

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

Meeting of the Board of Directors
July 1, 2021
Videoconference Meeting via Zoom



Present

Tarki Heath, President
Walter Dutcher, Treasurer
Janet Andersen, Secretary
Matthew Albright
Ina Cholst

Donald Cook
Jan Douglass
Dean Long
John Murad
Rebecca Schneider

Robert Thill
Kristen Wilde
Laurel Wolfe

Absent

Bill Harman, Vice Pres.
Jim Cunningham

John Jablonski
Theresa Mayhew

Also in Attendance

Nancy Mueller

1. **Call to Order.** President Tarki Heath called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Rebecca Schneider moved and Don Cook seconded to approve the minutes of March 9, 2021 and June 25, 2021, and the motion carried.
3. **Review of the CSLAP committee meeting.** As promised to the board at the last meeting, Tarki Heath reviewed the major points of the June 28 CSLAP committee meeting, also documented in meeting notes shared with DEC and committee members.
 - DEC asked to see NYSFOLA homework: Uses of data, use of fees, and alternate approaches. The CSLAP committee demurred, wanting more information from DEC first.
 - Budget reduction from \$600K to \$300K / year appears to be imposed from higher levels. DEC said the prior increase from \$300K to \$600K had been to support the HABs initiative and to add Finger Lakes, and efficiencies in reduced dilutions of toxin testing made the reduction feasible and reasonable.
 - Reduced testing sessions from 8 to 4 per year. Tarki explained that she had repeatedly asked for the model and the science behind this approach, and a document that could be used to convey this to participating lakes. DEC did not commit to supply this.
 - Rotation of lakes - 2 years on/3 years off. This appeared to be the DEC proposal to satisfy the other constraints. Some felt that this was not a DEC mandate but others were not sure.
 - Increasing lake participation to 250 lakes. The DEC said they did not have a list of lakes and that NYS FOLA advertising would bring these in organically, not all at once.
4. **Trust and confidence.** A frequent theme was the disintegration of trust between DEC and FOLA. Discussion to demonstrate this compared past cooperation on Diet, prior report changes, budget constraints, and HABs initiatives to the recent dictation of contract terms, new report formats without FOLA participation or review, unwillingness to share chemical data, not being forthcoming on the science of four sessions and not identifying potential new lakes. Also in this category was DEC's vague threat that FOLA members were breaking the law by discussing the contract before it was final. John Murad saw no clear reason why lake association knowledge of contract negotiations would be against any law. The DEC did not seem to be willing to accelerate meetings.
5. **Proposal assessment.** Board members felt that the proposal was not a renewal of CSLAP but a proposal to change the program and to run a trial to see if 4 sessions provided adequate data.

6. **Go it alone.** The board had a brief discussion of the financial difficulty and viability of FOLA if we did not have a DEC sponsored CSLAP, but agreed it was too early to contemplate that outcome and wanted to focus on a renewal in a format that FOLA and our lakes could accept.
7. **Lake feedback.** Nancy said that she had received feedback from about 30 lakes and the proposed 2 year on / 3 year off rotational program was a deal-breaker for many lakes who responded.
8. **HABs.** The board discussed whether HABs analysis was an integral part of CSLAP, and agreed that the HABs discussion should be separated from the current CSLAP discussion.
9. **Position paper.** Jan Andersen moved, and Don Cook seconded, that Tarki Heath be authorized to act on behalf of NYSFOLA to send DEC a cover letter, attaching the position paper and the FOLA contributions to CSLAP document, and the motion carried. Rebecca Schneider agreed to help draft the cover letter. The position paper had been shared with the group and had received many edits along the way. Tarki said she hoped to have the document ready to send by Monday.
10. **DEC meetings.** The board agreed that if DEC did not respond to the position paper or we did not see any movement on the contract, that escalation to higher levels within the DEC and outreach to legislators would be appropriate actions.
11. **Next meeting.** The board agreed to meet July 14, 2021 at 1 pm.
12. **Adjournment.** Rebecca Schneider moved, and Don Cook seconded to adjourn at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Andersen

Janet Andersen, Secretary, NYS FOLA