

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Associated Bank, Crandon (No ZOOM)
Friday, April 18, 2025

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 9:30 am by President Pam Schroeder who established a quorum. There was no need to ZOOM this month.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Present: Pam Schroeder, Bob Ebben, Greg Schmitz, Clair Carty, Pat Schultz, Mike Henderson, Lee Lamers, Vi Lamers, Derek Thorn, Diane Smith, Mark Smith, Kayla Littleton, and Kathy Babcock.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Excused: Mark Orlovsky, Jim Zach

Board of Directors & Liaisons Absent: Lisa Vida.

Guests: None.

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the minutes from February 21, 2025 with the addition of Greg Schmitz' name was made by Mark Smith, seconded by Greg Schmitz. Motion passed unanimously.

Kathy announced that Greg Schmitz has agreed to take over the website.
Thank you, Greg!

Treasurer's Report: Bob Ebben reported that . . .

- the membership dues continue to trickle in. We are lagging behind our budgeted amount for dues, but he will be sending out a reminder letter in late spring.
- we have one or two new businesses: Yeti's in Laona is one of them.

Bob presented the Register Report, Current Budget, and Net Worth. Greg Schmitz made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Mark Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

GRANT UPDATES: Bob reported that he has been in touch with Mr. Ison of the Laona State Bank. Ison indicated that all he needs to put forward our request is a letter indicating what project for which the money would be used. Pam will write the letter requesting money for the essay contest and/or for the cost of the annual dinner for the contest winners, plus their families.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Forest County Land and Water Conservation: Kayla reported that. . .

- she is excited to announce that a new tech will be starting in her department on June 2nd.
- the profits from the Native Plant Sale are used to sponsor a scholarship for a middle school student to attend Conservation Camp; pick up for the plant sale is May 30th on the court house lawn near the tank.
- she is researching non-metallic mining for the county.
- she is working on the Bog Brook Dam with the WDNR.
- she is responsible for the GIS data for the county.
- she, Derek, and Rosie have worked on the Purple Loosestrife cages at Nicolet College.
- she is developing more contacts with teachers in the county for Environmental Day.

Pam asked Kayla to write an article on the benefits of native plants for the newsletter.

Lumberjack: No report at this time.

WRISC: Kathy reported that WRISC is beginning the process of applying for independent 501(c)3 status. They are also looking into the possibility of rebranding and renaming themselves as they want to focus on conservation stewardship, on being proactive and not just reactive when it comes in invasive species. The WRISC Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 6th at the Belgiumtown Restaurant in Stephenson, MI.

FLOW/AIS: Derek Thorn reported that. . .

- FLOW will be hosting its first annual meeting on June 6th, probably at the Northwoods Inn in Pickerel. Speakers include his direct supervisor, Amanda; Kayla on drones; Lindsay on WRISC, and Derek with an AIS update. He will provide us with more details at our next meeting.
- he attended the Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention and presented on his Resort Outreach Project. Folders are available for lake associations to purchase at \$5/folder. Contact Derek by email if interested. He will bring a folder to our next meeting for us to review.
- he continues to work on Purple Loosestrife.
- Oconto County may be leaving FLOW, so he will be applying for another Lumberjack grant in order to accommodate potential loss of funds.

Committee Reports

**Essay Contest (spring)– Clair Carty.* Clair reported that she, Kathy, and Derek have made presentations to many of the participating classes. Two teachers asked if the students could write essays longer than 300 words. Clair said yes, as long as they “don’t write novels”. Judging of the essays will take place on Wednesday, May 14 at the Crandon Public Library.

**Newsletter (article due date = April 30) – Vi Lamers.* Vi reported that she has received some articles and thanked those writers. Additional articles will include an article on the amount of plastics we consume (Diane & Mark Smith), one or more winning essays (Clair), resort outreach (Derek), etc.

Kayla will send mailing list to both Vi and Kathy. Bob will update the list of members and send a copy to Kathy. Kathy will check membership list against the mailing list.

**Kentuck Day (July 26) – Greg Schmitz and Mark Smith.* No new information at this time.

**Fall Forum (August 15) – Jim Zach.* No report at this time.

**Environmental Day (date in September TBD) - Lee Lamers and Kayla Littleton.* Lee and Kayla are just starting on this. Kayla hopes to

have some commitments/possible date for the fall field trip from teachers before school is out.

**Annual Meeting (Thursday, October 16) – Pam Schroeder.* Pam will look into the cost of using Mole Lake Casino as our venue this year. If we decide on this site, Lee will try to reduce cost by talking to someone on the tribal council. Pam will also check out River Rendezvous as a venue – this site would probably require we use a caterer. Pam will have a venue determined before the newsletter deadline, so Vi can put the info in the newsletter.

**By-Laws Review -- Pam Schroeder and Lisa Vida.* No report at this time.

Miscellaneous Business

Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Conference 2025 Delegates – Derek Thorn reported that his presentation on his Resort Outreach Project was successful. Any lake association interested in purchasing the folders for short-term rentals or CBCW program should contact Derek. Kathy Babcock reported that she attended workshops and presentations on a variety of issues: cyanobacteria & algae blooms, the effects of climate change on Northwoods' lakes, mosquitos, shoreline improvement, wake boats, etc.

Water Monitoring Workshop – Bob reported that he attended a water monitoring workshop in Rhinelander. It is recommended that depth, clarity, and phosphorous levels are checked 10-14 days after ice-off. He also reported that the Wisconsin ID used for SWIMS, etc. will be changing in May.

Conservation Lobby Day – is May 6th in Madison

Next Meeting – Our next meeting will be Friday, May 16, 9:30 am at the bank. Zoom and in person.

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn at 11:25 am made by Kathy Babcock, seconded by Greg Schmitz. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Babcock