

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

Meeting of the Board of Directors
July 18, 2024
Virtual, Via Zoom



Present

Tarki Heath, President
Greg Boyer, Treasurer
Janet Andersen, Secretary
Matthew Albright
Ina Cholst (arr. 10:20)

Jan Douglass
Walter Dutcher
John Jablonski (left 11:30)
Dean Long
Theresa Mayhew

John Murad
Eric Randall
Bernie Thoma
Laurel Wolfe

Absent

Donald Cook
Bill Harman, Vice Pres.

Betsy Landre
Rebecca Schneider

Mark Teece

Also in Attendance

David Carr, NYSFOLA

Nancy Mueller, NYSFOLA

Julia Digiovanni Sleepy Hollow

- 1. Call to order.** President Tarki Heath called the meeting to order at 10:05 am, and said that she had a proxy from Betsy Landre. Eric Randall moves, Janet Andersen seconded that Tarki be able to vote as proxy for Betsy and thus a quorum was established, and the motion carried. Board documents were available via Dropbox.
- 2. Approval of minutes.** Laurel Wolfe moved and Eric Randall seconded to approve the minutes of May 2, 2024; the motion carried.
- 3. Treasurer's Report.** Greg Boyer provided 1H financial statements, and said that the learning curve on quickbooks (QB) is steep. He reported that transition continues: he has obtained access for Key Bank, payroll, disability insurance, and Vanguard. He said that the accountants have all they need to prepare the 990 and Char 500. The financial committee met and was helpful. Greg and Dave are continuing to work on getting the financial transactions into the correct account codes in QB, especially automated feeds. Overall we remain in a good financial position. John Murad gave an investment committee report, stating that the funds had increased by 4.5% for the first half of the year, and they were in conservative but appropriate investments.
- 4. Office Report.** Dave Carr provided an office report. He supplemented the financial discussion, indicating that that Greg and he had started work on a financial policy. He has supported regional conferences with JotForm and PayPal options. He published and mailed the Waterworks newsletter. He discussed plans to move the newsletter to a digital format which would enable more color photos, live links, and save money on printing and postage. He asked for articles and pictures for the newsletter and thanked past contributors. Dave reported that the latest software upgrade to the website broke the CSLAP report lookup, and he got a quote of \$500 to \$1000 to fix the issue. We discussed that many lake associations looked for old reports, as did many organizations outside of our membership. Matt Albright said that it was used by students and academics, Greg Boyer said that academics used it, Eric Randall said that NEANS reference our data. John Jablonski moved and Jan Andersen seconded approval of this spending, and the motion carried. Nancy Mueller said this would be appropriate to be considered as a part of DEC outreach and education spending. Dave said that he thought that the website would have to be rebuilt in the future to include a membership database, and that cost would be in the range of \$10K.
- 5. Regional meetings.** Don Cook was absent, but Jan Andersen said that the Lower Hudson conference, co-hosted with Ina Cholst, had been very successful, with almost 100 attendees, and about \$500 cash positive. She thanked Dave Carr for his support and attendance. She felt the regional conference committee should discuss some questions. Dave Carr said he attended the Indian River Conservancy conference, a good

conference at a nice location. Upcoming regional conferences include Columbia-Greene August 7, Central NY September 13, and Western October 26.

6. **CSLAP.** Nancy Mueller said that the 2024 CSLAP season is well underway, with a few glitches with FedEx and the DEC dashboard. Nancy and Alene Onion have completed volunteer training. Nancy has revisited the EJ/DAC lake lists. Alene is very active with the Albany STEP program, which has a small and very engaged group, and has attracted attention from the DEC commissioner. As a pilot more work is needed to expand and better connect to CSLAP. Nancy said that a few new lakes had asked about joining in 2025. She also said that she needs more inputs about how lakes are using the CSLAP reports and data. Matt Albright mentioned student reports which use CSLAP data and Nancy said she would add those management reports to the NYSFOLA website. Dean Long reminded us that in 2025 the CSLAP program would be 4 samples only. He then reviewed the current discussion about a supplemental program for CSLAP lakes that wanted to continue with 8 sampling sessions. The group reviewed the cost of the full set of samples and a reduced set with nutrients & chlorophyll, with an option of HABs sampling. The next step is to talk to UFI and DEC. DEC has said they would include the data in reports, but we feel we need access to the dashboard to make this feasible. Greg Boyer cautioned on the use of fluoroprobe data for HABs. Dean also discussed the contract's provision for additional monitoring for lakes with 9E plans and sewer projects and need to identify those lakes. John Jablonski said that grants might be available to support non-DEC sampling, and suggested that a promotional article would be useful to gain lake support and / or fundraise.
7. **Strategic Plan.** Dave Carr said the strategic plan committee had met a few times, including once with Kate Budlong and Karen Macier, potential facilitators. He said ideas had been collected from conference attendees. Tarki begun documenting NYSFOLA's SWOT statement (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats). He said that Kate and Karen had provided a \$10K proposal which featured a survey, and recommended the board approve it. Jan Andersen moved, and Bernie Thoma seconded the motion to move forward with Kate and Karen as strategic plan facilitators, and the motion carried.
8. **NEANS.** Eric Randall reported on the NEANS (Northeast Aquatic Invasive Species Panel) meeting: he took that responsibility over from Bill Harman. He was impressed with the caliber of attendees and discussions, and would continue Bill's work to emphasize inland lakes in addition to marine and coastal systems. Many diploid and triploid carp are found to be reproducing and spreading and he felt that should be on our radar.
9. **Benefits and Comp Committee.** Tarki Heath said that the committee was working on personnel contracts for September 30. Terri Mayhew moved, and John Murad seconded that the committee be authorized to work on changes to the contracts and have discussions with employees, with recommendations to be brought to the board in September, and the motion carried.
10. **Nominating Committee.** Tarki Heath reviewed the board members whose terms expire in 2025 and asked those on the list to let her know if they would be willing to be renominated. She also said that Rebecca Schneider intended to resign and would recommend candidates. Laurel Wolfe has announced that she will resign in 2025, and recommended Julia Digiovanni. Tarki said that the nominating committee would meet to review the resumes and other appropriate information. In addition the officer terms expire in 2025. She reminded us that Dean Long is President-elect.
11. **Next meeting:** The next meeting will be hybrid on either Friday September 20 or September 27, depending upon availability of the meeting venue. Lunch will be at noon and the hybrid meeting will begin at 1pm.
12. **Adjournment.** Terri Mayhew moved and Jan Douglass seconded that the meeting should adjourn at 11:51 am, and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Andersen

Janet Andersen, Secretary, NYSFOLA