

**Findley Lake Watershed Foundation**  
**Minutes of Board Meeting**  
**April 30, 2022**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by President, Ed Mulkearn.

**Quorum:**

A quorum was declared present to conduct business.

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Bill Bracken and Matt Wise

**Guests:**

Jack & Sherry Hamilton, Brandon & Erin Groters, Chad Schofield and Dave Wiggers

**The agenda was suspended to allow the guests to present their concerns.**

Jack & Sherry reported that they recently sold Findley Lake Marine to Brandon & Erin Groters. They will be transitioning the business over the next 1-2 years.

Chad and Dave are here to discuss a recent complaint to the DEC by someone who reported an overflow of manure into the watershed. They feel this is an unfounded complaint. Ed Mulkearn and Lant Lictus met with Chad and Dave about this matter. The DEC reviewed this complaint and did not find Schofield Farms at fault. Chad reported that their farming operation has permits and a plan on file with the county for managing waste to minimize impact on the local topography. Schofield Farms has a system which separates solids from the animal waste. Dave is a consultant on crop fertilizer recommendations and has advised Schofield Farms since 2011.

Ed suggested that Chad and Dave be invited to speak at the 2022 Annual Meeting for the purpose of educating the public on the farm operations and how they are working to be a good neighbor in the community.

**At this point, the Board returned to the regular meeting agenda.**

**Minutes:**

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

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Jeff Ireland presented the treasurer’s report.

<b>**Opening Operating Balance (March 18, 2022)</b>		<b>\$ 45,549.66</b>
<b>Deposits:</b>	<b>\$ 4,515.30</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 1,424.58</b>	
<b>**Ending Operating Balance (April 27, 2022)</b>		<b>\$ 48,704.82</b>
*Opening Labor Account Balance		\$ 2,985.27
<b>Transfer from Operating acct:</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	
*Ending Labor Account Balance		\$ 2,985.27

- Jeff reported membership dues received so far are \$35,387.13.
- Jeff will be moving \$5,000. to the payroll account in preparation for the coming season.
- Lex Brumagin inquired about having a financial summary posted on the website. Lex notes he has talked with members and potential members about where the FLWF money is being spent. There is an annual financial report included in the annual meeting document. The consensus of the Board is to add a summary to the website.

The report was accepted as presented.

**President’s Report:**

- Ed Mulkearn noted that on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> Austin White will be here to start the Water Wheel.

**Committee Reports:**

MEMBERSHIP:

- Lex Brumagin reported that there are 120 paid membership unit to date for this year.
- Lex also reported that the second annual membership dues letter is planned for mailing prior to May 31, 2022. Chrissy Craffey asked Lex to include information on Princeton Hydro and the farm situation.

COMMUNICATION:

- In the absence of Bill Simpkins, Chrissy Craffey reported that a number of email addresses have been lost in the transition update on the website. Recovery and updates are needed from members.

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

- Bill Bracken reported that he has purchased additional flags and toilet seats. Invoices have been given to Jeff Ireland.
- Bill has ordered new benches for the rear patio. He noted that they will be anchored to the concrete as part of the installation.
- Bill also noted that the lavatory cleaning is up to date at this time.
- Jeff Ireland reported on his meeting with Erie Insurance. He recommended a change in the policy on the Overlook building to an “Erie Secure” policy which will save

significant money annually. Cincinnati Insurance will continue to hold the policy for the lake and the harvester.

- ***M: Marge Freund moved to authorize Jeff Ireland to change the Overlook building coverage to the Erie Secure policy. Bill Bracken seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion was passed.***

#### LAKE MANAGEMENT:

- Chrissy Craffey is presently attending the NYSFOLA conference at Lake George and will provide a report at the next meeting.

#### HARVESTER:

- In the absence of Matt Wise, Ed reports that the harvester is in the water and ready to operate for the upcoming season. There are no weeds at a level to be cut at this time.
- Ed also reported that Paul Fellingner will continue as the lead operator.
- Ed also noted that Matt Wise has relocated to Florida and is only in Findley Lake periodically.
- Ed noted that Jim Parnell has increased the price \$25. per load to haul the weeds based on the recent increase in fuel prices. The cost for hauling in 2021 was \$11,400. The estimate for 2022 is \$14,000.
- The board discussed the possibility of using a truck or tractor with a trailer to self-haul the weeds. Of note, based on the weight of a load, a CDL is likely to be needed. No decision was made to change at this time.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

##### UPDATE ON PRINCETON HYDRO STUDY

- Ed Mulkearn noted that a Princeton Hydro plan and sampling could cost between \$50K and \$100K.
- Lex Brumagin suggests getting a formal proposal as there are many questions which need to be addressed as well as justification of the cost. Marge Freund noted the importance of spending judiciously as the FLWF has a fiduciary responsibility.
- Ed noted the septic/sewer question is still being worked on by the Town of Mina, with a projected outcome later in the summer.
- Chrissy Craffey suggests the creation of a multi-faceted plan which defines a priority sequence. She notes that any plan to hire an expert must provide the most “bang for the buck.”
- Ed inquired whether we have sufficient information to create a Request for Proposal (RFP) summary. Chrissy shared plans from 3-4 different entities which she has been evaluating. Chrissy is agreeable to writing the RFP document.
- Chrissy noted a possible resource is SUNY-Oneonta, which has a graduate program which focuses on management plan development.
- ***M: Jeff Ireland moved to authorize Chrissy Craffey to write the RFP for lake management options. Bill Bracken seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion was passed.***

##### UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN

- Ed Mulkearn reviewed the progress on the points of the strategic plan.
- Ed notes the following: 1) Sewers: Town of Mina is continuing work on the sewer initiative; 2) Septic compliances: the septic upgrades need to have a secondary plan to

remove phosphorus; 3) Lake management: Ed & Lant have discussed water sampling and testing with Tim Johnston (the Clymer science teacher who previously ran a lab in the private sector). Chrissy has talked with Nancy at NYSFOLA about CSLAP in the future; 4) Storm water run-off: Grant options are pending for \$2.5M through NY-23 rep, Tom Reed. The Town must raise 20%, plus there are options for municipal bonds and loans; 5) Agricultural plan; no update at this time; 6) Education: public information will be provided by the Schofield farms owner, Chad, at the annual meeting; 7) Building & Grounds: no update at this time.

#### UPDATE ON AERATION

- The board discussed that Penn State Behrend has senior engineering projects. It is suggested that design of a prototype aeration system could be addressed in a senior project. This option will be researched for a report at a future meeting.
- Ed noted that information can be obtained by googling “Solarbee.” The units are tube and propeller based. An estimated ten (10) to twelve (12) units are recommended for Findley Lake. The primary negative is that surface solar space is required for each unit.

#### **New Business:**

##### MARINA LEASE CONSIDERATION WITH NEW OWNERSHIP

- Ed reported that he recently reviewed the history of marina lease with Jack and Sherry Hamilton. Sherry says the annual lease for \$50. per year was initiated 25 years ago and has not been updated. The lease includes access to the boat ramp with locking and unlocking on summer weekends and the gas dock space.
- Ed will speak with Brandon Groters about assumption of the lease. Of note, a lease is required for insurance purposes.

#### **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, 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 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Freund  
Secretary