

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING LIVE & VIA ZOOM
April 23, 2021 STARTING AT 9:00

Call to Order: 9:08 am by President Pam Schroeder who declared a quorum.

Board of Directors Present: Pam Schroeder, Vi and Lee Lamars, Larry Sommer, Clair Carty, Bob Ebben, Mike Henderson, and Kathy Babcock.

Board of Directors Present via ZOOM: Jim Wienser, Pat Schultz, Steve Kircher, Dan Verbanac, Greg and Carol Schmitz.

Guest: Lindsay Peterson, Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC)

Minutes: Motion to accept the minutes from 3/19/21 with spelling errors corrected (Verbanac and Swozinski) was made by Mark Smith, seconded by Pat Schultz. Motion passed.

INTRODUCTIONS

Pam Schroeder introduced new board member, Dan Verbanac of Silver Lake; guest Lindsay Peterson, Coordinator of Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC); and new FCAL secretary, Kathy Babcock.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Bob Ebben reviewed the register report, net worth, and proposed budget.

Register Report: Bob E. noted that the \$100.00 donation to River Alliance does not yet appear on the register report.

Net Worth: A question was raised about the net worth: "What net worth amount must we have before we go into the next tax bracket?" Dan Verbanac offered to research this for us and will report at the next meeting.

Proposed Budget: Discussion ensued about the proposed budget. Bob E. will take our proposed suggestions and present a revised proposed budget at the next meeting. Motion: Lee Lamars made the motion, seconded by Vi Lamars, that we

approve the treasurer's report and table the approval of the proposed budget until the next meeting. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Essay Contest – Due to health issues, Harry Resch turned over the Essay Contest to Pam S. and Steve Kircher. Pam S. has made arrangements to pick up Laona's on April 23 and will pick up Crandon's and Wabeno's on or before April 30.

Those who can will meet on May 4 at the Crandon Library at 10 am to judge the essays. After judging, lunch will be provided.

1st (\$100), 2nd (\$50), and 3rd (\$25) place awards will be given to each school of the three schools totaling \$525. Pam S. will supply Bob E. with the specific details before the prizes are awarded at the Annual Meeting and Banquet.

Newsletter – Vi L. reminded us that the newsletter will benefit from our contributions. The deadline to send submissions to Vi L. (llamars@gmail.com) is May 26. Some ideas include the following:

- phosphorus from fire pits, fertilizer and burning on lake during ice fishing (Steve K. has information on this);
- environmental effects of insecticides used for mosquito control (Steve K. or Kathy B. will write this);
- damage that wake boats/jet skis can do to shorelines and the laws associated with them. (As an aside, the group discussed the possible need for signage at boat landings citing regulations about distance from shore for wake boats/jet skis, etc., and corresponding fines and liabilities. Steve Kircher indicated that this signage is in the works – see Forest County Report below);
- WRISC projects in Forest County and an appeal for lake association partnerships (Lindsay Peterson has agreed to write this);
- FLOWAIS (see Forest County Report below); and,
- Lumberjack RC & D (see report below).

NEW BUSINESS

2021 BOD Volunteers/Replacements – Pam S. announced that Dan Verbanac has agreed to replace Cliff Haskins as representative from Silver Lake. Vi L. made a

motion, seconded by Lee L., to appoint Dan Verbanac a member of the FCAL Board of Directors. Motion passed.

Lee L. agreed to continue working on finding a replacement board member from Trump Lake. A possible candidate is Scott Swozinski.

Forest County Report – Steve Kircher reported that McKenzie Franc was hired to be the Tri County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) coordinator, which will be named FLOW-AIS (Forest, Langlade, Oneida Waterways AIS). This position existed in the past, but was grant funded, and when the grant ran out, the position ended. The three counties have come together in order to pool their monies and offer an attractive wage. McKenzie F. will be stationed in Oconto, and she will have a staff to help her, too.

Steve K's department has been working on signage for wake boats to be posted at boat landings. In addition, he has had Forest County's Lake Courtesy Code Posters reprinted for posting at the landings. The poster names such things as quiet hours, cleaning boats, etc.

WRISC Report – WRISC is a grant and donation funded organization whose mission is to help stop the spread of land and water invasive species. It has a five-county territory – three in Wisconsin (Forest, Florence, Marinette) and two in the Upper Peninsula (Dickinson, Menominee). Lindsay Peterson, WRISC Coordinator, reported that WRISC has been very busy. They have hired a full crew for this year, including a boat wash crew. They are busy supporting Clean Boats Clean Waters programs, controlling the spread of terrestrial invasive species such as Wild Parsnips, phragmites, and Garlic Mustard, as well as aquatic invasive species including but not limited to Zebra Mussels, Eurasian Milfoil, and Curly Pondweed. They have programs to survey lake waters and they also do free site visits. They also have a diver assisted suction harvester (DASH) program, which focuses on pathways through which AIS tend to spread.

Steve K. is interested in finding funding for a DASH boat, and Lee L. indicated that Roberts Lake was interested in retrofitting a pontoon boat into a DASH unit. Although WRISC's DASH unit is on a raft, Lindsay P. indicated that she has some good resources on how to retrofit a pontoon. She will provide these to Lee L. and Steve K. She also believes there may be EPA grant monies for funding diver training regarding the right way to effectively pull weeds. Steve K. indicated that

Silver Lake has a problem with Eurasian Milfoil. If Forest County had a DASH unit, they might have been able to help control its spread. Instead, Silver Lake will be using poison to control the Milfoil.

This year there will be no in-person WRISC Annual Meeting. It will occur sometime in early June and will likely offer a pre-recorded video series with training videos, etc.

Lumberjack RC&D Report – Larry Sommer reported this organization was established in 1968 and that Forest County is the first county to receive the new publication *Lumberjack RC & D Plan Work*, which he distributed to those present. Those who were at the meeting via ZOOM can contact Steve K. (lcc@co.forest.wi.us) to have an electronic copy sent to them.

This is a nine or ten county grant-awarding organization. It costs each county \$200/year to be part of the organization. In a typical year they award \$100,000 worth of grants with a maximum of \$10,000 per project. The deadline to submit grant requests is October 1, 2021. Lake associations appealing for grants must work with Forest County Land and Water Conservation Department (Steve K.) to do so. Steve K is the one who officially submits the grant proposal.

Additional New Business – At the next meeting, we will discuss whether or not we should order the *Lake Life Pocketbook* and/or reorder *Lake Plants You Should Know*.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Lee L., seconded by Clair Carty. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

Next BOD meeting May 21, 2021 at 9:00 am in person at the Crandon Library and via ZOOM .

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Babcock
Secretary