

President's Report:

POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR BOARD VACANCIES

- Ed Mulkearn reported he has some suggestions for appointment to the board.
- Ed suggests nominees participate in board matters prior to the actual appointment.
- Marge Freund noted that the prior board roster was twelve (12) members. She also confirmed that Ben Fergus and Chrissy Craffey are properly appointed and were voted to three (3) year terms at the 2022 Annual meeting.

The agenda was suspended to allow guests to present their information:

- Dave McCoy reported on the status of Chautauqua Lake management. He noted that there is a six (6) year history of herbicide use in various areas of the lake with mixed results. The focus of the county is reaching an agreement on getting things “to work,” while the focus of the lake entities is “revenue generation.” There is currently a \$32M project for a Celoron hotel and waterfront development.
- Dave noted that one-third of the biomass in Chautauqua Lake is native vegetation. The DEC reports invasive species curly pondweed (which blooms in early spring) and Eurasian milfoil (which blooms in mid to late summer) are targeted for control.
- Dave advised there is currently a “lot of science” at Chautauqua, there is a not-for-profit involved for the last 6-7 years. CSLAP is also part of the lake management program. Also, 50% of the phosphorus comes from the bottom of Chautauqua Lake.
- Marty Proctor noted that Judy Barnett O’Neill is the current DEC Region 9 Director. She is involved with lake management concerns. Marty suggested that the FLWF invite her to attend a board meeting in the future.
- Marty also reiterated that the county support to Findley Lake for weed harvesting has been increased from \$5K to \$10K.

GRANT OPTIONS

- Dave reported that there is \$450K in agency support funds which are designated as “flexible” focusing on tourism and waterways.
- Dave noted there is a 2024 grant program opening for application on 3/1/2023 for a maximum of a \$40K grant. The application window closes on 3/31/2023. The focus is a “public benefit” project. Applications can be individual or group based.
- Dave also noted that, beginning this year, the state has increased the grant amount to \$50K for invasive species management.

At the conclusion of this presentation, the meeting returned to the agenda.

Committee Reports:

MEMBERSHIP:

- Lex Brumagin reported that there are 172 paid membership units for 2022.
- Ben Fergus has created a data base using information provided by the members. The listing is found under the membership tab on the website.
- Lex also inquired about the current year’s membership invoicing. His concern is whether to focus on the renewal of members vs. sending notices to the larger population as has been the policy in the past.

COMMUNICATION: (see attached report)

- Ben Fergus submitted a written report in his absence,

- Chrissy Craffey noted that the logo has been redone. She also noted that she meets with Ben Fergus every other week for planning.
- Bill Simpkins suggested sending email notices to all members on record. He noted that there is a project underway to restart “Tapestry” as an on-line publication through Our Own Candle Company (OOCC). The Findley Lake Community Foundation has approved a grant to establish an updated mailing list for distribution. Robyn, who is affiliated with the OOCC is working on the project.
- Chrissy also noted a new not-for-profit has been created called “Findley Lake Forward.” Bill Simpkins is also involved with this organization.

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

- Bill Bracken reported that Bill Simpkins has hired a person to shovel snow at the Overlook Building. This seems to be working out.
- Bill Bracken noted that Greg Brumagin will be hired to do the grass cutting again this season.
- The missing sign for the restrooms at the Water Wheel Overlook building will be replaced.
- Ed noted there are some trees which need to be removed.

LAKE OPERATIONS::

- Lant Lictus noted the pipe repair has been completed by New York State.
- Lex Brumagin noted the method of repair was a vertical and overhead patch. The department believes this will solve the problem.
- Lex also reported that the seal on the outflow gate has been replaced as planned.
- Ed noted that he does not foresee any issues for the 2023 season at this point.

WATER QUALITY: (see attached report)

- Ben Fergus submitted a written report in his absence.
- Chrissy Craffey reported she has sent an email to SUNY-Oneonta regarding graduate student assistance with lake management plans (see item #1 in report).
- Chrissy Craffey reported the buffer garden is complete except for the sign. She will be handling the placement of the sign in the future. (see item #2 in report)
- Chrissy also noted there was a drainage problem from excessive stormwater draining from Ball Diamond Rd to Shadyside near Larry Gross’ cottage. Andy Johnson is currently working on this project. At this point there is no grant for the stormwater management. (see item #4 in report)
- Chrissy also noted that she will request a map of the entire lake showing the location of the invasive species of vegetation.

HARVESTER:

- Ed Mulkearn reported that the harvester is ready for the 2023 season.
- Ed also reported that Barry will assume the lead operator role.
- Jeff Ireland inquired about hauling and disposition of the weeds.
- The board discussed accepting Chad Schofield’s offer for weed removal since he has the necessary equipment. During the meeting, Lant Lictus contacted Chad to verify his continued interest in hauling the weeds. Chad confirmed that he will handle the removal of the weeds. Plans will be clarified as the season approaches.

Unfinished Business:

UPDATE ON SEWERS

- Ed Mulkearn noted that progress is moving slowly. He reported that after the DEC meeting, there are skeptical people requesting more studies starting from “square one.”
- Ed advised that no other action on the sewers will start until a vote has taken place. Assessment of general support for the project is not clear at this point.
- Lex Brumagin suggested that Ed needs to include some information in his President’s letter and to encourage a request to have a vote.

UPDATE ON LONG TERM PLANNING

- Ed shared his thoughts on the long history of the FLWF (nee FLPO) from its early days and noted there have been many changes over the years. He noted that his personal vision is to improve the lake quality. As such, the board needs to focus on what we can control (e.g., phosphorus levels) vs. what we cannot control (e.g, geese).
- Ed requests that the board develop some definitive ideas between now and the annual meeting for presentation to the membership. Three suggested items are: septic/sewer management; internal loading management plan; and storm water management.
- Ed noted there are many recent changes which have occurred in Findley Lake. Specifically, two years ago there were thirty-one (31) VBROs in the Town of Mina. There has been an increase in that number since then. Added launching of boats are related to this increase in tourism.
- The board discussed boat washing for prevention of invasive species contamination. Launch areas include Paradise Bay, the FLWF ramp, The Camp at Findley and several privately owned ramps.
- Chrissy Craffey mentioned there is a “boat steward” program doing evaluation at Chautauqua. Lex Brumagin inquired about what is the basis of control for the inspection.
- The board discussed how to create and utilize a boat washing program. The question of enforcement was also discussed. It was suggested that the Town of Mina be requested to create an ordinance for enforcement.
- Marge Freund inquired as to how many boats are launched each year at the Paradise Bay ramp. Chrissy volunteered to check out this information and report back.

New Business:

NYSFOLA MEMBERSHIP

- The board discussed membership in NYSFOLA for both the association and for the individual board members.
- ***M: Marge Freund moved to renew the association membership and to also obtain individual memberships for each board member as we did in the past. Chrissy Craffey seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion was passed.***
- Jeff Ireland will handle the membership paperwork.

TESTING AND CSLAP PARTICIPATION FOR 2023

- The board discussed that CSLAP is now managed by the DEC. The participating lakes now have an option to collect four (4) or eight (8) specimens.
- The FLWF has not yet received confirmation for participation in 2023, but is under consideration.

- Marge Freund reported she had a lengthy conversation with Nancy Mueller in November and emphasized that the FLWF wanted to be in the 2023 program. Nancy advised that if shifts occurred in the sampling and participation, Findley Lake would be added for 2023.
- The board is continuing to evaluate a testing plan beyond the CSLAP program.
- Chrissy Craffey reported that she is in touch with SUNY-Oneonta regarding interns to assist with a lake management project. She will share more information at a future meeting.
- Ed will contact Adrian Sprachland at Mercyhurst's biology department to update on their interest in testing participation.
- Ed will also be contacting Tim Johnson at Clymer schools for an update on their testing plans.

LOG CABIN RESTORATION PROJECT

- Ed reported that the log cabin project managed by the Findley Lake Historical Society is beginning to take shape. The FLWF Board approved the donation of the land near the gazebo for the site.
- Ed noted that the DEC will allow some fill-in of the wetland area to permit the reconstruction of the cabin.
- Donations for the project are pending at this time.

Member guest comments:

- There were no guest comments.

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, 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 10:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Freund
Secretary

Attachments:

Committee Report: Communications

Committee Report: Water Quality