

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 20, 2024
Virtual, Via Zoom



Present

Tarki Heath, President	Jan Douglass	John Murad
Janet Andersen, Secretary	Walter Dutcher	Eric Randall
Matthew Albright	John Jablonski (left 3:00 pm)	Bernie Thoma
Ina Cholst	Betsy Landre	Laurel Wolfe
Donald Cook	Dean Long	

Absent

Greg Boyer, Treasurer	Theresa Mayhew
Bill Harman, Vice Pres.	Mark Teece

Also in Attendance

David Carr, NYSFOLA	Nancy Mueller, NYSFOLA	Julia Digiovanni, Sleepy Hollow
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- 1. Call to order.** President Tarki Heath called the meeting to order at 1:03pm, and confirmed a quorum of the board was present. Board documents were available via Dropbox.
- 2. Approval of minutes.** Don Cook moved and Laurel Wolfe seconded to approve the minutes of July 18, 2024; the motion carried.
- 3. Treasurer's Report /Financial Committee Report.** Dave Carr described the financial report that had been distributed by Greg Boyer. Dean Long moved, and Bernie Thoma seconded, that we would hire the ZLC Group, the CPAs who prepare our 990's, to clean up the Quickbooks chart of accounts, create classes, and provide bookkeeping services before year-end, at a cost not to exceed \$4K, and the motion carried. Dean explained that we would look to rebid the bookkeeping task for 2025 once Quickbooks is in good condition. We discussed moving the Vanguard on-line access to John Murad. Laurel Wolfe moved, and Dean Long seconded a motion to approve the resolution provided by Vanguard, and the motion carried. Dave also referenced the updated draft to the financial policy, and asked for input. Eric Randall moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted, John Jablonski seconded, and the motion carried.
- 4. Investment Committee Report.** John Murad reported on the solid YTD performance of the Vanguard investments. He also indicated the need to separate the investments from daily operations, and said that Greg Boyer, Treasurer, had agreed to move off of the Investment committee. Betsy Landre agreed to join the committee, replacing Greg.
- 5. Office Report.** Dave Carr provided an office report. He said that he continues to update and reconcile Quickbooks as it now stands. He expects the first digital Waterworks to come out shortly, using a different mailing service, Brevo. He examined the membership records and reported that we had 395 active members, including individual, association, and corporate members. He had a discussion with the NJ Coalition of Lake Associations, and thought connections with other state organizations was valuable. Dave continues to support regional conferences with JotForm and email notices, and attended the Columbia-Greene and CNY regional meetings. The Western conference is Oct 26, 2024.
- 6. CSLAP Report.** Nancy Mueller said that the 2024 CSLAP season is almost complete, over half of the lakes have completed sampling, and that it had gone smoothly. She was starting on 2025 planning. She said that Alene Onion would continue with the STEP program. Nancy reported contacts with some EJ/DAC lakes who are interested in CSLAP. She discussed with Alene hiring a writer to report on CSLAP success stories, which would be covered by DEC outreach funds in the contract. So far, no lakes have said they are dropping CSLAP for 2025, and 15 new lakes may join. About 8 lakes are interested in the supplemental sampling offering thus far.

7. **Strategic Plan.** Dave Carr said the strategic plan committee had met a few times, including twice with Kate Budlong and Karen Macier. He reviewed draft mission, vision, and values statements, and the “buckets” for goals and objectives. Dave said that the target was to get the survey out by the end of September. The overall timeline is to have a strategic plan ready for review at a January board meeting.
8. **NEANS.** Eric Randall reported on the NEANS (Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel) meeting. He wanted the board to know that hydrilla had been discovered in Ontario, which is also the first hydrilla sighting in Canada. The finding is of concern because of its location in a surge area for Lake Erie, and retreating water could carry the plant there. Not much information is available: this might be added to the Waterworks.
9. **Entering executive session:** On a motion from Eric Randall, seconded by Betsy Landre, the board agreed to enter executive session at 2:20pm.
10. **Exiting executive session:** Dean Long motioned, and Jan Douglass seconded, to leave the executive session at 3:15pm, and the motion carried.
11. **Nomination Committee.** The board announced that they had reviewed the recommendations of the nominating committee. Tarki Heath appointed Amy Hetherington to the open position left by the resignation of Rebecca Schneider. Eric Randall moved, and Betsy Landre seconded that the report of the nominating committee, including the board member evaluation process, be accepted, and the motion carried. The board also expressed their appreciation for Rebecca’s many contributions during her long tenure on the board.
12. **Benefits and Comp Committee.** The board stated that they authorized the committee to move forward with signature and completion of the employment contracts.
13. **Travel reimbursement.** Eric Randall said that the next NEANS meeting required travel and a hotel stay and requested reimbursement. The board agreed that adequate funds are available in the travel budget and agreed that Eric should be reimbursed. The draft travel policy said that reimbursement for board members would be evaluated on an individual basis.
14. **Next meeting:** The next meeting will be zoom at 1 pm on Wednesday, January 15, 2025.
15. **Adjournment.** Dean Long moved and Jan Douglass seconded that the meeting should adjourn at 3:28pm, and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Andersen

Janet Andersen, Secretary, NYSFOLA