

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 7, 2025
Hybrid, Jamesville Dewitt Community Library & Zoom



Present

Tarki Heath, President	Jan Douglass	Theresa Mayhew
Bill Harman, Vice President	Walter Dutcher	John Murad
Greg Boyer, Treasurer	Amy Hetherington	Eric Randall
Janet Andersen, Secretary	John Jablonski	Bernie Thoma
Matthew Albright	Betsy Landre	Laurel Wolfe
Don Cook	Dean Long	

Absent

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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 1:15 pm, and confirmed a quorum of the board was present. Board documents were available via Dropbox.
2. **Approval of minutes.** Laurel Wolfe moved and Don Cook seconded to approve the minutes of January 15, 2025; the motion carried.
3. **Strategic Planning Committee.** Tarki Heath introduced the strategic plan report with an update of the status. The committee has been meeting independently and also with LCP Consulting, Kate Budlong and Karen Macier. Dave Carr reviewed the prepared summary presentation, and indicated these actions will be taken over 5 years. He reviewed goals and some action items under each of the five objectives: (1) (2) Advocacy and Public Policy; (2) Organizational Sustainability, Finances, and Administration; (3) Membership Services; (4) Partnership and Collaboration; and (5) Marketing and Branding. Tarki emphasized this is a living document. Dean Long said they wanted participation from everyone and suggested a Q&A town hall with the board. The board agreed to provide comments and questions by March 24, and the session would be scheduled after that. The board discussed whether tools like a GANTT chart should be used to track the actions.
4. **Treasurer's report and Financial Committee.** Greg Boyer reviewed the distributed Treasurer's report. He stated that NYSFOLA was in a good financial status. He said that a draft budget had been prepared but he was not ready to share it, but the outlook was that the organization would spend about \$50,000 more than the income in 2025. The budget is targeted for our May meeting. Dean Long and Greg explained that this was not unexpected because we will not receive CSLAP lake participation fees in 2025. Greg is continuing to work to rectify the Key Bank numbers with Quickbooks for 2024. A new chart of accounts will be used for 2025. Eric Randall moved and Dean Long seconded to accept the Treasurer's report, and the motion carried.
5. **Investment Committee.** John Murad reported that the investment results through February did not reflect the current mercurial nature of the markets, but expectations were for low single digit growth in 2025. An advisor had recommended slowly moving to increase the equity:bond ratio in the portfolio to about 60:40. John Murad moved and Terri Mayhew seconded that the Investment Committee should study this and proceed if and when they feel it is appropriate, and the motion carried.
6. **CSLAP.** Nancy Mueller reviewed the current status of the 2025 CSLAP program, with 195 lakes, 205 to 207 sites, and 15 new lakes. Some lakes are going from multiple sites to one because of DEC's policy to only pay for one lake site per PWL segment. She mentioned that the State had a new portal for their financial system. Training should be easier than in 2024. Nancy will meet with UFI to go over the logistics for the 8x program. She reported that DEC will include all the data in the CSLAP reports.

7. **Annual conference.** Dave Carr reported that registration is at 120 and hope to get to 250 once the program is compiled and distributed. Over a dozen exhibitors will be there. He mentioned the newsletter contest was underway, and also five lake steward awards. Dave requested that board members offer to moderate the sessions, once the program is distributed. Dave also asked for people to help staff the registration desk. Terri Mayhew offered to coordinate that effort.
8. **Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance (FLRWA) Advocacy** – Tarki Heath reported that Jake Welch of the Political Education Committee of FLRWA was supporting a HABs awareness bill currently in the state assembly and senate. It has five parts: update HABs locations; compile mitigation strategies; research and reporting to support efforts; monitoring and response; and program development. Jake will be invited to speak at the conference. Because of the short runway to the end of the legislative session in June, the bill may be deferred to 2026. The Water Research Institute may have a role. Dean Long indicated that this bill ignores nutrient inactivation strategies. The DEC has not released data from their pilot studies. A bill in support of nutrient inactivation may also be on its way through the legislature. Tarki indicated that NYSFOLA should take a stance in the interest of state lakes. We discussed a recent NEAPMS webinar on state approaches to HABs.
9. **Nominations Committee.** Tarki Heath reviewed the proposed slate of directors that will be presented to the members meeting. Renewing their board terms are Matt Albright, Eric Randall, and Greg Boyer, and a new board candidate, Julia Digiovanni. She also announced the slate of officers: Dean Long as President, Tarki Heath as Vice President, Greg Boyer as Treasurer, and Jan Andersen as Secretary. Jan Andersen moved and Tarki Heath seconded to accept these slates, and the motion carried.
10. **Office Report.** Dave Carr reported that some major items had already been addressed, specifically the strategic plan and the annual conference. He said that membership checks had come in with CSLAP and conference registrations, and a reminder had just been sent. VLC, the accountants, had updated the chart of accounts, and that he was pursuing a bookkeeper, and liked the founder of Dependable Bookkeeping of Central New York. The building with the office is currently on the market, and the rental agreement will be refreshed before the building is sold, with an increased rent of \$500. He attended the Finger Lakes Research Conference and will attend the Owasco Spring Symposium.
11. **New business:**
 - **RLS impact statement.** Tarki Heath read a memo from Rebecca Schneider on the mission of the land grant colleges and the anticipated impact of the ongoing and threatened cuts to funding, which is expected to impact programs and staffing. We also discussed cuts to Sea Grant funding. Jan Andersen moved, and Bill Harnan seconded that NYSFOLA should sign on to the Sea Grant memo as described by Dean Long, and the motion carried.
 - **New DEC Commissioner.** Tarki Heath announced that Amanda Lefton had been named the new DEC commissioner. The board agreed to invite her to our annual conference.
 - **SUNY Oneonta – Scriven Foundation support.** Matt Albright said that they had been notified that the Scriven Foundation would decrease their student support. This would require higher funding from lake associations that hired students to study their lakes as part of the program. Matt also said that the school will start to charge mileage on their cars, an added expense. The gift and scholarship committee will examine this in more detail.
 - **Letter to Representatives.** The board asked Tarki Heath, Terri Mayhew, Greg Boyer, and Eric Randall to send a letter to the NY Republican House Representatives to ask that the congressionally approved funding for environmental issues be maintained.
12. **Next meeting.** The next meeting will be in person at 3pm on May 1, 2025, at the Fort William Henry Conference Center.
13. **Adjournment.** Jan Douglass moved, and Dean Long seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 3:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Andersen

Janet Andersen, Secretary, NYSFOLA