

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING LIVE & VIA ZOOM
March 18, 2022 STARTING AT 9:30 AM

Call to Order: 9:32 am by President Pam Schroeder who declared a quorum.

Board of Directors Present: Pam Schroeder, Pat Schultz, Bob Ebben, Clair Carty, Mike Henderson, Curt Haga, Pat Schultz, Greg Schmitz, Mark Smith, and Kathy Babcock.

Board of Directors Excused: Vi Lamers, Lee Lamers, and Mark Truyman

Board of Directors Present via ZOOM: Steve Kircher, Jim Zach, Dan Verbanac,

Guests: Derek Thorn -- FLOW AIS Coordinator; Brad Kupfer – Pickerell-Crane Lakes; Michelle Gobert – FCAL’s Webmaster; Ron Krueger -- Ground Hemlock Lake

Minutes: Motion to accept the minutes from 11/12/21 with a correction in a name was made by Clair Carty and seconded by Mike Henderson. Motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTIONS

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Bob Ebben distributed and reviewed the register report, net worth, and budget. Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was made by Mike Henderson and seconded by Mark Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

Bob E. reported that to date we have received dues from 12 out of 20 of our lake associations, 4 businesses, and 147 members. He will be sending out reminders to lake associations before the middle of May. Unpaid members will receive reminders in June.

LIAISON REPORTS

Forest County Report & WRISC Update – Steve Kircher reported that in early April, he and his technician, Kayla, will be attending the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention in Stevens Point.

Steve K. and Jeannie, from the Zoning Office, will put together a zoning presentation for a future meeting. The goals are to get rid of misconceptions regarding zoning regulations and to go over grant monies available to property owners.

WRISC (Wild Rives Invasive Species Coalition) is currently gearing up for the summer season. Their Strike Team is getting ready for a busy summer.

Steve K. and Kayla will be out this spring on all mapped county roads spraying for Garlic Mustard and Wild Parsnip.

The legislative number that incorporates shoreline zoning is NR-151. This document can be accessed by going to the Wisconsin State Legislature site and searching for NR-151.

Kudos to Larry Sommer who was recognized by the state as “Outstanding County Supervisor of the Year”.

FLOW AIS (Forest, Langlade, Oconto Waterways Aquatic Invasive Species) Report -- Coordinator, Derek Thorn, reported that he would also be attending the Lakes and Rivers Convention in early April.

If your organization ordered towels through FLOW, you will be receiving the quantity you ordered. Derek T. will distribute them to you once he receives them.

Derek T. is available to run training sessions for your association for Clean Boats Clean Waters and/or Citizens Lake Monitoring. Contact him directly to make arrangements.

Sandy Wickman will be ordering equipment for Forest County.

June 3-5 is dedicated for giving out blue towels at boat landings.

The Boat Landing Blitz (white towel distribution) is July 1 -5.

August 20 is AIS Snap Shot Day.

Derek T. can lend out new Dissolved Oxygen Meters for 3-5 day periods. These will be available throughout the summer. Quality meters are expensive.

Associations may consider purchasing their own through grants. These meters can be used to create a profile of a lake by reading the oxygen level every three feet to the bottom. Understanding the oxygen levels throughout a lake helps us understand what fish and plants can live in those areas. These reading, especially after ice-out, can help predict potential fish kill. Lakes with aerations systems keep oxygen levels steady.

OLD BUSINESS

Website – Michelle Goebert is our webmaster. She also serves on the Crandon School Board and works for UW Extension, Youth Education – the purpose of which is to develop youth to become stewards of our county.

Michelle G. reviewed the recent changes to our website. The changes will help it be more responsive – so it can be easily visualized on all types of devices: desktop, laptop, tablet, phone.

Currently the search bar is at the bottom to keep the page from being too cluttered, but Michelle G. will consider relocating it to the top as that is where most people look. She will also add a link to NR-151.

Kathy Babcock will send board meeting minutes and Annual Meeting minutes to Michelle G. so these can be updated regularly. Pam S. and Vi Lamers will send newsletters/lake news/news releases to Michelle G. as they become available. Steve K's "Conservation Corner" articles can also be made available on the website. We could also have AIS news in the search bar, etc. The website will provide board members' email addresses but not their phone numbers. Lake Associations with links to their websites can also be listed. Michelle G. will make changes and send to all board members.

If we want to sell t-shirts online, we would need to set up a Pay Pal account – we could use this for membership payments, too. No decision was made regarding this.

Potowatomic Foundation Grant – Pam S. attempted to apply online for this grant and learned that we need to have specific projects not on-going projects in order to be eligible. Some possible projects could include purchasing materials for local libraries and lake associations, reproducing the AIS book previously published by UW Stevens Point, purchasing a Loon Watch board. Before we apply for next

year's grant, we need to determine projects for which we would use the money. Steve K. can also help us apply for grants, but FCAL needs to come up with a project first.

Fab Lab Report – Clair Carty contacted Brian Van Efflen at Wabeno High School's Fab Lab. Although he was excited about a project to produce 3-D AIS models, he indicated that there is no 3-D class this year, but that next year they might have an advanced class. Michelle G. indicated that Crandon High School has a Fab Lab as does the Forest County Potowatomie Community (FCPC), which also has a Department of Natural Resources that might be of help. Clair C. will contact Michelle G. for contact names and numbers. Michelle G. suggested that UW-Extension Lakes might be of help with this, too.

Certificates of Merit — Pam S. sent Certificates of Merit to Les Schramm, Stu McPherson, and Bruce Court for their years of service to FCAL.

NEW BUSINESSS

Essay Contest – Clair C. will reach out to Harry Resch about the essay contest. She will handle contacting the schools about the essay contest and its deadlines.

Newsletter – Send ideas or articles to Vi Lamers for the spring newsletter. Curt Haga will attend and represent FCAL at the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Conference and will collect ideas for Vi L. to include in the newsletter.

Kentuck Days – Saturday, July 23. Derek T. will supply towels for us to distribute. Mike Henderson, Mark Smith, and Greg Schmitz will help put up the display, which is in Harry Resch's garage. Consider applying for a grant to purchase a small box trailer with a drop gate for FCAL's use at Kentuck Days, etc.

Fall Forum – Saturday, August 20. Jim Zach will reserve the Lake Lucerne Pavillion for no charge.

Environmental Day – Michelle G. will contact schools to set a September date.

Annual Meeting and Banquet – Saturday, October 22. Pam S. and Kathy B. will research a venue, a menu, and a presentation (possibly Christian Cold).

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

2022 Wisconsin Conservation Congress Resolution – Brad Kupfer (Crane-Pickerel Lakes) provided copies of this resolution. The purposes of this resolution are to do the following:

- to align Forest County with other northern counties, including Florence, Vilas, Oneida, Lincoln, and Sawyer;
- to protect lakes under 200 acres in order to sustain current population estimates;
- to help prevent the need in smaller lakes of yearly stocking of walleye by the DNR; and,
- to eliminate “conflicting regulations” on the few lakes that span two counties, e.g., Julia, Kentuck, Sevenmile.

The above would be accomplished by changes to the current regulation of “3 hooks, baits or lures per person with no maximum number of lines per boat” to “1 hook, bait or lure per person and 3 lines maximum per boat.”

How can we show our support? Between April 11-14, vote yes on this resolution as it fits the FCAL mission. Voting will be done online at the DNR website. Steve K. will write an article about this issue and will include instructions on how to cast one’s vote electronically. If the resolution does pass, it may take a couple of years before it gets on the DNR website.

Items for Next Meeting – t-shirts, wake boats, Mole Lake Fish Hatchery.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn was made by Mike Henderson, seconded by Mark Smith. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Next BOD meeting will occur at the Crandon Public Library via Zoom or in-person on Friday, 22 April 2022 at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Babcock
Secretary