**Findley Lake Watershed Foundation Minutes**

**September 13, 2025**

**Call to order:** Ed Mulkearn called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.

**Present:** Ed Mulkearn, Lant Litcus, Lex Brumingen, Jeff Ireland, Bill Simpkins, Paul Fellinger, George Mihalik and Debbie Thresher

**Abesnt:** Ben Fergus and Erin Miller

**Approval of Minutes:**

Ed Mulkearn called for a motion to approve the minutes from June 21, 2025, Executive Session of June 21, 2025 and Annual meeting on July 19, 2025. A motion to approve was made by Paul Fellinger and 2nd by Bill Simpkins. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Jeff Ireland handed out the treasurer’s summary. Everything is up to date with paying bills. No discussion was needed. George Mihalik motioned to approve the treasurer’s report and Lex Brumingen 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

**President Report:**

Ed Mulkearn informed the board, the application for aeration with DEC was sent out. Discussion on the lake, should we move the time of lowering it from October 15th to a later date. After a lot of discussion, it was decided to keep it the same as last year. Lex Brumingen asked about the marina’s schedule to get boats put away? Let’s visit this for next year. If there is a change, we can put it on the website.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership:**

Lex Brumingen reported that as of this date, we have 151 members. George Mihalik asked, how does that compare to last year? Lex said we are down slightly from last year’s numbers.

**Lake Management:**

Ben Fergus reported on CSLAP:

* Collecting 3 shallow and deep samples this summer. Last samples will be taken September 21.
* Collected dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles since July 27. A total of 5 set of data will be available after September 21. We are hoping to catch the fall turnover (mixing of cold bottom water and warm upper water).
* Analytical results of samples are not expected from DEC until next May.
* Chrissy Craffey will be attending a regional conference on October 25 in Naples, NY.
* Chrissy Craffey attends monthly webinars with CSLAP volunteers across NY state.
* **MOTION: Ben Fergus makes a motion to sign up with DEC to take 8 shallow and deep samples in 2026 as part of the CSLAP Program. Estimated cost is not-to-exceed $900.00. This is in addition to being a NYSFOLA member, which has been $250.00 per year.**
* Comment in support of the motion (Ben Fergus): We have been taking 8 samples both shallow and deep since rejoining CSLAP and believe it is important to get a solid baseline of Phosphorous and temperature data throughout the water column prior to implementing Phosphorous control measures including both the sewer system and the aeration/or oxygenation system. This will enable us to measure changes in phosphorus concentrations throughout the water column over the long term. Board members do not need board approval for monies up to $900.00. A vote by the board was not needed in this case.
* **Lake Treatment Review from this Summer:**
* Glenn Sullivan prepared permit applications and treated weeds as described in the following bullets.
* Treated 6 acres in 2 coves in the south end from Paradise Bay Campground east to the point-with Aquathlon K- a herbicide or small pondweed (P.pusillus) & Sago pondweed (Stuckenia pectinata). Cost is $1,548/Acre=$9,500.00.
* Treated 48 Acres in the south end from Paradise Bay Campground east to the point and extending south into the lake about half-way to the island-with Procella COR-the herbicide we used last year for Eurasian Watermilfoil. Cost is $696/Acre=about $33,408.00.
* We are ready to treat up to ½ of the lake with a one-time application of copper sulfate-an effective algicide for cyanobacteria-during a HAB event. This year HAB’s didn’t materialize in significant amounts until late August. We decided the potential benefit of treatment did not justify the cost this year. Quoted amount not spent is $12,400.00 total.
* Other costs are $2,300.00d for pre- and post -treatment surveys and a Pesticide Report for DEC.

Ready Scout completed the post-treatment survey on August 11, 2025. We will send the post treatment survey report to the Board as soon as we receive it.

**Water Quality Plans**

* **On Tuesday September 23, 2025,** we will talk with Glenn Sullivan about scope of services and approach for permitting and treatment in 2026. We will ask him to prepare estimated costs for permitting. We will also discuss the need/advisability of getting an aquatic vegetation survey done in 2026 or 2027.

**For Curly-leaf Pondweed and Sago Pondweed** (These are Glenn’s recommendations from July 2025-this will be revisited with Glenn next week on September 16, 2025)

* There isn’t a systemic herbicide that provides multi-season control.
* The key is to manage the pants before the curly-leaf pondweed forms turions (buds underground) (60F water temp) and before the Sago pondweed forms tubers (July).
* Whether we treat or harvest, Glenn recommends doing it as early as possible. We can treat both plants with Aquantol k. Curly-leaf pondweed responds to a lower dose than Sago Pondweed, but Curly-leaf also harvests easier.
* Glenn suggests we harvest the Curly-leaf early in May, treat the shallow areas of Sago, and harvest the deeper areas.
* **Eurasian Water Mifoil-no treatment expected in 2026**
* **New permits**- We will probably need a wetland permit for any harvesting and herbicide use. Wetland jurisdiction stops at 6’ water depth, so we will be able to harvest in deeper areas without the permit, if needed. Glenn doubts the DEC will limit where we can harvest, just where we can use herbicides.

Algae Blooms-Glenn recommends getting the permit to treat with an algaecide again. SeClear is a better algaecide than copper sulfate and binds P as well but is 2X the cost.

**Stopping the Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species into and out of Findley Lake**

* Prepare and place “Clean, Drain and Dry” signage near our boat launch, near the DEC kayak launch and if agreeable with Paradise Bay owners, near their boat launch.

**Funding Ideas**

* Chautauqua County bed tax in-lake water quality grant applications for 2027 are **due April 1, 2026.** We will prepare at least one grant application and submit it after receiving Board approval in early 2026.
* Note we did not submit a grant application for a 2026 grant, which was due April 1, 2025 so we will not be receiving this grant in 2026.
* We plan to prepare a Findley Lake Community Foundation grant application for treatment pans in 2026.
* **Aeration/Oxygenation Project**
* We will continue to monitor and provide input to the
Town of Mina regarding the ongoing Princeton Hydro work associated with an aeration or oxygenation system designed to minimize HABs. Note that the Town of Mina submitted a Water Quality improvement Project (WQIP) grant application to fund the next phase of the project which will follow the completion of a bathymetric survey and a sediment oxygen demand study earlier this year.

**Building and Grounds:**

Bill Simpkins gave an update on painting for the lobby and bathrooms at the Waterwheel . The pricing would be $800.00 and he would do some outside touch ups. Bill pointed out to the board, we need to fix a burnt out light on the flagpole.

**Fundaraising:**

George Mihalik reported on the raffle ticket sales for the Bills-Steelers game on November 30. They sold 192 tickets, most tickets were sold 3 for $100. Most tickets sold at the Harvest Fest. Total expenses were $1,020.57. The total sales were $7,050.00. The total profit was $6.029.43. Some discussion on changing paypal to vemo next year. Paypal took awhile to go through. The winner of the raffle was Ron Zingaro. Congratulations to Ron!! One suggestion was to put tickets in some town locations, like Twin Docks or Clymer Hardware. Great job, George.

We are awaiting to hear from Mercyhurst on their donation.

**Harvester:**

Paul Fellinger reporter there is a problem with the harvester. With some discussion, the board voted to purchase a new motor for $3,000.00. Lex Brumingen motioned to purchase and Jeff Ireland 2nd. Motion passed.

**Old business:**

* Wetlands: contact Glenn Sullivan, License applicator, possibly hire Glenn to help with permits. Lex Brumingen asked whose the point person for Glenn? It was suggested to ask Ben Fergus for an answer.
* Is Chrissy still doing CSLAP?
* With the treatment on the north end, Lant Litcus asked what’s our next step for next year? That will be the 3rd year.
* Lex Brumingen will be working on setting up zoom calls for the board of director meetings.

After discussion, on the Capital Project Fund, Lant Litcus motioned to contribute $10,000.00 to the fund and Bill Simpkins 2nd, the motion carried.

**Adjournment:**

Jeff Ireland motioned to Adjourn the meeting and Paul Fellinger 2nd, the motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,

Debbie Thresher