

**New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**Hybrid meeting: Jameville-Dewitt Community Library and via Zoom**  
**Jamesville, NY**  
**March 8, 2024 1PM**

Present at the library:

Directors: Tarki Heath, Gregory Boyer,  
Dean Long, Walter Dutcher, Jan Douglass,  
Donald Cook, John Jablonski, John Murad,  
Mark Teece, Terri Mayhew

Staff: David Carr, Nancy Mueller

Guests: Elaine Cook

Present via Zoom: Bill Harman, Rebecca  
Schneider, Eric Randall, Betsy Landre, Matt  
Albright, Bernie Thoma

Guests: Alene Onion and Giancarlo  
Coppola, NYS DEC (1:30pm – 2:00pm only)

Absent: Janet Andersen, Ina Cholst, Laurel  
Wolfe

Minutes

1. **Roll call and call to order** – President Tarki Heath called the meeting to order, recognized the importance of NYSFOLA’s work and the challenges ahead.
2. **Minutes of the January 18, 2024 meeting** – On a motion by Terri Mayhew, seconded by Don Cook, the minutes of the January meeting were approved.
3. **Treasurer’s Report** – Greg Boyer reported that most of the changeovers at Key Bank have taken place. The Key to Business credit card accounts and ability to perform ACH transactions are still being reviewed by Key Bank. It was supposed to take 6 days, but it has been over two weeks. The Vanguard account signatories are also getting switched over, and it is a lengthy process. Quickbooks has been reconciled through the end of 2023. Greg is looking a central repository for documents and is looking into various options.
4. **Investment Committee Report** – John Murad reiterated that Vanguard access is being transferred to Greg (primary) with John and Dean having secondary access. John recommended that NYSFOLA locate an investment advisor. Greg suggested that we wait until we know the amount of income that the investments need to generate (currently in the \$31K ballpark). Tarki Heath stated that the preliminary budget presented to the Board needs refining and will be presented to the Board at the May meeting. It was discussed that CSLAP might need a separate project budget. John Murad and Mark Teece requested

financial reports. The information will be sent out that covers the period through December 2023.

5. **CSLAP Committee** – Nancy Mueller reported that the 2024 CSLAP paperwork and participation fees have been received. There will be 196 sites on 182 lakes sampled this season with over 600 volunteers completing the work. She has been working with Alene to amend the Sampling Protocol, revise the QAPP, and set up the training schedule.

Alene reported that the CSLAP reports are finished, but DEC required an internal review. Bureau Director Stephanie June has expressed concern about the Assessment tab data potentially conflicting with information that DEC sends to EPA as part of the Priority Waterbody List assessments. Alene emphasized that the raw data was not in question, but the graphs within the assessment tab might need to be changed.

Dean Long stated that the data in the graphs that goes beyond 2020 is important. He suggested that it should be highlighted with a statement indicating that it is subject to future revisions.

Alene will be presenting the information at the NYSFOLA annual conference, and it could also be summarized in an article for “Waterworks”. Nancy thanked Alene for the effort put into the new reports and for working with the CSLAP Committee to develop them.

Alene reported on intern staffing, the Albany STEP program, and the conference and then left the meeting.

Dean Long and Greg Boyer offered to write up a request to keep the data in the CSLAP reports with the qualifier as noted above. The letter would go to Stephanie June, Brian Duffy, and Alene Onion at DEC.

6. **NYSFOLA Board Terms** – Tarki Heath noted that the following Board members have terms expiring in 2024: Ina Cholst, Jan Douglass, Dean Long, Rebecca Schneider, Tarki Heath, Terri Mayhew, and Bill Harman. All have agreed to term renewals.

On a motion by John Murad, seconded by Don Cook, the slate was accepted. It was noted that the next Board of Directors meeting will take place on Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Lake George. It was then noted that a second meeting would need to take place to elect officers, and that the President-Elect position remained open. Dean Long agreed to accept the nomination for President-Elect.

7. **Gift to Oneonta** – Dave Carr reported that Dan Stich has taken over the program at Oneonta following Bill Harman’s retirement. He has submitted a long list of lakes that are on the waiting list. Nancy gave Dan information regarding which lakes on the list are NYSFOLA members and those that are CSLAP participants. The students will be selecting lakes in the fall.
8. **Office Update** – Dave Carr reported that office updates to internet, software, hardware and furniture have been made. He will be purchasing a tablet to be used for credit card purchases.
9. **2024 Conference Report** – Dave Carr noted that the agenda is nearly finished pending a handful of speaker changes. He passed out the volunteer sheet for the registration desk and session moderators. It was reiterated that meal tickets will not be available for purchase at the door.

10. **Strategic Planning** – Tarki Heath reported that NYCON has increased their rates from \$150/hr to \$175/hr for assistance with the Strategic Plan. There is a proposed agreement for streamlining the process to meet the \$7500 budget previously approved by the Board. The Committee (Dave, John Jablonski, Dean, Bernie and Tarki) will work with NYCON and make plans to engage with NYSFOLA members at the conference.
11. **Sampling Program Planning 2025** – Tarki Heath pointed out that starting with the 2025 season, DEC will only be paying for 4 rounds of CSLAP sampling but that NYSFOLA has agreed to find a way to keep the sampling intact for lake associations wishing to do so. Dean Long emphasized the need to better report HABs and that we should look at parameters that are the greatest value to the lakes. Nancy and Dean will be working with UFI in the upcoming months to develop a plan.
12. **Other Business** – Regional Conferences: On a motion by John Jablonski, seconded by Don Cook, the Board approved the expenditure of \$250 for the Central NY, Lower Hudson, Columbia/Greene (Upper Hudson), Western NY and Indian River Lakes Conservancy conferences with brief follow-up discussions about the funding mechanisms, registration, and actual costs that should be further discussed by the Committee. Policy Signatures: A sheet was passed for signatures regarding the acceptance of various NYSFOLA policies. NALMS 2024 – Dean Long recommended that NYSFOLA not expend funds to support a NALMS attendee this year. Nancy has a registration credit from 2024 that is non-transferable or refundable, but hotel and airfare costs are still a factor. The CSLAP contract does not allow for out-of-state travel without permission from DEC, and the travel component of the CSLAP budget is limited. It was suggested that Nancy write a letter to Brian Duffy asking permission to use funds in the Supplemental and/or Outreach and Education categories of the contract and that the letter highlight the PEJA/DAC changes to the program and the need to engage with leaders of other volunteer monitoring programs.
13. **Adjournment** - On a motion by Terri Mayhew, seconded by Jan Douglass, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will take place on Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Fort William Henry Conference Center in Lake George.