

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Associated Bank of Crandon
Friday, May 15, 2026

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 9:30 am by President Pam Schroeder who established a quorum.

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

Board of Directors & Liaisons Present on ZOOM: None.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Excused: Derek Thorn, Mark Orlovsky.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Absent: None.

Guests: None.

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the minutes from March 20, 2026 was made by Greg Schmitz, seconded by Clair Carty. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Ebben distributed copies of the Register Report, Current Budget and Net Worth. He noted the bills paid to the U.S. Post Office and to Quig Enterprises (website). He also noted the donations that were made to River Alliance and Wisconsin Lakes.

Pat Schultz and Kathy Babcock will check to see if, given major changes, Loon Watch is able to accept donations and will report back at the June meeting.

Bob noted that we are a bit behind on dues coming in, but he will be sending out renewal notices soon and with many lake association meetings around Memorial Day, that should pick up.

Bob also stated that our insurance with Ansay and Associates (\$693) is due on 6/25/26. Jim Zach noted that some lake associations go through Wisconsin Lakes, which uses the Horton Group, for their insurance. Bob will do a comparison.

Bob noted that as members of Wisconsin Lakes we are able to get *Lake Tides* sent to us. Vi noted that she has an article about this in the upcoming newsletter.

Lee Lamers made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Vi Lamers. Motion passed unanimously.

GRANT UPDATES: None.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Forest County Land and Water Conservation: Kayla Littleton noted that they are working with the 2026 Healthy Lakes grant recipients. People interested in native plants for shoreline restoration and/or rain gardens should be applying for a Healthy Lakes grant through her office now for the 2027 year.

Kayla also reported that they had a successful native plant sale and earned enough for two Conservation Camp scholarships. Unfortunately, they did not receive any applications this year. She will be using those funds to augment their education work.

Lumberjack RC & D: No report at this time.

WRISC (soon to be Roots & Rivers Collaborative): WRISC will be hosting their annual meeting and their first annual Conservation Celebration on Friday, June 5th at Wolf River Rendezvous. At that meeting, they will transition to a 501 3c organization known as Roots & Rivers Collaborative (R &RC). There will be a silent auction. Kathy and Kayla suggested that FCAL donate something. It was decided that we would donate a puzzle board made by Greg Schmitz and two jigsaw puzzles donated by Clair Carty and Sherry Pethers. Kayla will submit the required form regarding this donation to WRISC.

Pam encouraged all of us to attend the above. See the WRISC website for more details.

FLOW/AIS: Derek Thorn was not able to attend today's meeting. He sent a written report in his stead (see Addendum attached to these minutes).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Essay Contest (spring)—*Clair Carty* – Clair reported that this year two groups did not participate: 6th grade Laona (too many snow days and testing days – plan on participating next year) and 6th grade Wabeno (didn't get back to Clair). One class did their essays as an extra credit assignment, so we do not have too many from them, but will still award that group prizes. Crandon had great participation. After this meeting and after lunch, we will meet at the Crandon Public Library to judge the essays.

Newsletter (spring)—*Vi Lamers* – Vi indicated the newsletter is ready to go to print with articles on climate, *Lake Tides*, Monarchs, Plastics, Home Grown National Parks, alternatives to mosquito fogging, etc.

Discussion about the accuracy of our mailing list ensued. Kayla has already sent the property tax roll. Bob will send Kathy an updated FCAL Membership list for her to cross check with Kayla's list and get this information to Vi asap.

Discussion about the number of newsletters to order ensued. Pam requested at least 300 extra for our business partners to put out on their counters. We also need them to distribute in our bags at Kentuck Day, plus those that get mailed.

Kentuck Day (July 15) – *Greg Schmitz and Mark Smith* – Between the Schmitz and the Smiths, we have plenty of bags for this year.

Greg looked into the cost of purchasing floating keyrings and flat keyrings, both imprinted with FCAL logo and maybe website address (QR code won't fit). The cost for 250 floats is \$1.25/each; for the flat key ring it is \$0.89/each. With set up costs and shipping, the total cost is at least \$732. Diane Smith made a motion that we order 250 of each of the floating key rings and the flat key rings, seconded by Mike Henderson. Motion passed unanimously. Greg will order these and bring them to Kentuck Day.

Pam researched hats with FCAL logo from Northern Tees: \$14.00/each for unstructured, women's hat; \$15.00/each for structured men's hat (in the store both hats sell for \$25.00 each). Clair Carty made a motion that we order 25 of each type for a total of 50 hats, seconded by Diane Smith. Motion carried with one opposed. Pam will order these and have them in time for selling at Kentuck Day and the Annual Meeting/Dinner.

Fall Forum (August 14 – note the change in date) – *Jim Zach* – Jim was able to confirm with Mark Orlovsky the new date for Fall Forum, which is Friday, August 14th, so we now have the Lake Lucerne Pavilion reserved for the new date. Jim is inviting one or more of following people to speak: Bob Martini (Wisconsin's Green Fire), Carol Warden (UW-Trout Lake Station), Robert Van Zile (Mole Lake Chippewa Community), Austin Babich (Forest County Conservation Warden). He will also consider the new recreation officer for Forest County, who could speak about his responsibilities.

Environmental Day (fall – date TBD)– *Lee Lamers & Kayla Littleton* – Kayla indicated that it is almost the time of year to reach out to area high schools regarding the date for this event. Also, Brian Van Epreen from Wabeno's Fab Lab will be making metal signs for our eight stations.

Annual Meeting (Saturday, October 24 – note the change in date) – Pam has reserved Wolf River Rendezvous from 4-8pm for Saturday, October 24. Greg reached out to Jeff Rennecki, author of 300 articles and nine books including National Geographic's *Treasure of Alaska*. However, Greg said it is unlikely that we can afford Rennecki. Kathy suggested REGI (Raptors Education Group) out of Antigo – they do a good presentation and will bring birds. Pam will contact them.

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

Website – *Greg Schmitz* – Send Greg photos and articles for posting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Conference – Because of a conflict with this event, we did not have an April FCAL meeting. Jim Zach, Mark Orlovsky, Kathy Babcock, Kayla Littleton, and Derek Thorn attended. Kayla presented.

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.

Snap Shot Day is happening statewide Saturday August 8th this year from 8:30am-12:30. FLOW AIS will be hosting their local Snapshot Day location in Forest County at City Beach in Crandon this year. The event is open to all in the surrounding area.

50/50 Raffle – No discussion at this meeting.

Wake Boats – Currently, there are 84 towns with ordinances, three in Forest County (Freedom, Nashville, and Armstrong Creek). Kathy would like FCAL to

sponsor a town meeting of some kind on wake boats where towns in Forest County could send a board member or representative and lake associations/districts could send interested parties. Both sides of the issue would need to be presented. Kathy was asked to figure out how we would structure this event and report at the next board meeting.

I-LIDS – Mary Doden will give a presentation on I-Lids immediately after our June 19th meeting, which will be held at the Hiles North Fire Department (see below).

NEXT MEETING – This will be held at the Hiles North Fire Department at 9:30 am on Friday, June 19th. Breakfast will be provided by the Butternut Franklin Lakes Association. A presentation by Mary Doden on I-Lids will occur at 11 am followed by a visit to a boat landing to see them in operation. More information and directions will be provided. Some might want to carpool as this is about a 50-minute drive from Crandon.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 11:40 am was made by Mike Henderson, seconded by Kathy Babcock. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Babcock

ADDENDUM

FLOW AIS Update For FCAL Meeting May 15th 2026

- Have collected 34 Purple Loosestrife plants for the mass rearing cages from the site on highway 8 in Laona
- Derek has worked on finding new resorts and campgrounds to work with in Forest County as part of the resort owner outreach expansion project
- CBCW Training at Lake Lucerne on Saturday 5/16/2026 at 9:30.
- Snapshot Day will be held at Crandon City Beach off of lake Metonga on August 8th. sign up information is coming soon
- Margaret Gehard the Citizens Lake Monitoring Volunteer for Lake Oneonta is interested in coming to an FCAL meeting. She would like to learn more about the organization and come away with tips on how to help the lake Oneonta Association. See the map below for the lake location relative to Forest County. Forest County is to the left and above the red line. Marinette is to the right and below the line.



- If anyone or a lake association is interested in a lake survey in 2027 as a fee for service, please contact Derek for more information.
 - Currently FLOW AIS can do meander surveys looking for AIS from the surface
 - Working on getting Point Intercept Surveys available as an option in 2027
 - Bookings have started for 2027
- FLOW AIS Annual Meeting is Friday August 21st at 9:00am 12:30 at Red Arrow Park/Seagull Bar State Natural Area.

Address: 318 E Bay Shore St, Marinette, WI 54143

Registration and welcome	9:00-9:30
History of Seagull Bar State Natural Area and local AIS	9:30-9:55
Marinette County European Frogbit Work	9:55-10:20
Frogbit Monitoring	10:20-10:50
Break	10:50- 11:00
Trapping and Waterfowl	11:00- 11:25

Staying clean off the great lakes

Round table and further questions for speakers 11:25-11:40

Lunch (complementary) 11:40- 12:25

Business Meeting for FLOW Steering Committee 12:25-1:25

Please RSVP to Derek Thorn via email at flowais@lumberjackrca.org by Wednesday June 3rd.