



Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

Videoconference:

Thursday, July 16, 2020 12 noon - 1:30 pm

In Attendance

Ricardo Lopez-Torrijos (Chair)

Bill Nechamen, (Treasurer and Member Coordinator)

Russell Houck (Secretary)

Brian Zitani (Reg. 1)

Curtis Smith (Region 2)

Brent W. Gotsch (Region 3)

Shaun Gannon (Reg. 6)

Matt Sutton (Region 9)

Excused

Rick Woidt (Reg. 7)

Missing

Colleen Flynn (V. Chair)

Paul Guillet (Region 5)

John Gauthier (Reg. 8)

Non-Boardmembers

Janet Thigpen

Stevie Adams

Jessica Otney

Quorem – YES 12:04 PM Start

AGENDA

1. Meeting agenda was reviewed by the Chair.
2. Review of [June Board meeting draft minutes](#) (link) Motion to approve by R. Houck; seconded by B. Nechamen; motion passed.
3. [Treasurer's Report](#) (7/14/20 – Link)– The Treasurer's report was provided by B. Nechamen prior to the meeting. The Treasurer noted that there were few transactions in last month. The Nature Conservancy grant was received and payment made to Gilday (web designers). B. Zitani moved to approve the report; B. Gotsch seconded; motion passed.
4. 2020 General Membership Meeting, July 20. See [proposed Agenda link](#). The board discussed the format and content of the upcoming general membership meeting. Noted:
 - Change Item 2 to Announcement of Results of Officer Elections.
 - Members will be asked to provide ideas on upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops.
 - Panel event proposed for fall – not confirmed
 - Website presentation – PowerPoint to be used – not a live demo; Zoom sufficient?
 - Committee reports to be provided.
 - 30 members signed up so far; Please register for meeting – July 9 Invite previously sent..
5. The ["Restore Mother Nature" Environmental Bond Act of 2020 Coalition](#) (link) - Should [NYSFSMA join the Coalition?](#) (link)
A summary of the proposed act was provided by Jessica Otney, NY Nature Conservancy, Director of Policy & Strategy.
 - Organization is called Vote Yes for Clean Water & Jobs Coalition.
 - \$3 Bill bond act proposed by Gov. Cuomo; J. Otney discussed the bond act/ slide summary
 - Will be on November ballot if Governor decides to submit.
 - \$1 bill fund for restoration and flood risk reduction, water Quality/Infrastructure, open space & recreation
 - 35% of fund would go to benefit frontline communities
 - NY Budget director must certify that NY can issue bonds/take on debt and not adversely affect NY financially; COVID impacts considered
 - Some opposition to the act is expected.
 - Board discussed providing our endorsement and proposed that FSMA promote more natural flood risk reduction measures (e.g., not hardening shorelines).
 - B. Nechamen made motion to join the coalition to support the bond act; R. Lopez-Torrijos seconded; motion passed. FSMA to work on a letter of support with specific measures for loss reduction and stormwater management. Coalition form to be completed confirming our endorsement. [Note: Governor has decided not to submit this bond act for public referendum in November 2020 state election]

6. Committee Reports:

- a. Public Policy: [Draft letter to FEMA's Technical Mapping Advisory Council on Efforts to re-imagine flood hazard mapping and products](#) (link)
 - Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC) – what is future of floodmapping products? FSMA drafted a comment letter stressing that maps should be coordinated with updates of NFIP and floodplain management regulations. Letter calls for redefining floodways – perhaps as “extreme hazard areas” where development would be prohibited. New floodmapping products need to be simple to use for communities and regulators. Develop more of a risk scale - not just “in or out” of the regulated floodplain.
 - Board discussed the letter. R. Lopez-Torrijos made motion to approve and send the letter, with minor revision as needed; S. Gannon seconded; motion passed.
- b. CRS – No report
- c. Newsletter – Distributed; contact Fatima Begum for interest in working on newsletter.
- d. Outreach & Education:
 - i. Committee is working on an overall NYSFSMA policy for charging for training and paying trainers; Need to provide value to our membership and training is perhaps greatest value; Fall workshops possible so we need a system or guidance on vetting trainers; coordinating professional credits; honorarium all discussed.;
 - ii. Committee to consist of B. Nechamen, S. Gannon, and R. Lopez-Torrijos. J. Marcy and S. Adams to make recommendations to board also.
- e. Website:
 - i. See the [“Meet the Trainer” Website Section Draft Plan \(link\)](#), to be discussed in the end July /August workgroup meeting.

7. Previous meeting follow up actions

1. Refund exhibitor fees – R. Houck, B. Nechamen (to do)
2. Website training updates recommendations: S Adams/R. Lopez-Torrijos/J. Marcy (see above)
3. B. Nechamen/R. Houck to post minutes on website (to do; new web pages)
4. APA credit (B. Nechamen/J. Thigpen) – no update. P. Pomeroy to be contacted.
5. July 20 General Membership meeting.

8. Other News

Next meeting: August 20, 2020 12 -130 PM

Action Items

- Bond Coalition Form [Not needed at this time]
- Send final TMAC letter
- Website training committee to report back to board
- Website committee to continue to work on website.

S. Gannon motion to adjourn; B. Zitani seconded. Meeting adjourned.