

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Crandon Public Library only
Friday, April 14, 2023

Call to Order: 9:40 am by President Pam Schroeder who declared a quorum.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Present: Pat Schultz, Bob Ebben, Vi Lamers, Lee Lamers, Greg Schmitz, Steve Kircher, Derek Thorn, Pam Schroeder, Mike Henderson, Larry Sommer, Clair Carty, and Kathy Babcock.

Board of Directors present via ZOOM: None due technology issues.

Board of Directors Excused: Jim Zach, Mark Truymen, Curt Haga, and Mark Smith.

Board of Directors Absent: Jim Wiesner, Patty Orlovsky, and Dan Verbanec.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion to accept the minutes from 3/17/23 with the addition of "Board Members Absent" was made by Greg Schmitz and seconded by Larry Sommer. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

A motion was made by Mike Henderson, seconded by Lee Lamers to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

GRANT UPDATES

Co-Vantage: Co-Vantage will review our request between 4/17-4/19. We should hear the following week.

Potawatomi: If we don't receive the Co-Vantage grant, Curt Haga will submit a grant to the Potawatomi (due no later than May 11). Bob will let Curt know as soon as he gets word from Co-Vantage.

BANKING INFO

Associated Bank – Bob is able to eliminate the \$4.00 service fee by setting up a digital account.

Co-Vantage – In order to open a savings account for FCAL, Bob needs to supply Co-Vantage with articles of incorporation, by-laws, and a specific social security form that he does not have. He has the EZ form and the information we used to apply for 501c status. He has left a voice message with Wayne Link's office (new owner is Jim Elam) to see if they can help.

LIAISON REPORTS

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

- he has extra towels to give away at boat landings, which he distributed to us at the end of the meeting.
- Curt Haga and he received the grant they applied for the Pickerel North and South Boat Landings.
- they have begun working on writing a similar grant of Crane Lake's boat landing. (These grants are available for publicly owned boat landings not for those managed by WDNR or USFS).
- he and Kayla are surveying gravel pits for culvert repairs and for evidence of invasives.
- he and Derik will continue to work on the raising of beetles that attack Purple Loosestrife (cages will be built in the back of the Court House near the deer pen).
- WRISC employees were given much needed a wage increase.
- the WRISC annual meeting will be June 7 at a park in Iron Mountain.
- on the afternoon of June 2, in conjunction with the Forest County plant sale distribution, WRISC will hold a plant exchange – bring in an invasive plant and receive a non-invasive one in exchange. This will be held near the tank on the Forest County Court House lawn.
- WRISC has been busy spraying for Wild Parsnip and will check on the Phragmite patch near Laona that was sprayed last year to see if further management is needed.
- there is an aphid that attacks Garlic Mustard. It is being studied to determine how well it works and to see if it can be introduced to our area without adverse effects on the environment.

FLOW-AIS: Derek Thorn reported that. . .

- he is continuing to work with Steve on the Purple Loosestrife project.
- lake organizations can arrange Citizens Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) and Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) training classes through FLOW. Also, the CBCW training can now be done on-line.
- 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 is invited to attend – look at the upcoming FLOW newsletter for details.

Lumberjack: Larry Sommer reported that all grant requests that were submitted by January 1 were reviewed. They received requests totaling \$90,000, but had a budget for only \$60,000. They awarded the top nine submissions including FLOW.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Annual Meeting – This is scheduled for Friday, October 21. Pam has tentatively reserved the Crandon City Hall. We haven't put any money down yet, but rental cost would be \$450.00. Lee Lamers will look into the cost of having it at the Wabeno American Legion. In either case, we will have to have the meal catered.

Business Donation & New Membership Forms – This form will be for new memberships. He will have an updated form for our next meeting.

Display Committee – A motion was made by Mike Henderson, seconded by Lee Lamers that Greg Schmitz order the displays on the faith that we will receive the grant – if we don't, we will have to dip into our savings. Motion passed unanimously.

Environmental Days: Lee Lamers will reach out Michelle Gobert to make sure she will continue to help with the planning of Environmental Days.

Essay Contest: Clair Carty reported that all is on schedule. She recruited the following volunteers to judge the essays at 9:30 am on Friday, May 12 at the Crandon Library: Pam Schroeder, Larry Sommer, Pat Schultz, Diane Smith, Sue and Mike Henderson, Clair Carty, Kathy Hahlbeck, and Kathy Babcock.

Fall Forum – Jim Zach will provide us with an update at our May 19th meeting.

Kentuck Days – No update at this time.

Newsletter – Vi Lamers reported that . . .

- Steve and Derek have agreed to write updates about their work for the newsletter – maybe even an article on a new invasive: Jumping Worms.
- Derek will also include information or separate articles on CBCW, water usage, and Purple Loosestrife.
- Kathy will submit articles on Hazardous Wakes, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, and book suggestions.
- Jeannie Fannin will submit article on septic systems.
- Vi will write an article on the Hodag Solar Farm.
- Pam will write the President’s Report.
- Lindsay has been invited to submit an update on WRISC.
- Mike Pruel has been invited to submit an update on fish stocking.
- a list of FCAL events will be included.
- all lake associations are invited to include a list of their events.
- other articles by other members are encouraged.
- Vi will be out of town from May 2-May 17. She encourages all of us to get articles to her sooner than later. The deadline for submissions stands firm at May 24.

Website – The Website Committee will be meeting this afternoon to continue their work on the new website.

OLD BUSINESS

Forest Republican and Pioneer Express: Pam has contacted the newspaper to change our meeting location and time to the Crandon Public Library at 9:30 am. The change should in the next issue.

6-County Lakes Meeting: Friday, July 14 from 8:30 am- noon at Nicolet College, with FCAL’s June Board Meeting to immediately follow.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

FCAL's Courtesy Code: Steve Kircher will work on revising this. He will ask Jeannie Fannin for input. The revised copy will include the sheriff's number and the WDNR's Tip Line number. Steve will bring the revised copy to our next board meeting for our review. The idea is for laminated copies to be given to short-term rentals and used at boat landings. Non-laminated copies will be sent to all riparian land owners as an insert via the newsletter – Vi will look into the cost of mailing this. Steve will check to see if there is a grant that might help cover the cost of printing and/or mailing this. Larry will look into the cost of printing this on red or bright paper and on laminating it.

Lights Out: Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA) and Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association (OCLRA) are sponsoring a series of Lights Out nights: June 17 & 18 (fireflies) and August 12 & 13 (meteor showers). It was decided that FCAL will promote this via our newsletter.

Wisconsin Rivers: Greg contacted them to correct our website address.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike Henderson, seconded by Lee Lamers.
Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:28 am.

Note: Our next Board of Directors Meeting is Friday, May 19, 2023 at 9:30 am at the Crandon Public Library in person and via Zoom. Please let Pam and Kathy know if you are not able to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Babcock
Secretary