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**Findley Lake Watershed Foundation**

**Minutes of Board Meeting**

**May 17, 2025**

**Call to order:**

Ed Mulkearn, president, called the meeting to order at 8:28 am.

**Present:**

Ed Mulkearn, Lant Lictus, Jeff Ireland, Paul Fellinger, Bill Simpkins, Christine Craffey, Erin Miller, Lex Brumingen and Debbie Thresher.

**Virtual:**

Ben Fergus and George Mahilik

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion by Christine Craffey to approve the minutes as read, a second by Erin Miller. The minutes were approved.

**Guest Speaker:**

Susannah Frigon, representative of Findley Lake Community Foundation, spoke to the group about “Erie Gives” and opportunities in joining the group. After discussion, the group decided to support the Findley Lake Community Foundation rather than directly marketing to members for Erie gifts. They agreed to spend $150.00 to join a nonprofit membership to list their organization as a donation landing zone.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Jeff Ireland handed out copies of the treasurer’s report. Jeff reported the organization was in good financial shape. Ben noted that the 2025 budget should include a line item for herbicide treatment in the South End, which Jeff agreed to add. Ben Fergus motioned to accept the treasurer’s report as modified and Lant Litcus second the motion.

**Membership:**

Lex Brumingen discussed our membership list and plans to review and purge those who are no longer active members. Lex led a discussion to updated and verify the membership database. Lex emphasized the importance of maintaining an accurate and up to date list for future communications and fundraising efforts. The group agreed to streamline the process by using a single, consolidated list managed by the membership chairman.

**Communications:**

Erin Miller presented a proposal for a new downtown sign by the boat ramp for Watershed use. The estimated cost is $2,000.00. Ed Mulkearn said he would contact Howard Industries to create a custom 2-sided sign for important information and brochures.

**Building and Grounds:**

Bill Simpkins addressed maintenance needs, including painting the building exterior and fixing the flag. Bill reported that Chuck Weiss donated all the grounds maintenance for all of our properties, a big thank you to Chuck. Lant Litcus suggested looking into cost of siding the watershed building. Ed Mulkearn suggested painting one more time, and further discussion about siding.

**Lake Maintenance:**

Ben Fergus and Christine Craffey presented lake treatment plans for the upcoming summer, focusing on milfoil and pond weed control. They reviewed permit applications for treating different areas of the lake, including a 48 acre section for milfoil and an 8 acre area for other weeds. Christine will monitor the milfoil and other weed densities in the proposed treatment areas for the next few weeks before making a decision on treatment. They also discussed the possibility of using copper sulfate to treat algal blooms, with a permit allowing for treatment of up to help the lake at a cost of $12,400.00. The group agreed to keep an eye on the situation and potentially make a special meeting to authorize funding for recommended treatments.

Ben Fergus shared about the CLASP conference. Follow up with the print out.

**Harvesting**:

Paul Fellinger is starting to harvest, now that Glenn Sullivan has finished testing. Paul will check with the hauling of the weeds.

**Old Business:**

**Proposed Reserve Fund for self-funded portion of Oxygenation System**

Ed Mulkearn suggested the FLWF build a reserve fund for the FLWF’s self-funding portion of the capital costs for an oxygenation system, with the remaining funding from a grant. Ed proposed Ben Fergus and Christine to be involved in this initiative. Ben was hoping the Town would take the lead on the implementation of this project since they have led the studies to date. Ben suggests that inherent pros and cons for each approach should be discussed with the Town before making a decision.

**Action Items:**

* Ben Fergus and Christine Craffey: monitor lake conditions to determine if or when to use copper sulfate treatment for algal blooms.
* Bill Simpkins: get contractors to assess building siding options and provide recommendations.
* Ed Mulkearn: Reach out to the new campground owner about watershed foundation membership and lake rules.
* Christine Craffey and Ben Fergus: Go out to the survey for lake of milfoil and native weed densities in the proposed treatment areas in the southern portion of the lake for the next few weeks.
* Ben Fergus and Christine Craffey: Prepare a presentation on lake aeration for the annual meeting.
* Erin Miller: Work with Jeff to clean up and maintain one unified membership database/list
* Debbie: Contact the camp about using their facility for the annual meeting
* Bill Simpkins: contact Gene Blakesly to help fix the jammed flagpole using his aerial lift equipment.
* Lex Brumingen: Verify the list of deleted members from the database cleanup
* Christine Craffey: Clarify with Eileen about the shipping arrangements for warm water samples.

A**djournment**

Christine Craffey motioned to adjourn the meeting and Erin Miller second. 10:15 am

Respectively Submitted, Debbie Thresher