FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Associated Bank, Crandon
Friday, September 18, 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, Lee Lamers, Vi Lamers, Jim Zach, Diane Smith, Mark Smith, Pat Schultz, Mike Henderson, Clair Carty, Greg Schmitz, and Kathy Babcock.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Present on ZOOM: None.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Excused: Bob Ebben, Kayla Littleton, and Derek Thorn.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Absent: Mark Orlovsky.

Guests: Lucas O'Brien.

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the minutes from August 14, 2026 was made By Mark Smith, seconded by Vi Lamers. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: In Bob's absence, Kathy distributed his treasurer's report.

After review, Diane Smith made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mike Henderson. Motion carried unanimously.

We will ask Bob for a list of members, both current and delinquent from our individual lake associations, so we can each follow up with those who are not current members from our own lake associations.

Greg will follow-up with the businesses that did not renew their memberships.

GRANT UPDATES: None.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Forest County Land and Water Conservation: Lucas reported on some of the department's current projects:

- they are preparing for a Resource Advisory Committee for the Forest County Land & Water Resource Management Plan. The first meeting of which is October 6;
- they are applying for two Surface Water Grants to help with shoreline classification similar to what is being done in Oneida County, beginning with Metonga, Lake Gordon and Lake Laura. The work on Lake Metonga will evaluate of the whole shoreline, assessing where run-off is affecting the lake, what has been done and what needs to be done for shoreline preservation. Lake Laura and Lake Gordon will be studied regarding a rare AIS – trying to keep it isolated while also monitoring its potential spread;
-they are also planning on a cost-share grant with the Town of Lincoln; and,
-they have received five (out of the possible 25) applicants for the Healthy Lakes and Rivers grants. The Healthy Lakes and Rivers grant is a $1,000 grant to help riparian land owners cover things such as native shore plantings, rain gardens, fish sticks, rock infiltration systems, and impervious surface mitigation. If you know of anyone on your lake who might be interested in this grant, have them contact Kayla or Lucas.

Lumberjack RC & D: No report at this time.

Roots & Rivers Collaborative (previously known as WRISC): No report at this time. Check out the new R& RC website: roots-rivers.org. Consider signing up to be on their mailing list.

FLOW/AIS: Lucas reported on the Purple Loosestrife work that Derek has been doing in conjunction with the Land and Water Dept.

Lucas noted that Florence County now has a specialized camera attached to their drone, specifically to be used in the study of AIS along lake and river shorelines.

Jim Zach noted that there is an ephemeral stream at the north end of Lake Lucerne with a wetland on the other side of the Potawatomie Trail that might be of concern regarding Purple Loosestrife. Lucas will share this information with Derek.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Essay Contest (spring)– *Clair Carty* – No report at this time.

Newsletter (spring)—*Vi Lamers* – No report at this time.

Kentuck Day (July ?, 2027) – *Greg Schmitz and Mark Smith* – No report at this time.

Fall Forum (August 20 or 21, 2027) – *Jim Zach* – This is tentatively set for either Friday, August 20th or Saturday, August 21st. Fridays are better for our speakers but Saturdays might work better for our members. Discussion ensued regarding a reframing of the day as it seems to be mostly us who attend. Discussion was tabled for another time. Jim will reserve the Lake Lucerne Pavilion for both dates until we decide on what we want next year's event to look like.

Environmental Day (September ?, 2027)– *Lee Lamers & Kayla Littleton* – Lee reported that the event was successful – 34 students attended (originally, we had 45 signed up for the event, but one school backed out due to a conflict with Picture Day). This gave us nice group sizes for the 7 stations. Channel 12 covered the event and showed five different clips that evening. Lee will send Kathy names and addresses of presenters and she will send thank you cards. A special thanks to all involved, especially Lee, Kayla, and Lucas! And Pam and Dana Ruff, too!

Annual Meeting (Saturday, October 24) – Pam reported that the caterer will be Smokin' J's (ribs, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable, dessert) with a cost of approximately $20/plate. She will stop by Smokin' J's after the meeting to confirm the price. The venue is the Wolf River Rendezvous. Lindsay Peterson of R&RC will present on pollinators and native plants. People can register and pay for the annual dinner on our website or via mail. Kathy will email an invitation to our membership once the details are set. We will pay for Lindsay's meal and the essay contest winners/families. We have one essay contest winner so far who has RSVP-ed.

Pam also asked the following people whose terms are up if they are willing to be on this year's slate of candidates to be voted upon at the annual meeting:

Pam Schroeder, Greg Schmitz, Mark Smith, Vi Lamers, Kathy Babcock

They all agreed to run for another term.

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

50/50 Raffle – No report at this time.

Holiday Gathering – We need to set a date and reserve a place. Some of us liked last year's venue a lot (Water's Edge)– others thought it was a bit expensive. We would like to make sure the venue is one of our business members.

Wake Boats –Kathy has lined up speakers from Last Wilderness Alliance and Wisconsin Watersports Coalition. The event will take place on Saturday, October 10th from 10 am- noon at the Argonne Town Hall. There is no cost for the hall as we are a 5013c organization. Argonne provides a 100" TV for Power Points and has a sound system with wireless microphones. Pam will do the welcome. Kathy will explain the rules. Sherry Pethers and another FCAL member will be time keepers. IF Pam's daughter, Dana, can attend, she will manage the microphone during the Q & A section. Greg will provide the coffee. Kathy will provide the coffee fixings and a large urn for ice water. Lucas will feature the event in the Conservation Corner. Kathy will contact TV and Radio for PR. She will email invitations to all town board members in Forest County, plus all Forest County lake associations/lake districts, and the FCAL membership with working emails. She will also send invitations to the town board members via the post.

NEXT MEETING – This will be our Annual Meeting/Dinner on Saturday, October 24th beginning at 4 pm. Kathy distributed some printed reservation forms for us to share with neighbors. She will send out email invitations to our members for whom we have accurate email addresses. Greg will make sure the reservation form is on the website and that people can pay online or via the mail. Pam reminded us that there will be a short meeting after the event to elect officers. We will not be meeting in November or December.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 10:50 am was made by Greg Schmitz, seconded by Jim Zach. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Babcock