

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 22, 2026
Via Zoom



Present

Dean Long, President	Julia Digiovanni	Theresa Mayhew
Tarki Heath, Vice President	Jan Douglass	John Murad (arr. 10:25)
Greg Boyer, Treasurer	Walter Dutcher	Jane Oppenlander
Janet Andersen, Secretary	Amy Hetherington (arr. 10:15)	Eric Randall
Matthew Albright	John Jablonski	Bernie Thoma
Emily DeBolt	Betsy Landre	

Absent

Ina Cholst	Bill Harman
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Also in Attendance

David Carr, NYSFOLA (arr 10:55)	Nancy Mueller, NYSFOLA
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- 1. Call to order.** President Dean Long called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, and confirmed a quorum of the board was present. Board documents were available prior to the meeting via email and Dropbox. Dean thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions over the past months.
- 2. Approval of minutes.** Terri Mayhew moved and John Jablonski seconded to approve the board minutes of September 25, 2025; the motion carried.
- 3. Appointments to the NYSFOLA Board.** Dean Long reminded the board that the Bylaws allow the President to appoint members to fill the unexpired terms of board members. Dean announced that Walter Dutcher had submitted his resignation. John Jablonski moved, and Tarki Health seconded that the board express its appreciation to Walter for his many years of service on the board and as an officer, and the motion carried. He also announced that he had appointed Emily DeBolt and Jane Oppenlander to the board.
- 4. CSLAP report.** Nancy Mueller reported that the data from 2025 had been reconciled and was waiting to be loaded to the DEC data warehouse. Alene Onion should be able to generate reports soon. The 2026 CSLAP applications are due February 2 and membership and CSLAP payments are coming in now. Nancy expects the number of lakes and sites not to change much year to year. Dean Long reported that he has had two discussions with Alene about the 2028 contract. DEC will not entertain adding phycocyanin or fluoroprobe analysis to the contract. Dean has also suggested adding more lakes or reservoirs that serve as water supplies for small drinking water systems. He also said that DEC was going to supply additional DO probes to lakes: we discussed distribution issues. Nancy said a February 11 webinar would feature DEC's DO probe program.
- 5. Treasurer's Report.** Greg Boyer reviewed the financial documents, and said that the organization was in good financial shape. He reminded the group that NYSFOLA kept its books on a cash basis. He is working with the bookkeeper to improve QB reports and is waiting on a DEC voucher payment to pay UFI. He said that the accountants would update the 2025 results for the investment activity. Eric Randall moved, and Jan Andersen seconded, to accept the Treasurer's report: the motion carried.
- 6. Investment Committee.** John Murad reported that the committee had executed the direction recommended by an advisor and approved at the September meeting that the funds be reallocated to about 55% in equity and 45% in bonds. That was executed by adding an S&P 500 investment fund, deemed the best balance of return and risk. Greg Boyer said that his goal was to keep 2 years of funds to support NYSFOLA easily liquid and had \$100K in short term bonds funds that were quite stable. In 2025, about \$28K of interest and dividends were directed to NYSOLA accounts. John said that the committee was doing work to update a policy for investments and expected that would be available for the next board meeting.

7. **Budget committee.** Greg Boyer reviewed the 2026 budget. The 2025 results were a bit better than budgeted. He expected that in 2026 the organization might need to take more from investments than in 2025. Betsy Landre moved, and Jan Andersen seconded that the budget be approved, and the motion carried.
8. **Conference finances.** Dean Long reported that he had worked with Dave Carr and Tarki Heath to update the conference fees and had implemented student discounts in keeping with our strategic plan direction.
9. **Office Report.** Dave Carr expressed appreciation to Nancy Mueller and everyone during his absence. He said that the conference registration forms were redesigned and the bookkeeper had designed conference reports. Fort William Henry is ready to for the conference. Vendors had expressed confusion, and so this year he prepared vendor packages. Dave also said that he would be looking for office space and they wanted to consider some shared space options. The office should stay in the general vicinity of Syracuse because of the need for coordination with UFI. Nancy Mueller reported that some lakes and members asked why they were getting donation requests and indicated they wanted more member services. She encouraged the board to consider a hardcopy Waterworks but that the bulk mail permit may expire.
10. **Strategic Plan.** Dean Long reported that progress continued on the strategic plan and referenced the pricing designed to encourage student participation at the conference. He also worked on how NYSFOLA fits into the lake association ecosystem, where some large associations have staff members or regional groups such as the Finger Lakes and Lake George, and other smaller associations are unaffiliated. He felt that these small associations would benefit from NYSFOLA to be a more forceful spokesperson on lake issues. He said the last few months he had worked on advocacy and how to gain influence in the legislature in a tough budget year.
11. **Fundraising and membership committee.** Tarki Heath said the small committee would like more members. She said that the group was working on issues identified by the members, including volunteer motivation, webinars, organizing, non-profit rules, lake association outreach, and fundraising appeals. Aligning with strategic goals, she spoke about getting news out about grants and collaboration with other organizations. She asked board members to send in ideas. The board discussed partnering with others to offer shared webinar information: the wakeboarding webinar was an example. The board was reminded of the need to do targeted marketing to understand what the members were interested in, and the value of having a longer-term calendar of events. A speakers' bureau was suggested, as well as a summer "check in" call for lakes.
12. **Science Advisory.** Dean Long said he'd gotten feedback on the committee charter, and hoped to have a chair and several members by the May meeting.
13. **Advocacy.** Dean Long attended a meeting to discuss legislation requiring DEC to establish a SPDES permitting process for nutrient inactivation (NI). Other organizations wanted to know our position. He was encouraged to get the organizations that are associated with freshwater protection like Adirondack Council and Riverkeeper on board. HABS legislation to set up a research group at DEC will be reintroduced but support is questioned when academia has research groups, and DEC does not seem to be interested. Jan Andersen moved, and Tarki Heath seconded, that the executive committee be authorized to send a letter in support of NI when appropriate, and to add educational information to the NYSFOLA website, and the motion carried. The NALMS website may have good reference information, and a session at the conference was suggested.
14. **Reinforcing committees.** Dean Long and Tarki Heath both emphasized the need for more volunteers on committees. Julia Digiovanni needs help on the newsletter contest. Terri Mayhew asked for help on the silent auction. Dean asked everyone to get more involved with their regional PRISMS.
15. **Gift & scholarship.** Tarki Heath said that committee was moving forward on the Bill Harman scholarships.
16. **Next meetings.** The next meeting will be a zoom meeting at 10 am on March 26, 2026. The board will also meet at Fort William Henry at 3 pm on May 7, 2026.
17. **Adjournment.** Terri Mayhew moved, and Jan Andersen seconded, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:58 am and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Andersen

Janet Andersen, Secretary, NYSFOLA