

**Findley Lake Watershed Foundation
Minutes of Board Meeting
March 19, 2022**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by President, Ed Mulkearn.

Quorum:

A quorum was declared present to conduct business.

Present:

Lex Brumagin (phone), Chrissy Craffey, Marge Freund, Jeff Ireland, Lant Lictus (phone), Ed Mulkearn, and Bill Simpkins

Absent:

Bill Bracken and Matt Wise

Minutes:

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

Jeff Ireland presented the treasurer's report.

**Opening Operating Balance (January 1, 2022)		\$ 21,563.48
Deposits:	\$ 30,001.68	
Expenses:	\$ 6,015.50	
**Ending Operating Balance (March 18, 2022)		\$ 45,549.66
*Opening Labor Account Balance		\$ 2,985.27
Transfer from Operating acct:	\$ 0.00	
Expenses:	\$ 0.00	
*Ending Labor Account Balance		\$ 2,985.27

- Jeff reported that \$ 28,751.68 in membership dues has already been received.
- Jeff also noted that a \$1250. donation from Chautauqua County is included in the deposits.

The report was accepted as presented.

President's Report:

- Ed Mulkearn reported that the Town of Mina and the Historical Society have created a work group to plan reconstruction of the log cabin. The FLWF was invited to participate, but Ed declined on behalf of the FLWF based on the previous board discussion.
- Ed noted that the FLWF will not permit the construction on the property near the gazebo and was exploring other options to include a donation of property near the wetlands. The plan would be to transfer a deed for the property to remove any affiliation with the FLWF (e.g., the Nature Center was deeded ownership of the small island in the past.)

Committee Reports:

MEMBERSHIP:

- The dues are being received and deposited, there is no other update at this time.

COMMUNICATION:

- Bill Simpkins reported that the email system is back up and running. He has worked with Isadex to continue with the website management.

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

- In the absence of Bill Bracken, Bill Simpkins reported some calendar requests, The July 4th duck race and a triathlon (date not known).

LAKE MANAGEMENT:

- Lant Lictus reported being in contact with the Sheriff's office to discuss kayak guidance and is awaiting a response. Lant noted that Sheriff Mike Williams is currently out of town.
- Ed reported that the ice should be off the lake in the next 3-5 days to permit closing the dam outflow and begin progress toward summer water level.
- The board discussed creating a subdivision of the Lake Management committee to have one section chaired by Lant Lictus as "Lake Operations" and a second section chaired by Chrissy Craffey as "Lake Management." This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

HARVESTER:

- In the absence of Matt Wise, Ed reported that the harvester is ready to go for the season.
- Ed noted that we are seeking a third operator for the season.
- Lant Lictus advised the board that fuel costs for the upcoming season is expected to double due to the increase in fuel prices.
- Jeff Ireland noted that the operating costs for last year (2021) with the reduced timeframe was \$32K – 33K. He has budgeted 35K for harvesting for 2022. This will likely change due to the fuel costs.

Unfinished Business:

UPDATE ON SEWERS

- Ed Mulkearn reported that "EDU's" (equivalent dwelling units) are being assigned to all property classes in the proposed district. This is particularly relevant to commercial properties which will be subdivided by an entity which uses a large amount of water vs. an entity which has limited use of water (such as the Candle Company). For usage greater than an equivalent to one (1) EDU, meters can be installed.
- The Town of Mina is continuing with its process on the sewer district.

AERATION

- The board discussed the plan for an aeration action plan going forward. Information is needed on the number of aeration units recommended for the acreage of Findley Lake.
- Historically, there is a study from 1999-2000 published by Bill Boria et al. which recommended sewers and other interventions.
- Professor Mike Wilson from SUNY-Fredonia had analyzed and reported on sources of nutrients in Findley Lake. The CSLAP program results from many years have provided additional water quality information.
- In summary, the water quality has been studied for more than twenty (20) years. However, with the intermittent CSLAP participation recently, and with the replacement of many septic systems over the past decade, updated studies are critical to effectively analyze the changes in current baselines.
- Chrissy Craffey shared research she has received with the board. She has a proposal from Everblue Lakes, but none to date from Princeton Hydro.
- Ed discussed sending out two (2) Requests for Proposal (RFP) out to establish a basis for seeking grant funding. There is a grant deadline of June 30th for CFA. In reality, if grant proposals are submitted, there would not be results for this year of 2022, but possibly for 2023.
- The board discussed the procedure for RFPs being to prepare the specifications, have the board review the document, and then send out the RFP with a deadline for a response.
- Lant Lictus suggested that there needs to be group consensus before sending an RFP, the board needs to define known items and minimize any redundancy in specifications.
- The board agreed to review details for the RFP at the next meeting. The RFP will be sent out no later than May 15th, with a response deadline being June 15th to allow review by the board at the meeting on June 15th.
- Ed queried on what additional sampling is needed to make a decision. Mike, from Princeton Hydro mentioned the need for additional deep sampling.
- Chrissy Craffey noted that the Bergman firm did the plan for Chautauqua Lake. Their plan is available to review on the Chautauqua lake website.

UPDATE ON PRINCETON HYDRO

- The board discussed, at length, how to best obtain relevant and useful information on evaluating and using the results of the Princeton Hydro study.
- Chrissy noted she had contacted Mike at Princeton Hydro regarding a zoom call for the board to hear feedback and suggestions from the Princeton team.
- In addition to having a Zoom call with the Princeton Hydro reps, planning a meeting with the leaders of the Chautauqua Lake Association was deemed worthwhile.
- The consensus is to meet with the Princeton Hydro reps within the next thirty (30) days and then schedule a meeting with the Chautauqua board representatives to follow.

New Business:

POSSIBLE USE OF A LAKE MANAGEMENT COMPANY

- The board discussed the possible value of having a lake management firm assist with the future water quality management and planning.

- Chrissy Craffey has done research on a number of lakes which utilize a lake management company. Chrissy highlighted information received from Karl Kimmich on Lake Latonka. She also noted that Lake George is conducting research on a septic plan.
- Chrissy noted that Chautauqua Lake has had contact with a management company (Bergman) and suggested that the board meet with members of the Chautauqua Lake board to discuss their experience.
- Chrissy also noted that Princeton Hydro has assisted other lake associations with lake management. Their estimated cost is \$50K - \$100K for this type of service.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE FLWF

- Ed distributed a list of his thoughts for a strategic plan for the FLWF. He has seven (7) items on his list: 1) Sewers; 2) Septic Upgrades; 3) Lake Manager; 4) Storm Water run-off; 5) Agricultural plan; 6) Educational component; and 7) Building and Grounds. Ed is asking the board for input on all topics.
- SEWERS: The FLWF function is to monitor the progress of the Town's project.
- SEPTIC UPGRADES: with the status of the sewers currently unknown, continued emphasis of the sewer upgrades is mandatory. Ed stated that per the DEC, "any septic is considered failed if it is less than 250 feet from the lakefront." The board discussed the community concerns by those who have had to upgrade or replace septic systems for various amounts of money. The board further discussed the focus on removal of nutrients (particularly phosphorus, nitrogen and dissolved phosphorus) which does not occur with septic systems. Of note, the county health department has not followed through with the septic inspections since the prior sewer vote was defeated five years ago.
- LAKE MANAGER: costs and benefits of having an outside lake management firm involved in operations.
- STORM WATER RUNOFF: Ed noted that Karl Kimmich has spoken with Matt Zarbo (from the CFA) about obtaining grant funding for storm water management. Ed also plans to contact Nancy Mueller from the NYSFOLA regarding proposals on managing storm water run-off. The value of dredging was also discussed.
- AGRICULTURAL PLAN: the main agricultural concern is the Scofield farm on Route 430 east of the town.
- EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT: Ed reminded the board that there is a mandate for a 501(c)3 entity to provide education to the community in which it is located such as educating the public on "best practices" for being a responsible property owner in a lake environment. Ed also noted he has contacted the Clymer Central school district about re-opening the water testing program in conjunction with the science department (using two (2) interested students from the 11th grade advanced biology class to conduct testing). The goal would be to have this ongoing from year-to-year and provide recognition to the participating students at the end of their participation.
- BUILDING AND GROUNDS: maintain the condition of all watershed properties.
- In addition, the board discussed the importance of messaging to property owners, with a special emphasis on new owners to improve understanding of the existing plans and evaluation for future changes.

FINDLEY LAKE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (FLCF) GRANT REQUEST

- Ed noted that the FLWF will be applying for a grant from the FLCF. Karl Kimmich and Chrissy Craffey are preparing the grant application.

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- Ed has recently been contacted by Chuck Schneider, who is the current president of the FLCF, and noted that their next meeting will take place during Memorial Day weekend. Of note, Chuck owns the “Point of View” cottage and multiple other properties.
- The board will be updated at a future meeting.

Announcements:

- The schedule for Board meetings for 2022 is as follows: Meetings will be at the Water Wheel Overlook Building. The Annual meeting will be at The Camp at Findley.

Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 8:30 am

Saturday, June 18, 2022 at 8:30 am

Saturday, July 16, 2022 at 6:00 pm (pre-annual meeting) at The Camp at Findley

Annual meeting Meet ‘n’ Greet at 7:00 pm

Annual business meeting at 7:30 pm

Saturday, September 17, 2022 at 8:30 am

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Freund
Secretary