

From Sara Peel the President

As we move from spring into summer, we celebrate the success of the 2019 Monitoring Conference (which



NALMS assists in planning and hosting) and highlight the NALMS mid-term board meeting. NALMS continues to benefit from the efforts of competent staff and a motivated

board; membership numbers continue to increase providing stability to NALMS in this economy. And thanks to the efforts of the NALMS board and staff, conference coordinator, the Cincinnati host committee and the monitoring council, NALMS is rebuilding our budget reserve. This seems like a good time to reflect on what has been accomplished since the 2018 NALMS symposium in Cincinnati.

The NALMS board's midterm meeting occurred in chilly but lovely Denver, Colorado, the weekend of March 23-24 – just prior to the beginning of the 11th National Water Quality Monitoring Conference. The board reviewed ethics committee work and identified steps for completing our ethics statement; provided input and approved steps to complete NALMS' inaugural development plan, and reviewed committee and program work products in light of the NALMS strategic plan.

The board completed several housekeeping tasks including approving updates to the NALMS Operations Manual, approving NALMS contributions to the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Donor List, adopting the AFP donor bill of rights, formulating revised staff position descriptions and evaluation procedures, and implementing 100 percent board member donor participation guidance.

Additionally, the inaugural NALMS diversity statement was approved as follows:

Diversity for NALMS means creating a community of inclusion. We respect and value the unique contributions and perspectives of all members, employees, event participants, students, volunteers, and our local and international communities. Diversity includes age, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, color, race, religion, sexual orientation, diversity of thought, ideas, and more. Diversity maximizes our true potential for creativity, innovation, and collaborative problem solving. NALMS strives to cultivate a Society built on mentorship, encouragement, tolerance, and mutual respect, thereby engendering a welcoming environment for all. NALMS promotes diversity in all areas of activity, including fostering diversity in membership, leadership, committees, staff, outreach, public engagement, recruitment, and all other areas of Societal activity.

We are looking forward to the 39th International NALMS Symposium, which will be in Burlington, Vermont, this fall. We were last in New England in 2009 when we visited Hartford, Connecticut. The Vermont Host Committee and New England NALMS Affiliate volunteers are finalizing field trip options – those along with a draft conference agenda, draft program, plenary speaker details, Clean Lakes Classic 5K registration information, and hotel room reservation and conference registration information will be posted soon. Concurrently, the 2020 Minnesota host committee is gearing up to provide details for the 40th Annual NALMS symposium – if you have ideas about

how NALMS should celebrate our 40th Anniversary, please share those details with NALMS staff or board members.

This issue of *LakeLine* deals with the important topic of Harmful Algal Blooms. As we track algal blooms in the Western Lake Erie Basin via the National Weather Services' bloom forecast (<https://www.weather.gov/cle/LakeErieHAB>) and follow bloom documentation within our local waterbodies, NALMS aims to help identify resources available in other states and provinces. With this in mind, our HAB Program launches NALMS' Harmful Algal Bloom story map with this edition. Read on, and see what HAB-based monitoring, early detection, and treatment mechanism you can incorporate from efforts to address Harmful Algal Blooms.

Here's to a safe and productive summer, and we hope you can join us in Burlington, Vermont, this fall!

Sara Peel, CLM, is the NALMS president, previously serving as the director at large, two terms as secretary, and one term as the Region 5 director. Sara received her B.S. in biology and Chemistry from Alma College and her M.S. in environmental science from Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Sara is the lead scientist and co-owner of Arion Consultants – a regional environmental consulting firm with a focus on lake and watershed management. She is an experienced leader in water quality and watershed management. 🌊