FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.
ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 18, 2025
at Wolf River Rendezvous in Crandon

Call to Order: President Pam Schroeder called the annual meeting to order at 4:07 pm and declared a quorum was met.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Present: Pam Schroeder (Little Long Lake), Greg Schmitz (Camp 6), Bob Ebben (Arbutus), Clair Carty (Bear Lake), Mike Henderson (Lily Lake), Vi & Lee Lamers (Roberts Lake), and Kathy Babcock (Butternut-Franklin Lakes).

Board of Directors & Liaisons Excused: Derek Thorn (FLOW), Kayla Littleton (FC Land & Water Conservation Dept.), Pat Schultz (Jungle Lake), Diane & Mark Smith (Lost Lake), Jim Zach (Lake Lucerne), and Mark Orlovsky (Lake Lucerne).

Members & Guests Present: Allen Schroeder (Little Long Lake), Dana Ruff (Little Long Lake), David Albertazzi (Little Long Lake), Sue Henderson (Lily Lake), Kay Poyner Brown (Lake Julia), Jay R. Franke (Lake Julia), Bruce & Carol Court (Lost Lake), Terry & Ann Kloehn (Pine Lake), Sherry Pethers (Bear), Susan McCann (guest of Bear Lake), Carol Schmitz (Camp 6), Chris & Bryan Meixner (St. Johns), Tim & Mary Maertz (Little Long), and Alice & Robert Veit (St. Johns).

INTRODUCTIONS – Members introduced themselves and Pam Schroeder distributed a questionnaire regarding next year's annual meeting/dinner.

SECRETARY'S REPORT -- Secretary Kathy Babcock reviewed the minutes from the last Annual Meeting of October 24, 2024. Motion to accept the minutes from the 2024 annual meeting was made by Clair Carty and seconded by Dana Ruff. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Treasurer Bob Ebben compared this year to last year including membership information.

2025	Category	2024
$15,085	Net Worth	$14,105
$1,000	Grants	$1,500
$920	Other (primarily donations)	$1,560
$3,754	Newsletter	$2,815

In 2025 we have 187 members compared to 176 in 2024. We have 21 lake association members compared to 18 in 2024. We now have 21 business members compared to only 7 in 2024. The growth in business membership is due in large parts to Greg Schmitz' efforts – kudos to Greg! Bob also thanked Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa for their generous donation. Terry Kloehn suggested we check into CoVantage for favorable interest rates on CD's. Bob will do so. Mike Henderson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Lee Lamers. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report -- Pam Schroeder reported on the following activities and thanked all the volunteers that made them happen:

1) Wisconsin Lakes Convention – Kathy Babcock and Derek Thorne attended. They brought back ideas, literature, and information to disseminate to our members.

2) FCAL Newsletter – Vi Lamers does an excellent job editing, designing, and distributing the FCAL newsletter. Anyone interested in submitting articles or photos should do so by mid-May, so the newsletter can be ready to go out in early June.

3) Six-County Land & Water Conference -- Members from FCAL attended this year's Six-County Land and Water Conference at Nicolet College this past July – Wake Boats were again a hot topic.

4) Kentuck Days – Our booth at Kentuck Days was a success with our beautiful canopies and display boards. Special thanks go out to Greg Schmitz, Mark Smith and Mike Henderson for putting up and taking down our canopies/booths. A representative from WRISC shared ½ of our space. FCAL volunteers distributed canvas bags which included AIS information and included lead-free sinkers, among other things.

5) Fall Forum – Jim Zach organized this year's Fall Forum. Forest County lake leaders shared their concerns about issues facing their lake associations and Heather Orlovsky gave a fascinating presentation on the research and work she does with wildlife in our area. FCAL thanks Lake Lucerne's Advancement Association for the use of its Pavilion. Next year's Fall Forum is tentatively scheduled for August 21, 2026 at the Lake Lucerne Pavilion off of County Road W. Add it to your calendar!

6) Essay Contest – Clair Carty organized our essay contest for 5th and 6th graders from schools in Crandon, Laona, and Wabeno. This year's topic asked students to consider their relationship with Nature. They took a metaphorical journey through which they met a creature from nature who helped them explore that relationship. Two of the essay winners attended the annual meeting/dinner and read their essays:
   - Preston Hauser, a 5th grader form Crandon, read his essay *Learning with Honey.*
   - T. J. Perry, a 6th grader from Laona, read his essay *Walley the Walleye Taught Me about my Relationship with Nature*.

7) Environmental Day – Kayla Littleton and Lee Lamers helped organize this event for area high school students. The event was held on Lake Metonga at the City Park. There were nine learning stations through which the students rotated. Some of the learning stations included fish shocking, aquatic invasive species, meeting with the new Forest County Conservation Warden, "a bucket of muck", the use of drones, etc. The students had a great day learning about issues facing our area lakes and Channel 12 News came out and featured this event on one of their segments. Our thanks go out to our wonderful presenters!

9) Webpage – Greg Schmitz has taken over the role of FCAL's web editor. Check out the work he has been doing and the full array informational articles available to you and your lake association. The web address is <fcal-wis.org>.

10) Business Memberships – We are working on growing our business memberships. Greg Schmitz has completed a mailing campaign to area businesses. Thanks to his hard work, we have built our business memberships from 7 to 21.

Election of Board Members–

1) Pam Schroeder reviewed the bylaws which indicated that we can have up to four board members per lake. The following people have been contacted and have agreed to run again for additional terms:

   Bob Ebben (Arbutus Lake)
   Clair Carty (Little Bear Lake)

Mike Henderson (Lily Lake)
Lee Lamers (Roberts Lake)
Pat Schultz (Jungle Lake)

She also requested nominations from the floor– none were made.

A motion to elect the above five board members for the 2026-2028 term was made by Bruce Court and seconded by Greg Schmitz Motion passed unanimously.

2) We have a short board meeting after tonight's dinner to elect officers.

Adjournment – Motion to Adjourn was made by Greg Schmitz, seconded by Mike Henderson. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:18 pm and was followed by the reading of essays by two of our contest winners (see above) and a presentation on *The Great Lakes: Past, Present & Future* by Christian Cold.

A short BOD meeting will occur immediately after this meeting for the election of board members. The next regular meeting will occur at 9:30 am March 20 at the Associated Bank in Crandon. Any and all FCAL members are welcome to attend our monthly meetings. If wishing to attend via ZOOM, contact Pam Schroeder in advance.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Babcock
Secretary