

**Findley Lake Watershed Foundation**  
**Minutes of Board Meeting**  
**October 8, 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, Ben Fergus, Marge Freund, Jeff Ireland, Lant Lictus, Ed Mulkearn, and Bill Simpkins

**Absent:**

Bill Bracken and Matt Wise

**Member guests:**

In person: Heath Reed, Gary Schneider, Chad Schofield, Lanie Schofield and Andy Travis

Zoom: Jen Haberman

**Other guests:**

Andrew Campbell

**Minutes:**

The minutes from electronic special meetings on May 21, 2022 (small island), September 8, 2022 (membership meeting attendance), September 13, 2022 (testing equipment) and the regular meeting on June 18, 2022 were reviewed and approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Jeff Ireland presented the treasurer's report.

<b>**Ending Operating Balance (October 8, 2022)</b>	<b>\$ 16,500.57</b>
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*Ending Labor Account Balance	\$ 1,400.00
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- Jeff reported that all bills have been paid through October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Ed Mulkearn reported that the money (\$12K) for 2022 due from the Town of Mina is due to be released very soon.

The report was accepted as presented.

**Members' comments on meeting agenda:**

Ed polled member guests for comments on the meeting agenda. There were no comments.

**President's Report:**

**PIPE REPAIR BY NY DOT**

- Ed Mulkearn reported that New York State is scheduled to repair the damage to the pipe/gate/flume area on the state property near the dam. Lex Brumagin has been the contact for this repair project.
- Lex reported the State DOT rep marked the sinkhole area discovered around July 4<sup>th</sup> with a hazard cone. Plans were made to repair the damage once the water level is lowered after October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Lex noted sandbags or a cofferdam will be required to create access for the repair. The repair is expected to be completed by late November.
- Lex also noted the replacement seal for the base of the outflow gate has been ordered and will be installed while the cofferdam is in place.
- Lex advised that the problem with this pipe/flume situation dates back to 1999 when NY state made revisions to the boat launch area adjacent to the dam. This problem was discovered and reported to DOT during the Findley Lake dam repair which occurred in 2015. NY DOT made repairs at that time which did not correct the problem as evidenced by the recurrence of the problem now.

**TESTING EQUIPMENT**

- Ed reported that the testing equipment for the Clymer school program is moving forward. Some equipment has arrived, the balance is due to arrive soon.
- Ed noted that equipment which allows the measurement of dissolved oxygen is being obtained. This measurement is valuable to evaluate the release or locking of phosphorus from the lakebed.

**MERCYHURST**

- Ed reported that recent discussions with Mercyhurst personnel reveals an interest in participating in the lake management testing. The biology department has assets which can be helpful to Findley Lake's testing program. Ed, Ben and Chrissy will research how Mercyhurst can assist with the testing program and report back to the board.

**COUNTY SUPPORT FOR WEED HARVESTING**

- Ed noted that he has been in contact with County Legislator Marty Proctor regarding the previously requested increase in funding for the weed harvesting efforts. It is expected that the amount for 2023 will be increased from \$5K to \$10K.

**The agenda was suspended to allow guests to present their concerns:**

- Chad Schofield presented an overview of his partnership efforts with the Watershed. Chad purchased the farm January 1, 2018. He has made major capital investments to manage manure and waste disposition since that time. Chad also has an advisor on fertilizer recommendations for his business.

**Committee Reports:**

**MEMBERSHIP:**

- Lex Brumagin reported that there is 170 paid membership units to date.
- Ben Fergus will create a data base using information provided by the members

COMMUNICATION:

- Ben Fergus reported that he has been working on the FLWF website. He noted that the bylaws were posted on July 27, 2022 for members to view.
- Ben noted that the website has been updated on a weekly schedule.
- Ben has been posting weed harvesting maps and data regarding loads of weeds removed.
- Ben has added a new page regarding board meetings to post agendas and approved minutes from the board meetings.

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

- In the absence of Bill Bracken, Ed reported that the DEC has marked the wetland area near the gazebo, This relates to the property the FLWF is donating to the FL Historical Society for placement of the log cabin.
- The board discussed replacing a sign at the Water Wheel Overlook building noting the presence of public restrooms.

LAKE OPERATIONS::

- Lant Lictus reported the lake level is scheduled to be lowered to winter level starting October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Lant noted the seal on the outflow gate will be repaired as Lex had mentioned.
- Lant says there are no other issues at this time.

WATER QUALITY:

- Chrissy Craffey reported she will be attending the NYSFOLA Region 9 meeting at Cuba Lake on October 27, 2022.
- Chrissy will also be attending a symposium on invasive species on October 18, 2022. Chrissy noted that the lake was mapped in June, 2022. She is also investigating grant opportunities through PRISM and other sources on managing invasive species.

HARVESTER:

- In the absence of Matt Wise, Ed reports that the harvesting season is finished. The total loads removed was 124 at 4-6 tons per load. One dumpster load is equal to 2 harvester loads.
- Ed also reported that lead operator Paul Fellingner is retiring at the close of the current season. He may be willing to be a resource in the future on mechanical concerns.
- The FLWF is seeking at least two (2) qualified persons to operate the harvester for the 2023 season. Barry, one of our current operators, is probably available for the 2023 season.

**Unfinished Business:**

**UPDATE ON RFP AND PRINCETON HYDRO RESULTS**

- Ben Fergus noted the RFP had been sent out to vendors and then was subsequently rescinded due to new information regarding available grants and potential overlap. Ben plans to refine the scope of the RFP and then re-issue the proposal.
- Ben also noted that evaluation of the total cost of paid management (approximately \$100K.), status of sewers for Findley Lake and some aspects of the focus on sedimentary phosphorus must be considered. Also, aeration costs would be roughly \$100K, unrelated to any costs for lake management. Differential analysis for planned spending is imperative.

- Ed Mulkearn inquired about stratification core analysis of the phosphorus. He noted that the DEC cited 60% of the phosphorus released in Chautauqua Lake is from the lake bottom. This component is unrelated to phosphorus from run off and septic systems. The TDML does not break out this factor. As such, the TDML is skewed.
- Ben noted the Princeton study did not evaluate the phosphorus released from the lake bottom sediment.
- Ben did some additional research on how to remove phosphorus from septic systems. He learned that septic systems located away from the shoreline will have phosphorus bind with iron in the soil to create an inert compound. In contrast, septic systems near to the shoreline or which are “failed” created a higher risk for release of phosphorus.
- Ed noted that if each owner has treatment of his/her own system, some form of a compliance enforcement will be necessary.

#### UPDATE ON AERATION

- The board discussed support for aeration in the long range planning. Ed states he sees no downside to pursuing aeration. Marge Freund noted that Mark Martrozza has initiated an informal survey of ponds, etc. in Florida. He reports widespread use of aeration with good outcomes.
- Ben Fergus suggested that alum use, as suggested by Princeton Hydro, is excellent. This provides the best focus for capital cost, noise, and costs of maintenance.
- Ed suggests that a goal for 2023 is to seek to become a “pilot lake” in Region 9 of NYSFOLA for the use of alum. (Currently, Honeyoye Lake is being considered by the DEC for alum.) Also, the FLWF could try to establish some pilot areas in Findley Lake. Ed noted that the Eaton reservoir focuses on aeration near the inflows at the reservoir.
- Ed advised that Karl Kimmich continues to be very interested in aeration and has expressed interest in being part of any aeration project.

#### New Business:

##### RECOGNITION FOR PAUL FELLINGER

- The Board discussed recognition for Paul Fellingner’s years of service to the FLWF working with/on the weed harvester.
- ***M: Jeff Ireland moved to present a \$100. gift card from Pine Junction to Paul Fellingner in recognition of his service to the FLWF weed harvesting mission. Marge Freund seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.***
- Jeff will handle the purchase and presentation of the gift card.

##### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Ed Mulkearn presented the slate of officers for the next year: President-Ed Mulkearn; Vice-President-Lex Brumagin; Secretary-Marge Freund and Treasurer-Jeff Ireland. All candidates have agreed to serve.
- ***M: Lant Lictus moved to elect the slate of officers as follows: President-Ed Mulkearn; Vice-President-Lex Brumagin; Secretary-Marge Freund and Treasurer-Jeff Ireland. Marge Freund seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.***

##### APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

- Ed appointed the following as committee chairpersons for the coming year:
  - Membership - Lex Brumagin

- Communications – Ben Fergus, Chrissy Craffey
- Lake Management – Physical Operations – Lant Lictus
- Lake Management – Water Quality – Chrissy Craffey, Ben Fergus
- Weed Harvesting – Jeff Ireland, Ed Mulkearn
- Building and Grounds – Bill Bracken

**NYSFOLA/CSLAP MEETING**

- Ed reported that he and Chrissy Craffey plan to attend the Region 9 meeting of NYSFOLA at Cuba Lake later this month.
- They plan to talk with Nancy Mueller regarding CSLAP participation for 2023 and beyond.
- Ed presented details regarding water sampling going forward. He noted that water samples during winter months are needed...this has not been performed in the past.
- Ed also noted that a current goal is to increase the focus on sampling from multiple sources. Clymer school students will be creating a program using the equipment provided by the FLWF. The Mercyhurst biology department has expressed an interest in creating a program for testing of the Findley Lake waters also. This will be explored in greater depth in the next several months. CSLAP participation is also an important part of the program.

**Member guest comments:**

- Comments from members Gary Schneider, Heath Reed and Andy Travis are attached separately.

**Announcements:**

- The schedule for Board meetings for 2023 is as follows: Meetings will be at the Water Wheel Overlook Building. The Annual meeting will be at The Camp at Findley.  
**Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 8:30 am**  
**Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 8:30 am**  
**Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 8:30 am**  
**Saturday, July 15, 2023 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 9, 2023 at 8:30 am**

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Freund  
Secretary

**Attachment: Member comments**

**October 8, 2022 Meeting Member Comments:**

**Gary Schneider:**

Gary owns the former Bambauer property near the Mercyhurst boathouse. He is concerned about the Buesink's Creek weirs being full of sediment and debris at present. Silt deposits continue to increase and make it difficult to navigate to his dock space.

The Board noted that in the past the Town Highway department has cleared debris and silt from the weirs, however, this has not been accomplished recently. Ed presented that the potential grants for stormwater management could be used to create ponds upstream for silt control. Ed will contact Bill Himelein regarding clearing the weirs.

Historically, the county installed the weirs in the early 2000's using grant funds obtained for this purpose.

Ed suggested that while the lake level is lowered, an excavator could be used to remove silt deposits to deepen the access. This has been carried out in the lagoon near the McLouth property.

**Heath Reed:**

Heath owns property adjacent to Buesink's Creek. He is concerned about the deposits of soil impacting his property line as related to the water's edge and also related to his docking access. Heath states he has reviewed the original surveys and noted that his access has been encroached by the environmental changes. He seeks to restore his property to its prior status.

Lex Brumagin advised that Heath could contact the Chautauqua County Soil and Water department for guidance and assistance. Lex will provide the contact information.

**Andy Travis:**

Andy expressed concerns about the use of docks by non-owners, such as Paradise Bay guests. He also inquired about non-members docking in residential-zoned areas and whether this is potentially problematic.

Andy commended Chad Schofield for his proactive efforts to be a "good neighbor" in the Watershed. Andy suggested that a "farm liaison" with the FLWF should be considered by the board.