

Findley Lake Watershed Foundation

Minutes of Board Meeting

September 16, 2023

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am by President, Ed Mulkearn.

Quorum:

A quorum was declared present to conduct business.

Present:

Lex Brumagin, Chrissy Craffey, Paul Fellingner, Ben Fergus, Marge Freund, Jeff Ireland, Lant Lictus, George Mihalik, Ed Mulkearn, and Bill Simpkins

Absent:

none

Minutes:

- The minutes from the special meeting on August 19, 2023 were reviewed and approved as presented.
- Marge Freund verified that the current board roster was received by the board members.
- Ben Fergus inquired about adding an “action item list” to the minutes and also having a verbal summary of action items at the end of the meeting.

Treasurer’s Report:

Jeff Ireland presented the treasurer’s report.

**Opening Operating Balance (July 1, 2023)		\$ 50,809.00
General Receipts:	\$ 7,207.00	
Weed Harvesting Disbursements:		\$ 14,784.00
General Disbursements:		\$ 4,609.00
WWOL & Grounds Disbursements		\$ 7,265.00
**Ending Operating Balance (September 12, 2023)		\$ 31,358.00

- Jeff reported that the invoice for the weed hauling is pending and expected to be \$ 17,000.
- Jeff noted that the invoice for the mapping is also pending and was approved for an amount not to exceed \$15,000.
- Ben Fergus inquired about an annual budget for 2024. Jeff, Ed and George Mihalik will meet to prepare a 2024 budget by the end of December.
- Marge Freund provided a sample budget from 2022 prepared by Phil Persons.

The report was accepted as presented.

President's Report:

- Ed Mulkearn complimented Ben Fergus and Chrissy Craffey on the “best ever” communication to members.
- Ed also noted the vote for the sewer district is scheduled for October 21, 2023.

Committee Reports:

MEMBERSHIP:

- Lex Brumagin reported that there are 144 paid membership units to date. The total for 2022 was 168 paid membership units.
- Chrissy Craffey asked re the membership status for Dick & Judy Hyde. When she spoke with Judy recently, Chrissy was advised that Judy & Dick have not been receiving FLWF communications. Lex requested contact information for the Hydes, which Chrissy provided. In researching the membership roster, the Hydes are listed as “Other permanent (non-contributing)” members.
- The board discussed methods to market value to the membership. It was suggested to contact Erin Miller, who does marketing, for advice. Lex agreed to make the contact and report back to the board.

COMMUNICATION:

- Ben Fergus reported that the map summarizing harvesting of weeds is posted on the FLWF facebook page, There have been 429 views of the map to date. Ben also noted that the same map is posted on the FLWF website.
- Paul Fellingner noted that the GPS unit is helping with the harvesting planning; the harvester staff has positive feedback about using the GPS unit.
- Ben noted the current focus is education of the membership regarding the sewer district. Ben reported that he has seen both positive and negative feedback. He has replied to these responses.
- Ben suggests an email blast prior to the sewer district vote.

LAKE OPERATIONS:

- Lant Lictus reported that the lake water level will begin to be lowered to winter level on October 15th per the policy.
- There is a report of debris specifically, two (2) logs, which need to be removed from the lake. Lant, Ed and Paul Fellingner will meet tomorrow at 10 am to accomplish this.

WATER QUALITY:

- Chrissy Craffey reported the final CSLAP sample is due for collection on 9/18/23. Chrissy noted that the quality control checks should be available roughly two (2) months after completion of the yearly program.
- Chrissy also noted that the mapping for herbicide treatment has been completed. A final report is expected by November 1st. The invoice is projected to be \$12,400. with an additional \$2480. for the mapping of the native weeds.
- The board discussed researching additional grant funding for the herbicide treatments. It was noted that Andy Travis has written grant proposals for the Nature Center and the Library. Chrissy will contact Andy about potentially assisting the FLWF with grant writing going forward.

- Ben and Chrissy presented the mapping charts from the recent project. There are potentially three (3) permits required: 1) wetlands; 2) fisheries; and 3) open water/weedbeds.
- Chrissy reported that Glenn Sullivan will be handling the permitting as part of his consultant role.

HARVESTER:

- Paul Fellingner reports that the harvester is still operating. The weed mass is mostly milfoil. Through 9/9/2023, there have been 112 loads removed totaling 5.6 tons of weed mass.
- Paul is requesting guidance on when to close the 2023 season. Based on the yield from continued harvesting vs cost, the board decided to close operations for 2023 as of today.
- Paul noted that there are some maintenance needs for the equipment: 1) welding of the frame (to be handled by Tom Allen); 2) repair/replacement of the glow plug and electrical harness (the cost of the part = \$740 plus labor at \$125./hour x 3-4 hours). Paul will contact Mitch at Inland Harvesting for the part number and related details.
- ***M: Marge Freund moved to approve spending up to \$1500. for repair of the harvester. Lex Brumagin seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.***

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

- Bill Simpkins reported that the painting and repairs of rear deck and bridge at the Water Wheel overlook building have been completed.
- The board discussed that the waterfront deck and ramp also need repairs. Bill will research this and handle the repairs.

MARKETING/FUND RAISING:

- George Mihalek suggests a potential fundraiser involving tickets for a Buffalo Bills game based on selling 100 tickets for \$100. each. The winner receives tickets and pregame sideline visit access in cooperation with the football club. He has created a similar project in the past with the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Slippery Rock alumni association with good results.

Unfinished Business:

UPDATE ON AERATION PLAN

- Ed Mulkearn reported that Ben Fergus and Chrissy Craffey are investigating a variety of options for aeration. They will be developing a plan.
- Ed also noted that assistance from college engineering students to develop an equipment prototype for aeration.

UPDATE ON CHUCK SCHNEIDER JOINT PROJECT WITH PENN STATE

- Paul Fellingner reported that the joint project with the Penn State engineering department is on pause for the present. An update will be provided when additional information on the status is received.

New Business:

RESOLUTION FOR FLWF REPRESENTATIVE TO VOTE ON SEWER DISTRICT

- Ed advised the board that the FLWF owns property within the proposed sewer district and is entitled to a vote in the upcoming sewer district vote. He suggests that Bill

Simpkins, who is not a property owner in the district, can be the representative of the FLWF to vote.

- ***M: Jeff Ireland moved to appoint Bill Simpkins to vote on behalf of the FLWF in the upcoming sewer district vote. Chrissy Craffey seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion passed.***
- Ed requested that Marge Freund contact Rebecca Brumagin, Town Supervisor, to verify the process for providing the resolution to the Town for the vote. Marge will follow through with this process.

POSSIBLE DUES INCREASE

- The board discussed that with new projects and expenses pending, an increase in annual dues needs to be considered. The board agreed to table this consideration until the new budget has been presented.
- The board discussed Chautauqua bed tax money as an income source. Lex Brumagin discussed that the bed tax has specifications for use in 3% for “in-water” us and 2% for “out-of-water.” Lex noted that Chautauqua Lake has received \$125K, while Findley Lake has received \$5K. Lex will contact Marty Proctor to inquire about the bed tax criteria for use.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Ed noted the officers for the current term need to be elected. All sitting officers are agreeable to serving another term.
- ***Lant Lictus moved to elect the following persons for the current term:***
President: Ed Mulkearn
Vice President: Lex Brumagin
Secretary: Marge Freund
Treasurer: Jeff Ireland
Bill Simpkins seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion was passed.

Summary of Action Items:

- Ed summarized the action items for this meeting:
 1. George Mihalik will meet with the coach from Mercyhurst and plan also to meet with a staff biologist about support and increased involvement with the FLWF.
 2. George will begin to plan for the football ticket prize package.
 3. Research income sources including fee/registration watercraft stickers for members and separate non-member launch fees.
 4. Chrissy Craffey will contact Andy Travis about grant writing options.
 5. Chrissy will complete the CSLAP sampling for the current year on 9/18/23.
 6. Lant, Ed and Paul will remove the debris from the lake.
 7. Jeff Ireland and Ed will prepare a proposed budget for 2024.
 8. Paul Fellingner will proceed with the harvester mechanical repair.
 9. Bill Simpkins will follow up on the deck and ramp repairs.
 10. Ed will contact Marty Proctor about the bed tax concerns.
 11. Marge Freund will contact Rebecca Brumagin and complete the process to authorize a FLWF rep for the sewer vote.
 12. Ed will seek a professional appraiser opinion for the property lease with the Findley Lake Marine.

13. Lex Brumagin will confer with Erin Miller on methods to improve marketing of membership and benefits of the FLWF for the coming year.

Announcements:

- The schedule for board meetings for 2023-2024 is as follows: Meetings will be at the Water Wheel Overlook Building. The Annual meeting will be at The Camp at Findley.
Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 8:00 am
Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 8:00 am
Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 8:00 am
Saturday, June 15, 2024 at 8:00 am
Saturday, July 20, 2024 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 7, 2024 at 8:00 am

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Freund
Secretary