

BOWMAN LAKE ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MEETING HELD ON JUNE 26, 2025

The second Board of Directors' Meeting of 2025 was held on June 26, 2025 at the Taborton Firehouse and via Zoom. John Losee, President, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Attendance at the meeting of Current Board Members:

Board Member Name	Board Member Position	Present	Absent
John Losee	President	X	
Ed Farrell	Vice President	X (Zoom)	
Colleen Masters	Treasurer	X	
Kiley Adamo	Secretary		X
Jack Betterly	Board Member (exp. '25)		X
Kathy Hale	Board Member (exp. '25)		X
Barbara Mark	Board Member (exp. '26)	X	
Tip Simons	Board Member (exp. '26)		X
Elaine Merguerian	Board Member (exp. '27)	X (Zoom)	
Bill Schulman	Board Member (exp. '27)	X	
Janice Kullman	Immediate Past President		X

In the absence of the Secretary, John took the minutes.

1.) Secretary's Report

John, in lieu of Kiley. Approval of minutes of BOD meeting from May 8, 2025, which John shared earlier with the board via e-mail.

- Colleen moved to approve the minutes as written, Barb seconded.
- Vote was unanimous - Minutes approved.

Review of minutes from June Membership meeting from June 5, 2025, to be approved at the July 31, 2025 Annual meeting, which John shared earlier with the board via e-mail.

- John asked if anyone had any questions/comments/corrections for these minutes – nobody did. They will be shared with the Membership for approval at the July Meeting.

2.) Treasurer's Report

Colleen shared the current balances in our accounts:

- We have 60 paid up members.
- The balance in the Checking account is \$10,994.74 (no interest earned on this account.)
- The balance in the Savings account is \$ 5,918.75 (.05% interest is earned on this acct.)
- Total Cash on hand = \$ 16,913.49

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Colleen reported that she looked into possibly moving some of our money to high yield accounts. The highest yield accounts she could find were all for on-line banks, ranging from 4.25 % - 4.6%. Trustco does offer 3 or 6 month CD's at 4% or 3.5%, respectively, or Money Market Accounts at .9%. The group discussed the options, and in the end, as we believe we have enough money in our accounts to cover the budgeted costs for this year, and then some, that we should put some in a CD at Trustco.

- Colleen moved that we take \$5,000.00 from the Checking, and \$5,000.00 from the Savings, and put it in a 3 month CD at Trustco (which is currently earning 4% interest).
- Ed seconded
- Further discussion was over whether or not to automatically have Colleen renew the CD when it comes due in Sept/Oct – but it was agreed that the Board could take an e-mail discussion/vote to approve renewing it or not.
- Vote on the motion as made was approved unanimously – Colleen will re-invest our funds as voted on.

3.) Committee Reports

Water Quality Oversight Committee

Lorraine Ferguson is the “Water Czarina” of the committee. Other members are Sharon Dawes, Pat Betterly, and Janice Anne Kullman. No members were at the Board Meeting.

John told the Board that the Oversight Committee had not had any activity since the last meeting, but was monitoring progress of the sub-committees.

Book Club

Elaine Merguerian is the Chairperson of this committee.

Elaine told the Board that we had planned on a June 19 Book Club meeting to discuss the 14-page document “Dissolved Oxygen Levels in Lakes”, but not enough people could attend, so it was tabled. She will reach out to the group and try to plan for another attempt next month. At that time we will decide if we wish to read “The Secret Life of a Lake: The Ecology of Northern Lakes and their Stewardship” by Peter Tobiessen next, or not. It was noted that Jack mentioned earlier he’d like to switch to fiction and read the Hazel Drew books!

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CEC (Chemicals of Emerging Concern)

Mike Ingham is the Chairperson of this committee. Other members are Justin Adamo, Joanne Ingham, and John Losee.

As John was the only member present he related the progress the group has been making, by reading a couple of e-mails Mike and Joanne wrote:

Monday, June 9, 2025:

Joanne and I contacted Capital Regional Environmental Labs in Rensselaer.

Coliform Testing: We spoke to a gentleman named Brian. This lab can assist us with coliform testing. The test costs \$45 each. Brian recommended multiple tests be taken at different places and levels. If we were to collect samples in conjunction with the oxygen testing locations, we would take samples at the seven locations (this would include approximately 11 tests with different depths). Joanne and I could pick up and deliver the samples to the lab. Please let us know if you need more information and what you think about moving forward with coliform testing.

Emerging Contaminants: We also spoke to Brian about testing for emergent contaminants. He did not have prices immediately available, but said he would get back to us. He also said it would be expensive and would likely only test in one location. We'll send an update when we hear back from him.

Michael and Joanne Ingham

They followed up the same day with:

Brian from Capital Regional Environmental Labs called back. He quoted \$250 for a single 1,4 – Dioxane test. He quoted \$1,025 for a single PFAS PFOA test.

We have a call in to the Lake George Water Testing Director. She oversees the extensive water test protocol for Lake George. We will ask if they test for coliform, 1, 4 - Dioxan, PFAS and PFOA. We'll report back.

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The Water Quality Management Program at Lake George is extensive and is working with an endowment of 20 million dollars.

Then, on Monday, June 16, 2025 they wrote:

Michael spoke with Mr. James Neri, PE, who is Director of Water Operations for H2M engineering group. Mike discussed the status of our lake with Mr. Neri. He indicated that testing the lake for 1,4-Dioxane, and PFAS/PFOA would not be productive. Even if these chemicals were found in the lake, there is no way that the BLA could remove them. Mike informed Mr. Neri that some homeowners do drink filtered water from the lake. They both agreed that homeowners could test their individual drinking water for the presence of 1,4-Dioxane, and PFAS/PFOA by using kits which would cost approximately \$350 each. If these contaminants are detected, the homeowner could then install a charcoal filter to remove PFAS/PFOA at a cost of between \$200 and \$600. They could also install a reverse osmosis treatment filter to remove 1,4-Dioxane for approximately \$200 to \$700.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Joanne and Michael Ingham

After hearing this, the Board discussed our options, and in the end, it was decided that we would recommend to the members at the Annual Meeting in July, that we move forward with the coliform testing, using the same 7 locations the EPA O2MC testing is done, and doing testing at two levels in the deeper spots.

CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program)

John Losee is the chairperson of this committee. Other members are Jack Betterly and Joanne Ingham.

John told the group that we did our first CSLAP Sampling on June 8, and would be doing our next test on July 6, with the last two occurring August 3 and August 31. He said that we had not had any negative feedback from NYSFOLA for not getting the samples to them on time, as many lakes are experiencing shipping problems, and the samples arrive too warm to use. Apparently we're using a good Fed Ex Shipping point. John also said that the results would not be in for 2025 sampling until this winter. Older reports can be seen on the CSLAP website, at [Index of /data/IF/CSLAP/1301BOW0444](https://data/IF/CSLAP/1301BOW0444) .

John also attended the June monthly CSLAP webinar meeting, along with roughly two dozen others. A lot of discussion was about the warm samples coming in, and some other technical

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sampling issues. However they also discussed the possibility of receiving simplified reports of the results of our prior years' test results. As the webinar progressed, Alene Onion worked on a quick computer program and put one together, which she said she'd share with us. She did in fact send us e-mails with links to those simplified reports for our lakes. Here's the link to it:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1afZIJWT4AgQSMhQSkJy3jLBqyXnYYL7n?usp=sharing>

We also discussed invasive species, and John learned of another website that is helpful for this – it will be discussed below in the "Invasive Species (formerly PRISMs)" section. There will be three more webinars in July, August, and September. John will attend those in July and August. He will be out of the country for the September one.

Dam Committee

Barbara Mark is the Chairperson of this committee. Other members are Bill Schulman and Shea White, who are voting members, as well as permanent non-voting member (due to land ownership where the dam is located – Justin Adamo.

John Losee told the Board that the dam board was put in place in late May, but had to be removed not long afterward, as the water was 6.5" over the top of the dam board, and some landowners were flooding, and more deluges of rain were predicted. He removed the board on June 7. It remained out for several days, then he and Justin replaced it. At that time the water was only 1.5" over the top of the dam board.

John continued that in our effort to discover where on the dam to place the "high water mark" that can be used to visually see from the road, when the board should be pulled, that he has developed a spreadsheet to record measurements of: Height of water over the top of the board, Height of water from the base of the concrete to the water level, and amount of dry concrete from water level to top of concrete. Since he began recording, the water has been at between 1.5" and 2.5" above the top of the board. We will have to continue monitoring/recording data as at 1.5" the water is reported a bit low by some people, but at 6.5", it's too high. So apparently the "high water mark" will end up being when the water flowing over the top of the board is somewhere between 2" – 6". We will see.

John also noted that when the board was initially put in place in May, beavers had clogged the creek under the bridge, and he had to remove a lot of branches. Apparently there is at least one adult and 5 baby beavers either living in or near the lake at the moment, as the Inghams sited them swimming north on the lake the other day.

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EPA – O2MC (Environmental Protection Agency – Oxygen Management Committee)

Lorraine Ferguson and John Losee Co-Chair this committee. Other members are Joanne Ingham and Barbara Mark. This group's purpose is to take samples of the lake's Dissolved Oxygen, PH, Salinity, and Conductivity, using a special device loaned to us by the federal EPA.

John told the Board that the group was continuing periodic sampling at our 7 sites around the lake, and would continue doing so until September, when the equipment needs to be returned to the EPA. He said he hoped maybe Rachel Graham, of the EPA would allow an extension through the fall, for further sampling, but that remained to be seen, as nobody is sure how the EPA and its programs will fare under the current Federal Administration.

Invasive Species Committee (Formerly PRISMs (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management))

Janice Anne is the chairperson and only member of this committee.

John changed the name of this committee, as since our last meeting, during a CSLAP webinar, it was brought to his attention there was another website we should join, that is dedicated to invasive species monitoring. It is the NYS Invasive Species Database which is found at NYimapInvasives.org – which covers invasive species reported throughout NYS in the water and on land. In the CSLAP Webinar they showed us the website and discussed a new invasive species that's destroying hemlock trees – the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid – it is all over NYS, including Rensselaer County, although it's not as bad here by our lake as other areas. It will probably get here though, as it's transmitted by birds! So, since this site was interesting, and may prove helpful, John asked Janice to look into it. She did, and set up an account in her own name. Anyway else can too if they like, but Janice can handle any queries we, as a group have, as she's already monitoring PRISMs as well.

LLS – (Lake Level Study Committee)

John Losee chairs this committee. Other members are Justin Adamo and Barb Mark.

John told the group that he had purchased two metal yardsticks. He installed one on the fixed portion of his dock and, the other on the fixed portion of Lorraine's dock. He also added sections to the spreadsheet he has for measuring the water at the dam, that will record lake

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height fluctuations at the two LLS locations. To date, he has noticed that when the water level at the dam was a ½" down, it was also the same at his dock. So this is consistent!

Weed Pulling Parties

Lorraine coordinates this effort, and will continue doing so this year, as it seems that last year more people became interested in getting together on the lake to pull some weeds together in designated areas, with a follow-up cocktail party at someone's dock. She will begin coordinating parties mid-late July, as we need to let the plants grow a bit and get stronger stalks, so we can try to pull them by the roots!

Historic Species in Big Bowman

John said he has not heard anything further from Will Lenihan, but didn't expect to until mid-July, as he hopes to come up to look for the *Utricularia ochroleuca* (yellowish-white bladderwort) on Friday, August 8. John will keep everyone posted on his visit.

Bowman Lake History Group

John told the Board he hasn't done anything further with this at the moment, but would start something up in the fall/winter, when there is more time.

4.) Old Business

Investigation into Liability Insurance for the BLA

John told the Board that the only movement on this initiative was that Lorraine found out that the Kinderhook Lake Corp uses Assured Partners (Valatie office) for all its insurance needs, including liability.

Someone wondered what this was about, so John summarized why we were looking into getting liability insurance, including the problems we'd encountered to date.

BLA is not 501 (c) 3 – Should we Be?

Going along with the idea of liability, John noted that during our Membership meeting, Mike Ingham said we didn't need it, as it wouldn't protect us from liability. However Ed noted that under 501 (c) 3, Board members would only be liable if they were guilty of Gross Negligence. So, John was going to try and speak with a lawyer (Malcolm McPherson), who is working with the Fire Department, to ask him about it. To that end, John stopped by Malcolm's office, but he

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was in a meeting. Generally, John can get him to respond e-mails too readily, or phone calls, so he'll see if he can catch him at another time.

Review Calendar of Events

Upcoming is Mark & Vicki's Cheese Cake Social on July 5, in the afternoon.

Also on July 5, at 7 PM the Kullmans are hosting the Annual Sing/Karaoke Night. John will touch base with them on getting a notice out.

The Regatta is on July 26 (rain date July 27) at Kullmans. We will run it as in the past few years. He will get a volunteer sign-up sheet out.

The Fishing Derby is scheduled for Sunday, July 27. Ed noted that if the Regatta is rained out, it will be on that day. So, in the event of the Regatta happening on July 27, or if Fishing Derby is rained out, the Fishing Derby's rain date will be Sunday, August 3. Additionally, we discussed the problem with an Association member telling Ed that it's illegal to transport fish to Ed's dock for measuring/weighing, either on a stringer or in a bucket. To remedy this, we will just have the person catching the fish lay it in the bottom of the boat, next to a yard stick and take a photo of it, to record its length, and type of fish. We won't weigh it. We will have different categories – based on the type of fish, with the biggest in each category winning. Ed will get John a notice to circulate.

John mentioned the other events listed on the calendar of events as well. Colleen asked if the new Scavenger Hunt budget was getting funded from the fact that this year there is no Poker Run or Talent Show – yes – any funds budgeted to those two events, or leftover extra funds from other events may be used to fund any new events.

BLA Sponsorship of 1 Month of Taborton Fire's Pizza Night

During the Membership meeting in June, the members voted to approve the BLA sponsoring one month's Pizza Night for an additional \$200.00, in addition to the regular annual donation. John told the Board, that the Fire Company would gladly accept this donation for their September Pizza Night.

Update on Efforts to Curb Speeding

John told the Board he had spoken to the town supervisor, who included the commissioner of works in the Commissioner of Works in the conversation. He asked for more speed limit signs, the possibility of speed bumps/humps, permission for the BLA to purchase temporary speed bumps, etc. etc. We are not allowed to obstruct the road in any way, so no on the bumps/humps. They would come up and possibly put up more signs. John said they had done

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that – removing one of the two 15 MPH signs at the head of the road, and putting up a new 25 MPH sign there, as well as another 25 MPH sign at the Benson/Piche line for northbound traffic, and that was all. John’s hoping they may come and put in more in between, and will wait a week before contacting them to ask for more. It was noted by some that 25 MPH seems too fast. Colleen wondered if we could ask to have it lowered. John said that the Town Supervisor mentioned that if we wanted it lowered the residents of Lawson Road would have to petition the town to do so. John believes that if they do that, then it opens a process where possibly a traffic study must be conducted, and public hearings need to be conducted. It is a possibility to try this though. John also noted that he’d called Amazon, UPS, and Fed Ex, and Bill had spoken with Twin Bridges. John will contact County Waste yet as well. The problem seems to be some residents on the lake who either don’t care, or are oblivious. Some of us have mentioned it directly to a couple of them. Barbara is getting another little green kid playing with a flag. Ron Cahill asked John if we could put up our own 15 MPH signs. John will ask the town. It was wondered if we can paint “SLOW DOWN” on the road. John thinks we might need to ask the town about that, and at least the owners of the property the road is crossing at that point. This effort continues at this time.

Update on Efforts to Get Dog Owners to Clean Up after them

The BLA has sent out e-mails to everyone, including the Town’s dog ordinances with it, and Summer reminders and Renter’s Reminders. It doesn’t seem to be helping. We know some people who are guilty of not cleaning up, and they are ignoring our pleas. Barbara is going to put up a sign at her house. John suggested maybe some homeowners might want to put up real or fake cameras facing the street. It might keep some people from letting their dogs go on their properties. And for those using real cameras, those owners who let their dogs go and don’t pick up, could be told – pick up, or this goes to the town – there is an ordinance!

Clean up along Lawson Road

At the Membership meeting this was brought up and Lorraine was going to put together an e-mail we could send to residents, about cleaning up along Lawson Road, and offering help to any owners who were unable to do it themselves. John hasn’t received it to send out as yet.

Possible New Type of “Non-Resident/Non-Voting” Membership Category?

John recently received a query from someone who lives in the area, but not on the lake. They visit people on the lake often, and come to our events. They toss in donations toward food/prizes etc. They were wondering if they could become members. John explained to them the type of membership we have. Then after thinking on it some more, recalled how we used to have owner members and associate members. That was problematic, as associate members

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didn't have the same rights, so many years ago, the constitution was changed to the current type of membership we have. John noted he was not suggesting we revert back to that type of membership, but instead, have a new type that was for non-residents, which would allow them membership, but without voting rights. The group discussed this and it was pointed out it might open the association up to look as though we allowed anyone to join. In the end, nobody felt it was a good idea, so we will drop it.

As there was no other business to discuss, Ed moved we adjourn, Bill seconded, and it was unanimous. We adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Action Items: *(From this and leftovers from previous meetings – in no particular order)*

- 1) ASAP, **Colleen** will open a 3 month CD at Trustco, taking \$5,000.00 from the checking and \$5,000.00 from the savings to fund it.
- 2) **John** will ask **Sharon** to post the May BOD Meeting minutes on the website.
- 3) **Sharon** will speak with her brother Don Scavia regarding what we aren't currently testing for in the lake, that we should be. – Did this get done already???
- 4) **Elaine** will kick off the next Book Club reading. **John** will assist with sending the e-mails to the entire lake neighborhood. He will include the 14 page document (as a link, and in .PDF format) that Lorraine found on Dissolved Oxygen, that the group will be reading/discussing next.
- 5) **John** and **Lorraine** will continue monitoring lake levels at the dam and their docks. This will assist with determining where to put low water and high water levels on the dam.
- 6) As summer progresses, **John** will coordinate with Will Lenihan further on taking him around the lake to look for our historic bladderwort plant, and will keep the membership informed.
- 7) In the fall/winter, **John** will get the Bowman Lake History group up and running.
- 8) ASAP, **Tip** will speak with the Insurance underwriter to find out what kind of premium we would be charged for liability insurance, if we remove coverage for the dam from the equation.
- 9) More insurance investigation!
- 10) ASAP, **John** will talk with Malcolm McPherson (The Fire Company's lawyer) regarding the possibility of 501 (c) 3 status for the BLA negating the need for insurance, as we might then no longer be able to be held liable. He will also ask if we even qualify for 501 (c) 3 status, or if we would fall under some other section of the IRS code, and about liability under that IRS Code.
- 11) **John** will follow up with the town and County Waste on the speeding situation on Lawson Road.
- 12) **The CEC Committee** will move forward with coliform testing and inform the members.
- 13) **Lorraine** will get the Weed Pulling parties going in July.
- 14) **John** will get volunteer sheets out for the Regatta, & announcements for the upcoming events.
- 15) **Colleen** will give the Fire Department the Pizza Night Sponsorship donation in September.

Respectfully submitted June 27, 2025 by: John A. Losee, President