

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2023

Via Webex

Welcome: Bob Eddy, President

Present (9): Bob Eddy, Gary Langer, Sara Parke, Kim David, Anne Bonnerup, Bob Lee, Mark Mosman, Lloyd Thyen, Diana Lee

Absent (5): Cyrus Malbari, Darril Wegscheid, Jeff Caza, David Lawson, Mary De Hanson

Treasurer's Report: Sara provided a financial report (Exhibit A) showing account balances and a partial list of line items from the 2022 budget. Sara mentioned that although Amazon's Smile Program has been discontinued, the lost income will have a minimal effect on the budget since the program didn't generate significant dollars in the past. She reported that she will be writing checks, preparing the year-end 2022 financial statement, and preparing the association's tax return in the next few weeks. She further indicated that a meeting of the Finance Committee will be scheduled shortly to prepare a proposed 2023 budget to be presented to the Board for approval. Gary requested that the year-end report include comparisons between 2021 and 2022.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was seconded and unanimously passed.

Protecting our Lakes (POL): Anne presented a written document containing discussion points relating to the POL initiative including several projects and associated costs. She requested Board approval to spend \$2,925 to enter into a contract with Prairie Restorations, Inc. ("PRI") whereby PRI will continue maintenance of the Outing Public Dock plantings done in 2022 (maintenance cost estimated to be \$1,500 per year), and an additional \$1,425 for PRI to seed a strip along the sidewalk near the public dock in order to enhance what was done last year. The new plantings will consist of a bee/pollinator seed mix.

A motion to approve the PRI contract and related expenditure of \$2,925 was seconded and unanimously passed.

Lloyd interjected that he believes Crooked Lake Township (CLT) agreed to maintain the plantings that were installed in 2022 by PRI, and that the \$1,500 is therefore not required to be spent by RALALA. While that was not the understanding of Gary and Anne, Lloyd will seek to confirm whether or not CLT agreed to maintain the area.

There was discussion relating to additional projects and associated costs including additional signage in the "Don't Mow Let It Grow" area, additional plant plugs, planning a second annual Lake Season Launch at Crooked Lake Township Town Hall, planning another Parade of Shores event, and the Lake Steward program. There was agreement that educational programs (such as Lake Season Launch), the Lake Steward program and the Outing dock project are the three

top POL priorities. It was further agreed that the POL-related topics and cost proposals not yet approved will be addressed at future board meetings.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Initiative: Gary Langer presented a written document listing Cass County Inspector hours for 2023, as well as other ideas and proposals (and estimated costs), all related to the ultimate goal of preventing the introduction of AIS into our lakes. Gary's informational document includes:

- Cass County boat landing inspector hours:
 - Lake Roosevelt (600 hours) May 12-Sept 24 (20 weeks–Fridays thru Sundays)
 - Lake Lawrence (300 hours) May 12-Sept 24 (20 weeks–Majority Saturdays & Sundays)
- Proposal for RALALA to fund additional inspector hours at Roosevelt landing on 20 Thursdays (estimated cost \$5,500) as well as additional days surrounding holiday weekends and the week of July 4 (total 8 days–estimated cost \$2,200).
- Proposal to install Kiosk (metal structure to hold signage) & new/additional signage at boat landing (estimated cost \$1,921)
- Above proposals amount to \$9,621

Gary shared some possible cost-sharing opportunities/ideas that could bring down the cost to RALALA. However, in light of the need to coordinate the arrangement of additional inspector hours with Cass County as soon as possible, Gary is requesting that the Board approve expenditures up to \$10,000 for the above proposals at this time.

A motion to approve expenditures up to \$10,000 for AIS initiatives was seconded and passed by a majority vote (8 ayes, 1 no).

Bob Lee explained his “no” vote and indicated he does not disagree that AIS is a high priority, but is uncomfortable approving this level of expenditure before being provided a clear picture of available cash and a list of previously-committed financial obligations of RALALA. He believes the approval should take place after the Board reviews both a 2022 year-end financial statement and a proposed 2023 budget.

Other Discussion

Bob Eddy expressed his disappointment in RALALA not receiving a DNR grant since the DNR switched to a lottery system two years ago. He will request an explanation from the DNR as to who received AIS grant money from them and why a high priority lake would be denied two years in a row.

Bob Eddy next raised the topic of the wildlife photos received from the photographer who lives near the north end of Lake Roosevelt. It was suggested that we receive a “release” from the photographer before using any pictures to prevent any legal or cost issues down the road.

Bob Eddy scheduled the next Board meeting for Thursday, February 9, 2023. The meeting was then adjourned.

Minutes prepared by: Diana Lee, Secretary