

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Crandon Public Library only
Friday, May 19, 2023

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

Board of Directors & Liaisons Present: Mark Truymen, Mark Smith, Pat Schultz, Bob Ebben, Vi Lamers, Greg Schmitz, Steve Kircher, Derek Thorn, Pam Schroeder, Larry Sommer, and Kathy Babcock.

Board of Directors present via ZOOM: Jim Zach.

Board of Directors Excused: Clair Carty, Mike Henderson, Lee Lamers.

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

Guest Present: Steve Watson.

GUEST SPEAKER

Steve Watson is Forest County's Digital Navigator. His position is grant funded. Some of his duties include helping residents gain access to the Internet, helping residents with programs and devices, providing technology support for those in need, troubleshooting technology issues, and teaching digital skills. Much of what he does can be handled via phone, but on occasion, Steve will do home visits. He also has regular drop-in hours at his office at the Forest County Courthouse, but he also has hours at other locations including three public libraries: Crandon (Wednesdays 9 am-Noon), Laona (Mondays, 2 pm-4 pm, and Wabeno (Tuesdays, Noon-2 pm), as well as the Forest County Potawatomi Community Center and Sokaogon Elderly Apartments. If drop-in times don't work for people, they should contact Steve to set up appointments and determine a convenient meeting place: steve.watson@co.forest.wi.us (email) ; 715-478-7793 (office); 715-784-1415 (cell).

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion to accept the minutes from 4/14/23 with one correction was made by Greg Schmitz and seconded by Larry Sommer (date for the Six-County Meeting/July FCAL meeting is July 14, 2023 not June 14). Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

A motion was made by Greg Schmitz, seconded by Vi Lamers to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

GRANT UPDATES

Co-Vantage: We received a \$1,000 from Co-Vantage, which is greatly appreciated and thank Bob for the work he did writing and pursuing this grant

BANKING INFO

Co-Vantage – Bob continues to work at setting up the Co-Vantage savings account, which was approved by the board at a previous meeting. He is running into some difficulty because they are requesting an SSR form from the IRS proving our 501c status. We did not use this form when applying for 501c status. At multiple times, he has called the accountant office we used when applying for this status; he has also called the IRS. In addition, he has provided Ms. Hoyle of Co-Vantage with two determination letters, which she is sending on to their corporate office to see if those letters can take the place of the SSR form. He will update us at the next meeting.

LIAISON REPORTS

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

- the Shoreline Restoration Grant that Kathy Palmen & Suzanne Kottke received is in the process of being used. Other residents interested in applying for this type of grant should contact Steve K.
- he would like to apply for a Lumberjack grant to build kiosks at boat ramps in order to eliminate “sign pollution” – perhaps a Surface Water Education Grant. He requested that FCAL be the sponsor for this undertaking. Greg Schmitz made a motion, seconded by Vi Lamers that FCAL sponsor the grant request for building kiosks at the boat landings. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Kayla is attending a land information conference.
- the Native Plant Sale pick up is the afternoon of June 2 on the Court House lawn. Plants are being provided by Hansen's Greenhouse.
- WRISC will be present for the Plant Sale, too, doing a Plant Trade Up Day (bring an invasive species and receive a free native plant).

- WRISC's Annual Meeting is being held on June 7th – all are invited to attend. See their website for details.

FLOW-AIS: Derek Thorn reported that. . .

- he continues to offer Clean Boat Clean Waters Training and that people can now also get trained on-line via a one-hour video, a 15-question quiz, and a follow-up phone call from Derek (see the FLOW newsletter for details).
- he also offers Citizen Lake Monitoring Training.
- the Purple Loosestrife beetle cages are now at the Court House and Steve K.'s yard.
- he hopes to have an intern hired in the next few weeks.
- three lakes can collectively apply for CBCW grant for one full-time inspector who would rotate among the three lakes; the three lakes would match through volunteer hours – contact Derek if interested.

Lumberjack: Lumberjack meets quarterly. Larry Sommer had nothing new to report as they haven't met since his last report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Annual Meeting – Lee Lamers contacted the Wabeno Legion Hall. They will charge us \$50.00 vs. the \$450.00 that the Crandon City Hall would have charged. Pam will cancel our reservation (no money has been put down) with Crandon City Hall. We will need a screen. We will reserve Wabeno Legion Hall for our October 21st event. Possible caterers include Cassidy's, Carla's Country Kitchen in Townsend, and the Big Easel. We were all pleased with the job Main Street Ed's did for us last year. Larry will check to see if Ed's caters as far as Wabeno. FCAL has a podium with microphone. Pam has a projector. We will need a screen. We will reserve Wabeno Legion Hall for our October 21st event.

Business Donation & New Membership Forms – Larry showed us a draft of the two-part form we will use to solicit new memberships, especially businesses. He recommends that each of us recruits five new memberships. Some suggestions were made about possible changes to the form.

Environmental Days – We will be changing the location from the South Beach to the North Beach. We believe the Potawatomie and Mole Lake Chippewa may participate and provide pontoon boats. Mark Truymen and Steve K. think they might have access to pontoon boats if needed. The time frame is always somewhat

problematic as the school's need to provide the date for us, and we don't usually know that until early fall. It is usually around the 3rd week in September. Michelle Gobert and Lee Lamers will coordinate.

Essay Contest: Since Wabeno did not participate (due to much staff turnover), the committee would like to give additional prizes to Crandon and Laona students. That way instead of each school getting a total three prizes spread across 5th and 6th grade, each school would get six prizes, three for 5th graders and three for 6th graders. The additional cost would be \$175.00. On behalf of Clair Carty, Pam Schroeder made a motion that we allot an additional \$175.00 for this year's essay contest prizes, seconded by Larry Sommer. The motion was unanimously approved.

Fall Forum – Jim Zach reported that Scott van Egren, WDNR regional aquatic biologist, will be attending. In addition, Wayne La Bine and a few other elders from Mole Lake will discuss Ground Water Issues from science-based and cultural perspectives. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions and further discussion of issues related to our lakes and rivers.

Kentuck Days & Displays – Greg Schmitz has ordered most of what we need: three folding tables (\$50.00 rebate due to color differences in the table tops), and two canopies plus side walls. The banners have not been ordered yet, but Greg received prices from two sources. Pam will order a second table top display board. We plan to give away more FCAL bags (donated by Larry Sommer), non-lead sinkers, towels from Steve Kircher, FCAL newsletters/membership forms, and other literature.

Newsletter – Vi Lamers reported that she has an abundance of articles to include in this year's newsletter. This year's newsletter will include color on white paper. She contacted both Hahn and Sun Publishing for quotes. Hahn was significantly less expensive. Steve K. will send an updated mailing list to Hahn.

Website – no report at this time - the subcommittee will not be meeting until sometime in June.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Fishing Line Receptacles: Greg looked into this for us. He contacted Boat US Foundation and Fox Watershed Alliance. He now has a parts list and construction plans. Steve K. will add the cost of these to the boat landing grant he will be submitting to Lumberjack.

FCAL's Courtesy Code: Steve K. and Kathy distributed a draft of the Courtesy Code for feedback. They will use that feedback to finalize the Courtesy Code. Vi will include it as an insert in the newsletter (black on bright orange stock).

NEW BUSINESS

Brush Run Volunteer Opportunity: This is scheduled for June 23-25 and again in the fall – they typically do not need volunteers for the first day. Typically, there are two shifts: 10 am- 2 pm & 2 pm to the end (5-6 pm). They look for volunteers to help with refreshments and food Up the Hill and in the Barn, parking, selling of food tickets, checking weekend passes, etc. Volunteers are invited to a January dinner where the volunteer groups are thanked and receive a monetary award. In the past, Tina Clifford was the point person. This year, McKenzie will be in charge of the volunteers. Contact her for volunteering details and an application by visiting the crandonoffroad.com website.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Larry Sommer, seconded by Vi Lamers. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:47 am.

Note: Our next Board of Directors Meeting is Friday, July 14, 2023 at Nicolet College in Rhinelander. There will be no ZOOM access. Please let Pam and Kathy know if you are not able to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Babcock
Secretary