



FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS

Thursday September 9, 2021

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM (A Virtual Meeting, via Zoom)

Minutes of the Business Meeting

Welcome (Don Weaver): Don called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Don noted that he will be stepping down as president at the end of this meeting and that new officers will be taking over. He thanked Jackie for putting up with him for the last 5 years of his presidency and for giving him good guidance during these years. He said FOVLAP has made strides forward and good progress in these years. He also thanked current and past boards and commented on what a great group of people they have been to work with. He looks forward to seeing the organization grow and continue to work with ANR and DEC.

Oliver Pierson introduced Peter Walke, Commissioner of DEC: Peter became Commissioner in February 2020. Previously he was Deputy Secretary of ANR and chief of staff in NY DEC. Very supportive of different initiatives and supportive of volunteer efforts.

Remarks by Commissioner Peter Walke: Thanks to all for inviting him. Commented on the amazing level of commitment that comes from all for lakes and ponds around the state.

- VT is a small but such a motivated group shows what can be accomplished with such commitment.
- It's great to see the ways which we've improved our partnerships as well as understanding data and how we use it to better guide our work. This is a remarkable and unique feature that Vermont shares with very few other locations. The fact that lake and pond associations come together to speak with one voice is a testament to your support. We in DEC realize we should have more people doing the work we need but this is not the reality we live in.
- A really exciting thing on the horizon is the state investment water quality with use of federal dollars in both the infrastructure package that is forthcoming and in the American Rescue Plan Act. DEC expects to be overseeing \$130 million worth of investments focused primarily on water quality issues. These funds will provide opportunities to focus on larger stormwater sites and village center lack of wastewater which has real impact on our water quality.
- Commented that it can be harder than you think to spend a lot of money, but they will get there. Will be making some really amazing transitions. Excited about where that stands.

- Regarding water quality, we have challenges but seen some remarkable recoveries. The possibility of reclassification upwards for some lakes is really exciting. It will be an interesting challenge in some ways because the laws around what we do with higher classified water bodies are a little out of date, reflecting management practices which we wouldn't necessarily prohibit in certain areas now.
- The Maidstone reclassification petition is interesting because of the prohibition of larger septic systems in the law which will present a challenge for the state park's ability to update its septic. Today we design septic systems so they wouldn't have an impact on the water body but the law hasn't been updated to reflect this. Interesting dynamic about how we change things. Data may be supportive but change isn't easy. Assuring all that they are following this and following the data and the science.
- Among the new and emerging issues is wake boating which wasn't on the radar years ago but is now and will be discussed later at this meeting.
- Another emerging issue concerns the discovery of PFAS in waterbodies. This will be a challenge to manage but it is something DEC is committed to. They are working through the issue and trying to be as transparent and communicative as possible with impacted communities.
- Commissioner Walke expressed his appreciation for the work Oliver and the staff did at the Lake Memphramagog meeting. There was real communication about where things are going on a number of fronts there. The ability to engage in open discussion and communication is a Vermont success story. Those sorts of communicative dialogues don't happen everywhere.
- And finally, thanks to all present. Your work amplifies our ability to do work on water quality. Without you we won't be successful.

Don Weaver called the business meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Don noted that, since this meeting is virtual, voting will be done by roll call. Each member association has one voting representative.

Roll Call: Bruce Tanner called the roll of voting representatives (see attached, along with tabulation of all roll call votes).

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2020: Motion to approve: Jay White; 2nd: Dave Johnson. Carried unanimously.

Financial Report (Bruce Tanner): Bruce reviewed the financial report (attached), noting that the FOVLAP fiscal year is the calendar year. Noted that due to COVID, we had funds left from the DEC grant which ordinarily would go to some of the expenses for the Lake Seminar and Annual Meeting since those events were virtual. \$500 of that excess will go to an additional VSAC scholarship. Total income for the year was \$6795.72; expenses were \$4694.65; ending balance for the year: \$18,753.49.

Motion to accept: Bruce Barter; 2nd: Christine Cano. Carried unanimously

Nominating Committee (Jay White): Jay thanked Roger Crouse and Kent Henderson for their help. Jay presented the list of nominated officers: Pat Suozzi (Lake Iroquois) for president; Jeri Bergdahl (South Pond) for secretary who replaces Pat for a one-year term; and Dave Johnson (Lake Dunmore) for treasurer. Jackie Sprague (Harvey's Lake) has one more year in her term as vice president.

Motion to accept the slate of officers as presented: Christine Cano; 2nd: Kent Henderson. Carried unanimously

Jay presented the slate of nominees for Directors:

The bylaws call for 9 directors. There are currently two directors whose terms have not expires and six on the slate for re-election. There remains one opening for a two-year term.

Nominees for the Board of Directors:

Christine Cano: 1 year term; Shadow Lake
Bruce Tanner: 2 year term; Willoughby Lake
Don Weaver: 2 year term; Northern L Ch
Jan Parsons: 3 year term; Harvey's Lake
Jack Widness: 3 year term; Lake Raponda
Chris von Alt: 3 year term; Maidstone Lake

No nominations from the floor were offered. Motion to accept the slate of directors as presented: Tracey; 2nd: Jennifer Andrews. Carried unanimously

By-Law Changes (Roger Crouse): Roger presented the changes to the bylaws which have been reviewed and approved by the board and recommended to the membership (see attached).

Motion to accept all changes as presented: Jackie; 2nd: Bruce B

Discussion:

- Jack Widness raised a concern from the Lake Raponda Association about Article V, paragraph 4 that if directors must pay an individual membership fee, their association would not reimburse this fee. This might imply that the director would be representing FOVLAP not the lake association.
- Roger Crouse noted that directors are wearing two hats, both to represent their lake association and to represent and work for FOVLAP as a whole. Payment of association dues gives the association the opportunity to vote at annual meeting. While directors paying individual dues allows FOVLAP to show that all on the board have given something individually to the organization which is typically expected on nonprofit boards and something that donors and foundations look for when we apply for grants.

Motion to accept was carried unanimously.

Action Item: Roger will revise the bylaws and Don will put them on the website in the next few weeks.

Policies and Procedures (Pat Suozzi): This is an ad hoc committee appointed by Don last spring to develop and revise policies governing the operations of the federation's board and committees. Thus

far, the committee has completed work on policies on Committee membership, auxiliary board membership, conflict of interest, and code of conduct. These have been reviewed by the board, undergone a legal review by an outside lawyer and will be presented to the board for final approval at its October meeting. In process are two that are currently with the lawyer for review: Harassment Policy and core values statement. The committee is currently working on drafts of policies on Communications and Social Media, Document Retention, Grants, and Finance. Still to come: board of directors membership, executive committee, governance, diversity/inclusion, and advocacy/legislative policies. Some of these may be merged together, others may be separated into more than one policy. We would like to see most of this policy work completed in the coming year. Thanks to all who have been working hard on this project: Jackie Sprague, Kent Henderson, Jan Parson. Jackie noted that Christine Cano had also done great work in helping the committee get off the ground, so many thanks to her as well.

Motion to adjourn the business meeting: Jan Parsons; 2nd: Bruce Tanner

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Submitted by P. Suozzi