

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
due to weather conditions ZOOM only
Friday, March 17, 2023

Call to Order: 9:44 am by President Pam Schroeder who declared a quorum.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Present via Zoom: Pam Schultz, Bob Ebben, Mark Smith, Curt Haga, Vi Lamers, Lee Lamers, Greg Schmitz, Steve Kircher, Derek Thorn, Pam Schroeder, Jim Zach, and Kathy Babcock.

Board of Directors Excused: Clair Carty, Dan Verbanec, Mark Truyman, Mike Henderson, and Larry Sommer.

Board of Directors Absent: Jim Wiesner, Patty Orlovsky.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion to accept the minutes from 01/20/23 was made by Vi Lamers and seconded by Jim Zach. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

A motion was made by Jim Zach, seconded by Curt Haga to increase the budgeted amount for Wisconsin Lakes Conference from \$300 to \$400. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report as amended to include the increased amount budgeted for the Wisconsin Lakes Conference. Motion was made by Mark Smith and seconded by Greg Schmitz. Motion passed unanimously.

Greg Schmitz made a motion, seconded by Curt Haga that we open a savings account at Co-Vantage. Motion was approved unanimously. Bob and Pam will set up this account and Bob will transfer \$2,000 from our checking account into the new account.

Bob will do some research to see if we can get a no fee checking account at Associated Bank.

Bob will register us for Kentuck Days and request two spaces as we have always done in the past.

GRANT UPDATES -- Both grants for which we are applying are for a new display booth for Kentuck Days, etc. The Potawatomie grant will not be submitted if we receive the grant from Co-Vantage. If we don't receive either one, we would have to consider using money from our small savings.

Co-Vantage: Bob reported that he submitted a grant application to Co-Vantage for \$3,000 to be used for the FCAL display. He contacted Mark S. and Greg for the cost of the new display to include 2 tents with back and sides, logos printed on the tents, tables, and lead-free sinkers. He was required to indicate that we did not requests monies from any other organization for this project. Co-Vantage was meeting in early March to make decisions about grants. Bob has followed up, but has not yet heard anything.

Potawatomie: Curt Haga reported that the window for submitting grants from the Potawatomie is April 1 – May 22 for review between June-August. Bob will share numbers and details with Curt, so Curt can write the grant for submission in April, assuming we do not receive a grant from Co-Vantage. Pam offered to help Curt with the writing of the grant. This grant will not be submitted if we receive the grant from Co-Vantage. It was suggested that we research the types of grants funded by the Potawatomie, so we can tailor our grant request accordingly.

LIAISON REPORTS

Forest County Land and Water Conservation & WRISC: Steve Kircher reported that. . .

- he is working with Curt Haga to write a grant for improvements to the north and south Pickerel Lake boat landings (Curt originally applied on behalf of the Town of Nashville to the Potawatomie for a grant for this, but it was turned down);
- he and Derek Thorn (FLOW) are working together to build Purple Loosestrife Beetle Cages that will houses behind the courthouse. The beetles will be used to combat Purple Loosestrife infestations;

- his office and FLOW will continue to monitor the phragmite site that they treated last year;
- he and Kayla will be attending the Wisconsin Lakes Conference in April;
- WRISC is working on changing its salary schedule to be more in line with the states and counties;
- On June 2nd, Forest County's Native Plant Sale will have a pick-up station in the tank on the Court House lawn. WRISC will be present, too. If people bring in an invasive plant, WRISC will exchange it with a native plant.

FLOW-AIS & Lumberjack : Derek Thorn reported that

- Lumberjack is looking at having two of its coordinators (Derek being one of them) apply for their aquatic applicator license;
- he will keep us posted on the WDNR's Surface Water Grant Program;
- hiring a summer technician for FLOW-AIS is in process. This person will report to Derek and will work on Shoreland Restoration in Langlade County among other things;
- on June 10th, Oconto County, FLOW, and UW-Lakes will be hosting a program on AIS Education – one session will be held in Lakewood and another in the Kelly Lake area. Forest County will be invited to attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Annual Meeting – Pam will reserve the same venue we used last year (Crandon City Hall) for some time in October.

Business Donation & New Membership Forms – Committee will not have the new form for our consideration until the April meeting. In the meantime, Bob Ebben will use the old form when sending renewal notices to our business partners. We should consider giving our business members a plaque or decal to display.

Display Committee – There is nothing for this committee to do until we order the materials, which is pending on our grant submissions.

Essay Contest: Pam reported on behalf of Clair Carty that the invitations have already been sent. We use to follow a rotating schedule of topics, but this year we are trying a new one (see attachments). At the April BOD meeting, Clair will ask for volunteers to judge the contest. Volunteers will gather on May 12 to read and judge the submissions.

Fall Forum – Jim reminded us that the Fall Forum will be on Friday, August 18. We will begin with a short board meeting at 9am followed by the Forum from 9:30 am – 11am. Jim has already confirmed that Scott Van Egren will be able to attend. Scott will also give Jim the name of a person from his office to talk about ground water issues. He will also contact Robert Van Zile of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community for a contact to discuss issues related to ceded territories, e.g., walleye spearing, etc.

Kentuck Days – Per the Forest County Chamber of Commerce website, Kentuck Days is scheduled for Saturday, July 29.

Newsletter – Vi Lamers reported that . . .

- she will be contacting other printers to compare to the cost of our current printer;
- all board members are invited to submit articles about their lakes and/or issues of importance -- **the deadline for submissions is May 24th**;
- all lake associations are encouraged to submit dates for their fundraising activities, etc.;
- Jeannie Fannin has agreed to write two articles for the newsletter (sceptic systems; short-term rentals);
- she left a message for Lindsay Peterson to see if Lindsay would submit an article about the work WRISC will be doing this year;
- she has contacted the Potawatomie to see if they would supply an article on their solar panel farm. It is unlikely that they will do so, but they recommended that she contact WPS/Hodag Solar for information about solar panels, etc.;
- Steve and Derek have agreed to write updates about their work for the newsletter – maybe even an article on a new invasive: Jumping Worms; and,
- Kathy will submit an article on Hazardous Wakes.

Website – none given.

NEW BUSINESS

FCAL's Courtesy Code: At a future meeting, we will review our current courtesy code to see if it needs to be revised, especially in light of the fact that it is named by the county in the short-term rental ordinance.

Forest Republican: Pam will contact the newspaper to change our meeting location and time to Crandon Public Library at 9:30 am.

Northwoods Six-County Lakes & Rivers Conference: This is scheduled for the morning of Friday, July 14 at Nicolet College in Rhinelander. FCAL's July board meeting will be held at Nicolet College on the same day immediately following the Six-County meeting.

Hazardous Wakes: Kathy recently attended a conference on this topic. It was limited to 100 participants and had a huge waiting list. Steve indicated the damage being done to area lakes is a huge issue. Jim indicated that the scouring of the bottom of Lake Lucerne can be seen when swimming or diving. Destruction of lake bottoms and shoreland, introduction of AIS, and public safety are some of the biggest issues regarding wake enhancing watercraft. Attached are copies of resources Kathy gathered at the conference.

Wisconsin Lakes Conference (April 19-21): – Pam will be attending all days; Lee be attending on Thursday and Vi on Friday. Additionally, Steve and Kayla will be there representing Forest County Land and Water Conservation Dept. Derek will attend representing FLOW.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Vi Lamers, seconded by Mark Smith. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Note: Due to a conflict with the Wisconsin Lakes Conference, we have changed our next meeting date from our regularly scheduled 3rd Friday of the month to Friday, April 14, 2023 at 9:30 am at the Crandon Public Library in person and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Babcock
Secretary