



## **SPLKA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**May 15, 2025 9:30am**

### **SPLKA In-person & Virtual Meeting**

**"The mission of SPLKA is to preserve, promote, educate the public, and to make our lighthouses accessible to all."**

- 1. Call to Order/Establish a Quorum (Susan)**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance (Susan)**
- 3. Audience Comments/Correspondence (Jack)**

One letter was received from John Bumstead congratulating the association on the funding for the replacement glass in the lantern room at BSP.

#### **4. Consent Agenda**

##### **a. Approval of meeting minutes - April 2025 (Susan)**

Motion to approve was made by Nic and seconded by Kathleen. Passed unanimously.

##### **b. Treasurers Report (Kathleen)**

Kathleen stated that we had budgeted for a loss of \$124,000, but are only at a loss of \$100,000. She assumes that is due to timing differences. Our revenue is up, and expenses are down.

The income statement shows little investment income for this year, likely due to not having statements yet.

We received 100% of the grants requested from all 4 counties.

Inventory is rolling in steadily and we have 60 days to pay.

Kathleen noted that Jack is holding down expenses and the association is doing well. Jack noted that the staff is doing very well in holding expenses down. We are on target given the projected losses due to the closure of BSP.

Susan complimented Kathleen on her attention to the budget.

**Rob moved to accept the treasurer's report and Dean seconded the motion.  
Motion carried unanimously.**

**c. Staff Reports: (Jack)**

**-Executive Director**

**Met with the US Coastguard regarding moving the battery packs from the lantern room at Manistee to make it more tourist friendly. They have also provided new signage for Ludington and Manistee.**

**Meeting with Syncwave went well.**

**Met with Oceana County newspaper.**

**Jeffries Family Foundation has not sent the invitation yet. She wants to schedule a site visit for June.**

**Great Lakes Energy denied our grant request.**

**The National Trust for Historic Preservation has not responded regarding repair of the BSP wall.**

**Cameras and network management have taken a lot of time.**

**Web cam traffic is picking up.**

**-Marketing**

**Orders are coming in and being organized.**

**Great coverage through social media and MLive.**

**-Operations**

**Sites are filling quickly.**

**Still working on daykeeper programming.**

**Getting things ready for season.**

**-Maintenance**

**Jim has been at all the sites getting things done.**

**The access road has been cleaned.**

Trex boards going in

A quote for chimney repair was received. The cost will be between \$15 and \$20,000. We hope to generate \$30,000 for that site.

A new water softener was installed at WRLS paid for by Fruitland Township.

Quotes have been received for wiring at Manistee and a grant has been approved for new railings.

**-Site Manager**

Sara was at LSP for a photo shoot.

She has been planning for kids' groups and scheduling school groups.

**b. Officer Reports: (optional)**

**- President**

Susan is looking forward to the Lights, Camera, Activate event.

She complimented the staff on the work that they have done on the rebranding project.

She congratulated Jack on the 100% grant funding for the past month and his relationship building in the community.

**- VP**

No report.

**5. Committee Reports: commentary and questions (led by committee people)**

**a. Finance – Financial Review Update**

The site visit has been completed. No paperwork has been received. Carol stated that everything went smoothly.

**b. Education – April 29<sup>th</sup> Minutes & next meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>**

Education meeting minutes have not been received.

The committee is shrinking and is down to only three currently. A push will be made in the upcoming newsletter.

**c. Archive – No Updates**

**d. Personnel – No Updates**

**e. Outreach –**

They are continuing of gathering items for the 150<sup>th</sup> at WRLS

**f. Restoration – MNPL Safety Railing**

The railing was approved. He needs to discuss an action plan with Nic, Dean and Jim.

The interior railings will be DIY. The external railing will be contracted.

**6. Unfinished Business:**

**a. Big Sable & Ludington North Live Cameras and Network Proposal (Update)**

BSL installation is scheduled for June 2 and to go live July 1.

LNBL is running and recordings have been generated. It will go live on May 30. It is being advertised. The boating community is excited about it.

**b. SPLKA Rebranding (Update)**

The subcommittee met twice, and the logos were narrowed down to two options. The process was previously approved. Option 1 and Option 2 will be shared and voted on.

Julie presented both options and explained the symbolism. She emphasized that each lighthouse will also have its own logo. The logo being voted on today is for the association.

The vote was taken by role call. Erika was not at the meeting, and since we wanted the entire board to vote, Jack contacted her following the meeting and asked that she submit her vote by email. In the event of a tie, Jack will break the tie. Julie asked that the results of the vote be kept confidential as staff have a specific plan for the roll out.

Julie complimented Chris at Engine Creative for his attention and creativity.

**c. WRLS 150<sup>th</sup> (Update)**

Everything is complete and ready for the event.

There will be shuttle buses to the light.

The program for the day is set. Jack is trying to keep the presentation to a half hour.

A plan B option is being created in the event of bad weather.

Board members are encouraged to attend to meet people and make connections.

**7. New Business:**

**a. Safe Harbor Credit Union (Checking Account & \$5,000 Limit)**

The account has been opened. This is a money market account. The account was set up with a \$5000 limit for withdrawals. Board approval is required for amounts above that. Since checks cannot be written on a money market account. Jack asked for a secondary account that would be a checking account with a limit of \$5000, unless the Board approved a higher amount.

Signers will be Jack, Carol and Cherie.

Nic moved to approve, and Kathleen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**b. By-Law Review (Addition of Manistee North Pierhead Light)**

The by-laws were sent out with the packet. Jack recommended that if anyone suggested changes, a committee would be formed. The only item currently on the table is the addition of Manistee.

Nic moved that Manistee be added to the by-laws. Rob seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**c. 2025 Event Calendar**

Jack made a full event calendar to the board for the 2025 season so that board members can plan to attend or help.

**d. Golf Cart housed in LSP garage**

The golf cart doesn't work currently. The batteries are shot, and it takes up space in the LSP garage. It must be transported to LNBL for use. Jack doesn't believe that we really need to have a golf cart. Repairs would cost roughly \$1200, or we could try to sell it. It is not usable at BSP. Dean, Jim and Greg all agree that it isn't needed as it is used only once or twice a year. Dean views it as a recurring cost and maintenance issue that we don't need. Wagons have been used at LNBL effectively.

Dean moved to sell the golf cart. Kathleen and Rob seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1.

**8. Executive Session**

No executive session

**9. Open discussion**

No open discussion

**10. Motion to adjourn**

Rob moved to adjourn. Nic seconded the motion.

**Next scheduled Board Meeting June 19, 2025 at 9:30 am, Zoom and in the office.**