commerce) – Mark Truyman reported that lake associations can join Visit Forest County (\$60/year for non-profits). By being a member, a lake association may be eligible for a Visit Forest County grant. Lake Metonga has recently joined. Mark T. encourages FCAL to join. Bob will look into this. If we were to apply for a grant, we might write it to include the purchase of non-lead sinkers, sinker bags & labels, cloth bags for Kentuck Day, materials for monofilament disposal receptacles at area boat landings, etc. Greg Schmitz offered to help Bob get information regarding the sinkers, etc. and Mark Smith will help get cost information for the monofilament receptacle materials. Derek Thorn offered to help with the installation of the receptacles.

LIAISON REPORTS

Forest County Land and Water Conservation: Steve Kircher reported . . .

- that he was contacted by “Rent/Fun!”, a company that sells and services self-serve rentals for kayak, paddleboard, and outdoor games. He reviewed their products with us.

- that Sen. Baldwin has put him in touch with their grant writers.

- that that deadline to order native plants from the Land & Water Conservation Dept. is April 5. A list of available plants and the order form are available on department’s website: <https://forestcountylandandwater.org>.

- that he attended a Wetlands Convention. He was the only County Conservationist. He learned that the DNR wants to re-seed some bog areas in Forest County with Wild Rice. The issue of mining also came up at that conference. Wisconsin River Alliance is lobbying against it. As a public official, Steve is remaining neutral.

FLOW/AIS: Derek Thorn reported that. . .

- the Lake & River Convention is April 10-12 – he and Pam encourages anyone interested in our lakes to attend.

- Surface Water Grants for Clean Boats Clean Waters have been awarded to the following Forest County lakes: Metonga, Lucerne, and Butternut-Franklin.
- AIS Management Grants have been awarded to Roberts Lake and Lake Metonga.
- River Management Plan Grant is being used to restore the North Branch of the Oconto River near the town of Wabeno.
- at the NR-40 meeting the status of the Spiny Water Flea has changed from a prohibited species to a restrictive species. The impact of the Spiny Water Flea on a lake is mostly unknown at this time.
- he attended the planning session for the Six County Lakes Meeting:
 - it will be held on Friday, July 12 at Nicolet College – get the word out to your lake association members, so they can encourage their members to attend. Remember FCAL’s July Board Meeting will immediately follow this meeting (instead of July 19) – we already have a room reserved.

Lumberjack: No report at this time.

WRISC: No report at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Annual Meeting/Dinner – Tentatively set for Saturday, October 19, 2024. Pam will work with the Mole Lake Banquet Hall in the casino for this year’s meeting/dinner. This may cost us a bit more, but since the Mole Lake Chippewa Community supports FCAL, we would like to return the favor. Pam will work on this.

Business Donation & New Membership Forms – no report at this time.

Environmental Days – no report at this time.

Essay Contest: Clair Carty explained that this year’s essay topic is “Our Changing Lakes and Streams” and will require the students to interview a person from the area. Some board members signed up to be interviewed although students are allowed to find an interviewee of their choice. She will be dropping off the essay

contest materials at each of the three schools (Wabeno, Laona, and Crandon) this Monday. Pam and Derek will arrange to do a short presentation on FCAL and the essay contest to the combined classes (5th & 6th grades) at each of the three schools. The judging of the contest will be on Friday, May 17 after the FCAL board meeting – we will break for lunch in between the board meeting and the contest judging. Steve mentioned that although Tyler Norris is no longer with WRISC, the Milfoil Man costume is available.

Clair made a motion, seconded by Steve, that we offer 1st (\$100), 2nd (\$50), and 3rd (\$25) place prizes for each class at each school instead of splitting it among the two grades at each of the three schools. Discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously. Bob will adjust the budget to account for this new amount.

Fall Forum, Friday, August 16 – Jim has already reserved the Lake Lucerne Pavilion for this event. Because he couldn't attend today's meeting, he sent Pam an email (see as an addendum to these minutes) which was discussed. In addition to the ideas mentioned in Jim's email, a few other possibilities of speakers or topics were named: Kayla Littleton (from Steve's office) on Shoreline Restoration Paul Skawinski (from UW- Extension Lakes) on Citizen Lake Monitoring Program and what the DNR has learned from the data volunteers report, Wake Boating/Wake Surfing. Many indicated interested in having a speaker(s) on Wake Boats.

Kentuck Days – Saturday, July 27. Mark Smith has already reserved two spaces for our booth (the same ones as last year). Mark is donating pints of his maple syrup for each person who signs up at our booth as a new member.

Newsletter – Please get articles to Vi Lamers by May 1st.

Website – Clair and Kathy are meeting after this board meeting to work on the website and will then get in touch with Brandon to see how quickly we can go live. Bob will contact Brandon Quinn, webmaster, to set up payment section of website. A suggestion was made that we put a request in the upcoming newsletter for photos of Forest County lakes for use on our website.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Wake Boats & Wake Surfers – Kathy made a motion, seconded by Curt Haga, that FCAL support the position that Wisconsin Lakes has taken on Wake Enhancing Watercraft as it appears on their website. Discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

Change in our July meeting date -- In order to coincide with the Six County Lakes meeting, our FCAL July Board Meeting will be moved to the second Friday of July (July 12) and will be held at Nicolet College immediately following the Six County meeting. All are welcome.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Mark Truymen, seconded by Greg Schmitz. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Note: Our next Board of Directors Meeting is at 9:30 am on Friday, April 19 at the Crandon Public Library live and via ZOOM. Please let Pam and Kathy know if you are not able to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Babcock
Secretary

ADDENDUM

Here is an excerpt from the email sent by Jim Zach with info regarding Fall Forum that was discussed at the meeting:

Jeanne Fannin is willing to attend but said she doesn't have any new zoning topics to present. However, if attendees just want to ask her questions, she's very willing to have conversations.

I can ask RT Krueger or Mike Preul if members want.

Couple other ideas:

Carol Warden PhD is a researcher at UW Trout Lake Station. She wrote an interesting report in a recent Lake Tides newsletter regarding an international lake monitoring project that she's a part of. I could ask her if there's interest.

Greg Matzke did a very interesting presentation recently on WDNR fishing survey results from Forest and Florence Counties. He could just focus on Forest County lakes, covering not only Walleye but other species as well and he has info on all Walleye stocking.

Let me know preferences and I'll follow up.

Jim Wienser, a Lucerne landowner, and myself put in another fish stick recently.