

# New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

Meeting of the Board of Directors  
September 8, 2021  
**Videoconference Meeting via Zoom**



## **Present**

Tarki Heath, President  
Bill Harman, Vice Pres.  
Walter Dutcher, Treasurer  
Janet Andersen, Secretary  
Matthew Albright  
Ina Cholst

Donald Cook  
Jan Douglass  
John Jablonski  
Dean Long  
Theresa Mayhew  
John Murad

Rebecca Schneider  
Robert Thill  
Kristen Wilde  
Laurel Wolfe

## **Absent**

Jim Cunningham

## **Also in Attendance**

Nancy Mueller

1. **Call to Order.** President Tarki Heath called the meeting to order at 9:33 am and referenced the board materials distributed via Dropbox.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Bob Thill moved and Rebecca Schneider seconded to approve the minutes of July 1, 2021, and the motion carried.
3. **Office report.** Nancy briefly reviewed the distributed office report. She reviewed the work to find lake association contacts and asked for leads. She reviewed recent book sales, including Diet: 94 softcovers and boxes of hardcovers remain. She discussed her CSLAP talk at Indian River Conference and the upcoming Western Conference. Waterworks is underway, and she'll attend NALMs remotely. Nancy will buy a Zoom contract and asked for inputs on versions.
4. **Treasurer's report.** Walter Dutcher reviewed the income and expense and balance sheet statements which had been distributed. After dropping the 800 number, the telephone bills have decreased. Walt mentioned that some CSLAP bills would be sent to DEC soon, but the majority of CSLAP payments would not be reimbursed until 2022. UFI has been good about waiting for DEC reimbursement before getting paid. Sales tax on books is paid annually. We have about \$565K in available funds with \$559K in the investment account, which Robert Thill reported is returning about 6%. Jan Andersen moved and Terri Mayhew seconded that the report be approved, and the motion carried.
5. **Regional Meetings.** Jan Andersen reported a successful June 2021 virtual Lower Hudson meeting and reported uncertainty about an in-person meeting in 2022. CNY and Mid-Hudson groups did not meet in 2021 and may opt for virtual meetings in 2022. Western NY will have a virtual conference inviting people statewide. We discussed possible competition between regional and statewide meetings and a potential need for coordination. The conference committee will take up this topic.
6. **Gift to Oneonta.** Bill Harman said he had 18 lakes on the list. Nancy Mueller said that with the current rubric, the top lakes were Duane Lake, Horseshoe Pond, Otter Lake, and Sleepy Hollow. She felt that the scoring rubric should be updated. Laurel Wolfe said her association had not nominated Sleepy Hollow and asked that the funds be directed to some association that cannot afford a lake study. We agreed that environmental justice communities and an application might be appropriate additions to a matrix. Walter Dutcher, Laurel Wolfe and Ina Cholst agreed to join Nancy to update the matrix. Jan Andersen moved, and Dean Long seconded, that if a student chose

one of Duane Lake, Horseshoe Lake, or Otter Lake, that the gift be associated with the lake, and the motion carried.

7. **CSLAP report.** Tarki Heath reviewed a timeline of meetings and documents on the CSLAP contract. She said that after our letter to Tierney, discussions with DEC were more positive. The one year extension for 2022 appears on track. This would be the same program as in 2021. We agreed to invite new lakes into the 2022 program. Tarki said that while we hoped for a solid partnership with DEC in 2023-2027, lake rotations out should not be mandated. The power analysis and CALMs criteria are not proven lake management models. DEC seems to be driven to expand CSLAP to more lakes. Nancy Mueller feels the \$300K proposed budget is a negotiable figure. Dean Long said that for 2022 we should have better guidance on when to send in a HABs sample, and for 2023 and on the DEC appeared to be interested in eutrophic parameters. Jan Andersen added that the DEC said that they are only interested in a visual assessment of HABs as part of CSLAP but might fund separate research on HABs. DEC seems to be most interested in supporting assessment parameters and will count PWL segments as separate lakes. DEC also said they would provide an on-line data entry system. Jan emphasized that we must ensure that we can get access to any of the chemical and physical data collected by the lakes. The chemical data from UFI now goes directly to DEC, and DEC does not appear to be posting any toxin data for 2021. Rebecca Schneider introduced the term “data sovereignty” and emphasized ensuring NYSFOLA and the lakes have access to data collected by CSLAP volunteers. Tarki agreed to keep the board updated on the negotiations.
8. **2022 Annual Conference.** Nancy Mueller reviewed that we currently have Friday and Saturday, April 29 & 30<sup>th</sup>, reserved at Fort William Henry, although we do not have a signed contract. The conference is shortened because of a FWH conflict. We discussed planning for an in-person conference but being ready to move to a virtual format. Ina Cholst joined the conference committee. The committee will meet via Zoom on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.
9. **Science Review Committee.** Rebecca Schneider reviewed a pilot approach. Most concepts in scientific papers don’t reach the user community for 7 to 10 years. A student published a paper about the effects of drought on phosphorus entering a lake. Rebecca worked with the student to get an extension document of 900 words, which could be shared via Waterworks and the website. She also produced a 2 page document on how to translate science articles to lay language. She will share the documents. This technique would be valuable for the students to get additional exposure and skills, and also could provide faster transmission of new scientific insights to lakes and lake managers. The board applauded Rebecca for this approach. Rebecca said that scaling might be difficult but would go forward and see if this sparked interest among students.
10. **Nominations committee.** Tarki Heath reported that the nominations committee would review the board members whose terms were expiring before our members meeting next year and discuss officers.
11. **Next meeting.** The board agreed to meet November 10, 2021 at 9:30am via Zoom.
12. **Adjournment.** Jan Andersen moved, and Terri Mayhew seconded to adjourn at 12:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janet Andersen*

Janet Andersen, Secretary, NYS FOLA