

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Associated Bank of Crandon
Friday, March 20, 2026

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, Mark Smith, Diane Smith, Mike Henderson, Mark Orlovsky, Pat Schultz, Greg Schmitz, Kayla Littleton, Bob Ebben, Derek Thorn, Clair Carty, and Kathy Babcock.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Present on ZOOM: None.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Excused: Vi Lamers, Lee Lamers, and Jim Zach.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Absent: None.

Guests: Lucas O'Brien.

Agenda: Motion to accept amended agenda to include dock safety, Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC), and Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention was made by Kathy Babcock, seconded by Clair Carty. Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report: Kathy distributed a draft of the October 18, 2025 Annual Meeting and requested corrections be emailed to her. These minutes are not up for approval until the 2026 Annual Meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes from September 19, 2025 was made by Greg Schmitz, seconded by Mark Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the minutes from the brief October 18, 2025 meeting held immediately after the Annual Meeting to elect officers was made by Greg Schmitz, seconded by Mike Henderson. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Ebben distributed copies of the Register Report, Current Budget and Net Worth. He reviewed the 2026 budget and membership. As of this meeting, 10 out of 24 lake association have renewed their membership; 14 out of

22 business have paid; and 65 out of 153 individual members have paid this year's dues.

Bob did look into the possibility of moving our savings into higher interest rate accounts. He found that we were well situated, so he left things as they are.

Greg Schmitz made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Clair Carty. Motion passed unanimously.

GRANT UPDATES: It was suggested that we apply for the CoVantage and Chamber grants again this year.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Forest County Land and Water Conservation: Kayla Littleton reported that her department continues to work on shoreline projects including but not limited to rain gardens, native plantings, etc. Her department has been and still is the fiscal agent for the Healthy Lakes and Rivers initiative. Property owners interested in shoreline restoration and protection should contact Kayla or Lucas.

Kayla also reported that the plant sale ends April 6th with pick up on May 29th on the Court House lawn near the tank. Proceeds from this fundraiser support scholarships for middle and high school students to attend summer Conservation Camps.

Kayla's department has also been working on updating the county's non-metallic mining ordinances. She also serves on the Forest Service's culvert project committee.

Kayla will be presenting on contractor training at the Lakes and Rivers Conference in Stevens Point, April 15-17. Kayla and Lucas will be doing an Earth Day presentation for ARDC on April 28th at 1 pm— all are welcome to attend.

Lumberjack RC & D: Derek reported that at the October Lumberjack meeting grants were awarded to WEMSCO, Trees for Tomorrow, Girl Scouts & WHIP, Laona School Forest, and an Arboretum Project in Marinette County.

At the January Lumberjack meeting, Mary Doden from Butternut Franklin Lakes Association presented on their I-LIDS program.

WRISC: Kayla reported that WRISC is still in the process of becoming a 501 3c organization and changing its name to Roots & Rivers. The WRISC annual meeting will be Friday, June 5th somewhere in Forest County – more information will be forthcoming. Pam encouraged all board members to attend.

WRISC will also be holding another TRADE UP DAY. This event allows a property owner to bring in an invasive shrub and receive a gift certificate for a native plant replacement. More information about this will be forthcoming.

Kathy reported that WRISC and the Butternut Franklin Lakes Foundation has submitted a federal grant proposal to cover the cost of a seasonal employee over two seasons to work in the northern Hiles region of the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest doing such things as Terrestrial Invasive Species work, trail maintenance, forest health surveys, boat wash work, etc.

FLOW/AIS: Derek Thorn reported that FLOW has received three grants -- two of which help with his work in Forest County: 1) Lumberjack (his fiscal sponsor) and 2) a service work grant, which allows for the expansion of the resort owner project – Derek is now working with 16 counties and is expanding this to include campgrounds.

FLOW's Annual Meeting will be on August 21 in Marinette County in an enclosed pavilion at the Red Arrow Park Seagull Bar State Natural Area in Marinette County. Tentatively, speakers will include Amanda Smith on State Natural Areas, Chris Hamerla on trapping water fowl and birds; a person on invasive species, etc. **We will need to change our date for FALL FORUM** (see Fall Forum section below).

Derek will be attending the Lakes and Rivers Conference on April 15-17.

Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) – There are two scheduled online CBCW training sessions. Contact Derek for registration. In addition, Derek will be holding a training session on May 16th for Lake Lucerne and will likely do one for Lake Metonga, too.

Derek has also been working with Langlade County to develop an ALL THINGS WATER--ALL IN ONE DAY event. It will be held on Saturday May 9th at the fairgrounds in Antigo. All are welcome. There will be approximately 50

organizations. There will be information about Trout Unlimited, AIS, native plants, PFAS, well testing, etc.

FLOW now offers certain types of for pay services the income from which supports conservation projects. For example, currently Derek is doing a Bear Lake management plan.

Snap Shot Day will be on Saturday, August 8th in Forest County this year, probably on Lake Metonga – Derek will have more details in the future.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Essay Contest (spring)— *Clair Carty* – Clair will be taking the essay materials to the schools this coming Monday. The deadline for submissions is May 13th. Clair will pick them up May 14th, and we will judge them on May 15th (following the FCAL meeting and lunch). She will reserve the library for that work. She will also ask teachers to do their part to try to eliminate any AI generated essays from the submissions. Additionally, she has offered to have FCAL members come into the classroom to discuss the essay topic with the students.

Newsletter (spring)— *Vi Lamers* – Pam reminded us that Vi will probably try to get the newsletter out in early June, so she will need our articles in early May. Mark Orlovsky wondered if we have a bulk mail permit. If not, he thinks we might be able to use Lake Lucerne's.

Kathy expressed Vi's concern about the mailing list and the cost due to an increase in numbers of newsletters sent last year. They wondered if it would be possible to email some in order to cut down on the cost. We cannot get email addresses from the county. It was decided that the newsletter is one of the most important things we do, if not the most important. Therefore, we decided to fully fund this increase and to continue to use the U.S. Mail for distribution.

Kentuck Day (July 15) – *Greg Schmitz and Mark Smith* – This is scheduled for Saturday, July 15th. Greg reported that he has already organized the literature he has for the bags we distribute at Kentuck Day. Kayla will provide more literature. Greg will look into purchasing Floating Key Rings as a give-away. He has enough bobbers, sinkers, and bags.

Pam suggested that we provide a Dock Safety coloring book for children who stop by our booth. She showed us a sample.

Greg called earlier to reserve the same spots we had last year. Bob will stop by today to confirm and to pay for the spots.

Fall Forum (August) – *Jim Zach* – **We had previously set the date for Friday, August 21, 2026. Due to a conflict with FLOW’s Annual Meeting, this will need to be changed** – perhaps to Friday August 15, Friday August 28th or a Thursday or Saturday.

Mark Orlovsky reported that Jim is thinking about bringing in a few from the following list to present at the Fall Forum:

Bob Martini from Wisconsin Green Fire on 50 years of Clean Water.

Lance MacFarland on Lake Protection and Surface Water Grants

Carol Warden from UW-Trout Lake Research Center in Boulder Junction.

Robert Van Zile from the Mole Lake Council on climate adaptation.

Also suggested by Greg for Fall Forum or the Annual Meeting is Jeff Rennie who is a writer/photographer/storyteller. Jeff previously taught at Conserve School in Land O’ Lakes.

Environmental Day (fall – date TBD)– *Lee Lamers & Kayla Littleton* – Kayla indicated that most important thing for them to do is to get the dates locked in by the teachers and for the shocking boat. This probably cannot be done until very late summer or early fall.

Annual Meeting (Saturday, October 17) – Pam reported that the tentative date is October 17th, and it will be held at Wolf River Rendezvous. This will not conflict with Weeds & Walleyes, which is scheduled for October 3rd. We will use Smokin’ Joe’s as the caterer again. Pam noted that when she polled the attendees, no one was against increasing the price for the meal.

By-Laws Review – *Pam Schroeder* – No report at this time.

Website – *Greg Schmitz* – Greg reiterated his need for seasonal photos of your lake and region.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Six County Lakes and Rivers Meeting is scheduled for July 17th. The venue has been changed from Nicolet College to the Rhinelander Middle School (915 Acacia Lane). FCAL’s July board meeting will be held directly after the Six County Meeting.

50/50 Raffle – Derek suggested we consider doing a 50/50 raffle. Bob said the cost of a license is not much. Mark O. indicated he could supply the tear-off tickets. We are considering doing this at the Annual Meeting. We would need a theme. Clair suggested the theme of education.

Wake Boats – Kathy indicated that Forest County now has three towns limiting the use of wake enhancing mechanisms (fins, ballasts) on wake boats: Freedom (Roberts Lake), Nashville, and Armstrong Creek. She would like FCAL to consider organizing two Wake Boat Information Sessions – one meeting to be presented by those pro and another con. These sessions could be held on separate days and would not be debates – merely informative. Lake Associations and a member from each of the town boards could be invited. Discussion of this idea was tabled.

I-LIDS – Members expressed interest in learning more about the I-LIDS program that Butternut Franklin has in place. We decided to have our June 19th meeting at Butternut Franklin. Kathy will arrange to have Mary Doden, their water quality and CBCW liaison, present on the I-LIDS followed by a visit to their boat landings to see the I-LIDS in operation.

NEXT MEETING – It is unlikely that we will have a meeting in April due to a conflict with the Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Conference. Pam will contact us if we need to meet. We will have a meeting at 9:30 am on May 15 at the Associated Bank of Crandon, followed by lunch and judging the essay contest submissions.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 11:50 am made by Greg Schmitz, seconded by Mark Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Babcock