

# New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

Meeting of the Board of Directors  
September 25, 2025  
Via Zoom



## Present

|                             |                              |                |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Dean Long, President        | Jan Douglass                 | Theresa Mayhew |
| Tarki Heath, Vice President | Walter Dutcher               | John Murad     |
| Greg Boyer, Treasurer       | Bill Harman                  | Eric Randall   |
| Janet Andersen, Secretary   | Amy Hetherington (dep 12:00) | Bernie Thoma   |
| Matthew Albright            | John Jablonski               |                |
| Ina Cholst (arr 10:25)      | Betsy Landre                 |                |

## Absent

|          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| Don Cook | Julia Digiovanni |
|----------|------------------|

## Also in Attendance

|                                 |                        |                                |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| David Carr, NYSFOLA (arr 10:55) | Nancy Mueller, NYSFOLA | Alene Onion, DEC (11:05-11:18) |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|

- 1. Call to order.** President Dean Long called the meeting to order at 10:02 am, and confirmed a quorum of the board was present. Board documents were available prior to the meeting via Dropbox. Dean thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions over the past months.
- 2. Approval of minutes.** Eric Randall moved and Terri Mayhew seconded to approve the board minutes of May 1, 2025 and May 3, 2025; the motion carried.
- 3. Treasurer's Report.** Greg Boyer reviewed the financial documents, and said that the organization was in good financial shape. He explained that the running budget aligned revenues and expenses for the 2025 year. He is not seeing a lot of activity now, and he forecasts that NYSFOLA will end the year slightly positive without pulling from our investments. The IRS 990's have been filed and he is filing sales taxes. He is waiting on a DEC voucher payment and another voucher has to be submitted for UFI bills. Jan Andersen moved and Tarki Heath seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted as discussed, and the motion carried.
- 4. Investment Committee.** John Murad reported that the funds are up about 8% from the beginning of the year. The committee had met with RBC wealth management for advice. Current fund distribution is about 50% equity and 50% bond and income. John discussed reasons to change the allocation. Jan Andersen moved and John Jablonski seconded that the allocation be moved to 55% equity and 45% bonds, and the motion carried. The committee would prefer to move out of Wellington to the Russell 1000 ETF, a broader fund, and will discuss liquidity requirements with Greg Boyer before finalizing a change.
- 5. Finance Committee.** Dean Long reported for the new bookkeeper is working out very well and helping Quickbooks become a better management tool.
- 6. Office Report.** Nancy Mueller said she was helping the Western Regional Conference track attendee signups. Dave Carr had prepared GIS maps which gave lakes within legislative districts and had worked to clarify tasks and timing in the strategic plan. He reported that the office building containing the NYSFOLA office was for sale. Our lease is through year end 2026.
- 7. CSLAP.** Nancy Mueller reported that a successful 2025 season was wrapping up, a writer was hired to document CSLAP success stories, and she expected the program to grow by about 10 lakes in 2026. Nancy asked John Murad about allowing electronic signatures on waivers. Dean Long discussed additional parameters and phycocyanin probes might be added for large lakes with satellite HABs scanning. The webinars were well received. Alene Onion joined later and reported a bid to make lake reports interactive to zoom on charts and maps. She also reported success tackling the warm samples by using overnight shipping,

which also appeared cost effective. Alene also discussed DEC outreach to larger lake organizations and that could be done jointly with NYSFOLA.

8. **Gift and scholarship.** The committee will start a Bill Harman student award. They met with Oneonta to discuss the costs of travel and increased funding needs. Two lakes currently have working Oneonta students. More work will be done before 2026.
9. **Science Advisory.** Dean Long asked for feedback on the committee charter by October 10. He also asked the board to suggest members and will look for a chair to move this forward. Eric Randall was asked to assist.
10. **Advocacy.** Tarki Heath reported on two bills in front of the legislature, on nutrient inactivation and on HABs monitoring and prevention. Tarki had met with Senator May on HABs. Dean Long prepared comments in June and the board asked for copies. Tarki asked for more members to help start the educational process. Tarki also mentioned two additional legislative matters, the Open Water Data Act and the Drinking Water Protection Act, and will distribute information on them.
11. **Reinforcing committees.** Dean Long said that two strong board candidates have provided their resumes and spoken with Tarki Heath, Emily DeBolt and Jane Oppenlander. Jan Andersen moved, and John Jablonski seconded that Emily and Jane should be asked to participate in board activities pending approval by the members in May, and that should a current board member resign, Dean would be able to appoint one as a board member, and the motion carried.
12. **Strategic Plan.** Dean Long reminded the board that many strategic plan tasks need workers and asked for volunteers. The conference committee may also need helpers.
13. **Federation of Lakes.** Dean Long said that more clarity is needed for the role of this organization. He is comfortable with our current approach. Dave Carr is tracking the time he spends on advocacy.
14. **Lake Tear of the Clouds.** Dean Long asked for an immediate approval of a Lake Tear of the Clouds award for Don Cook. Erick Randall moved, and Terri Mayhew seconded, and the motion carried. The board reached consensus to name the western conference the Don Cook Western Regional Conference after Don.
15. **Next meeting.** The next meeting will be a zoom meeting at 10am on January 22, 2025.
16. **Executive session:** Eric Randall moved, and Jan Andersen seconded that the board enter executive session at 12:08pm, and the motion carried. Jan Andersen moved, and Bill Harman seconded that they board exit executive session at 12:18pm.
17. **Employee matters.** Eric Randall moved, and Terri Mayhew seconded, that Nancy Mueller's contract be approved, and the motion carried. Eric Randall moved, and John Murad seconded that Dave Carr's contract be approved, and the motion carried. Jan Andersen moved, and Eric Randall seconded, that the executive committee be authorized to approve full time pay for additional paid time off for Dave Carr, and the motion carried.
18. **Adjournment.** John Jablonski moved, and Terri Mayhew seconded, that the meeting be adjourned at 12:20 pm and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janet Andersen*

Janet Andersen, Secretary, NYSFOLA