

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Associated Bank, Crandon (No ZOOM)
Friday, May 16, 2025

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 9:35 am by President Pam Schroeder who established a quorum.

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, Jim Zach, and Kathy Babcock.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Present on ZOOM: Mark Orlovsky

Board of Directors & Liaisons Excused: none.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Absent: Lisa Vida.

Guests: Sue Henderson.

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the minutes from May 18, 2025 was made by Mark Smith, seconded by Vi Lamers. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- we received two renewals.
- he will be sending out renewal reminders before the end of the month.
- we are still a little short for our budget, but the renewal reminders should help.
- he will be paying our \$542.00 insurance bill soon.
- Clair Carty will pay for the essay contest winners' cash prizes, and then he will reimburse her.

Bob presented the Register Report, Current Budget, and Net Worth. Jim Zach made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Mike Henderson. Motion passed unanimously.

GRANT UPDATES: Pam will send a letter to Mr. Ison at the Laona State Bank requesting funding to cover the cost of the annual dinner for our essay contest winners and their parents.

LIAISON REPORTS:

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

- she had two applicants for Conservation Camp from the same family, so she split the scholarship money between them. The scholarship funds were raised through the Native Plant Sale, which she ran earlier this spring.
- there continues to be increasing interest in the cost-share program for shoreline restoration, especially after the recent ice heave.
- she is pursuing what her department can offer landowners through the Healthy Lakes and Rivers program, e.g., rain gardens, fish sticks, etc.
- Enviroloc Bags are geotextile blocks filled with sand and compost. The only local source for these is Hansen's in Rhinelander. They do not need a permit from the WDNR as they are designed to be used above the high-water mark. Check with Zoning Dept. if using for a retaining wall.

Lumberjack RC & D: No report at this time as they meet quarterly. Derek Thorn will be our Lumberjack liaison. He noted that they would be electing a new president, vice-president, and secretary (the current treasurer will be staying on in that position).

WRISC: Kathy reported that the WRISC Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 6th at the Belgiumtown Restaurant in Stephenson, MI. Go to the WRISC website for more information, to RSVP, and to purchase your lunch tickets.

FLOW/AIS: Derek Thorn reported that. . .

- FLOW will be hosting its first annual meeting on June 12, at the Northwoods Inn on the corner off Hwy 55 & County Rd. A in Pickerel. Speakers include his direct supervisor, Amanda Smith; Kayla on drones; Lindsay on WRISC, and Derek with an AIS update. A complimentary lunch will be provided. He will email us details regarding the agenda and RSVP instructions.
- that he continues to work with CLMN (Citizen Lake Monitoring Network)

programs, the Purple Loosestrife initiative, and Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW). In fact, he will be providing CBCW training for Lake Lucerne and for Butternut and Franklin Lakes in the middle of June.

- he showcased the Resort Outreach folders that he is selling to lake associations. Mike suggested that he include the Forest County Courtesy Code in any being distributed in our county.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Essay Contest (spring)– *Clair Carty*. Clair reported that . . .

- those of us judging the essays will be meeting today after lunch in the basement of the library.

- there will be an article in the newsletter highlighting the essay of one of the winners.

- the winning essays would be posted at the library and at our Kentuck Days Booth.

Newsletter (spring) – *Vi Lamers*. Vi reported that . . .

- she has approved the first proof, except for the winning essay, which will be provided today.

- the cost for printing has gone up at least \$250 and the postage/handling will go up, too, as we have more to mail out due changes in Kayla's list of Forest County property owners and Kathy's list of additional FCAL members.

Kentuck Day (July 26) – *Greg Schmitz and Mark Smith*.

- Mark and Greg will walk over to Visit Forest County after today's meeting to make sure we have reserved our spots for this event.

- Ted Rulseh, local author on books about our Northwoods lakes, contacted Pam to see if he can share our booth space to sign and sell his books. We agreed that he could do so.

Fall Forum (August 15) – *Jim Zach*.

- Jim indicated that Austin Babich, the new Forest County warden, has confirmed that he will attend the Fall Forum.

- Mark Orlovsky indicated that his daughter, Heather, has a PhD. in environmental education and might be willing to speak at Fall Forum, this year or in the future.

Environmental Day (date in September TBD) - *Lee Lamers and Kayla Littleton*.

No update at this time.

Annual Meeting (Saturday, October 18 – note change in date) – *Pam Schroeder*.

Pam visited Wolf River Rendezvous as a venue. They offered to waive their rental fee, have an open bar (proceeds going to them), and seating for 75. We would need to have the event catered. Because of the Newsletter deadline, she gave Vi the location to include in this year's newsletter. Tentatively, the times remain the same as last year: 3 pm = set up; 4 pm = annual meeting; 5 pm = program; 6pm = dinner.

Discussion ensued about whether we choose a venue that is one of our business members.

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

Website: Greg requested that we send him photos of our lakes and/or activities on them for the website. Pat volunteered to send a photo of the fishing line receptacle that has been installed on Jungle Lake. Please check our website regularly and send Greg photos and articles for posting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Fishing Line Receptacles for Lake Lucerne – Greg gave these to Larry Sommer. Mark O. will check to see if these are in Larry's garage and then arrange to have them installed.

Loon Watch – Pat Schultz reported that when Northland College closed, Loon Watch lost its home. Pat doesn't know if Loon Watch will be able to survive without Northland College. Currently, organization can be contacted via Facebook and that is where Loon Rangers input their information.

Change in Summer FCAL Board of Directors Meetings: In order to combine our meetings with other meetings, we decided to move our June, July, and August meetings as follows:

June -- in person only (no Zoom) on **Thursday, June 12**, immediately following the FLOW annual meeting/lunch at the Northwoods Inn in Pickerel, WI.

July -- in person only (no Zoom) on **Friday, July 11**, immediately following the Six-County Lakes and Rivers Conference at Nicolet College in Rhinelander.

August – in person only on **Friday, August 15** immediately preceding the FCAL Fall Forum at Lake Lucerne Advancement Pavilion on County W in Crandon.

NEXT MEETING – Our next meeting will be in person only (no Zoom) on **Thursday, June 12**, immediately following the FLOW annual meeting/lunch at the Northwoods Inn in Pickerel, WI.

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn at 11:10 am made by Greg Schmitz, seconded by Mark Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Babcock