

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2023
Via Webex

Welcome: Bob Eddy, President

Present: Bob Eddy, Gary Langer, Diana Lee, Kim David, Anne Bonnerup, Bob Lee, Mark Mosman, Darril Wegscheid, Lloyd Thyen and Mary De Hanson

Also present: Jan Mosman (for one topic)

Absent: Sara Parke, Cyrus Malbari, Jeff Caza and David Lawson

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Diana presented minutes of the Board meeting held on January 26, 2023 and asked for any suggested corrections or changes. No changes were requested. Motion to approve the minutes, as presented, was made, seconded and carried.

Protect our Lakes (POL) Initiative: Anne presented a concise summary of POL-related projects and related expected costs, one of which was approved by the Board in January (Outing Public Dock Buffer Zone project), and others that have been previously discussed but not yet approved by the Board. It was agreed that opportunities to share funding of the projects should continue to be explored. Bob Eddy asked that Anne prioritize the project list as she sees fit in advance of again submitting them to the Board after the 2023 budget is completed and approved. There was discussion around the proposed assembly of 12 “kits” (each containing weed suppressant mat and plant plugs) for distribution to attendees at the June “Season Launch”. In light of the cost of each kit and the limited supply, it was agreed that it would be appropriate (and most effective) if the kits were offered to recipients who are willing to share the cost (subsidized by RALALA but not provided for free). Anne asked for confirmation that June 17 was the agreed-upon date for the “Season Launch” event. She said she believes morning hours are best for attendance results. The board agreed on that date and timeframe, and Lloyd said he will reserve the Crooked Lake Town Hall for the event.

Action Items: Anne will prioritize project list and will check into whether RALALA’s annual maintenance costs for Prairie Restorations could be picked up by Crow Wing Soil and Water (Adam).

Crow Wing Power and proposed Manganese Mining Project: Jan Mosman joined the meeting to share information relating to a letter received by the President of the Crow Wing Power (CWP) Board of Directors from the Minnesota Attorney General's (AG) Office in mid-December 2022. The letter indicated that the AG's office has opened an investigation into whether certain payments by NorthStar Manganese to certain people at CWP were proper and legal. She also reported that exploratory drilling is being conducted. Information relating to the letter and ongoing investigation has been provided to Emily City Council.

AIS and Launch Site Project: Gary indicated he is awaiting receipt of a written agreement from Cass County whereby the county will attempt to fill additional inspector hours at the Roosevelt Lake landing to cover specific 10-hour days not currently on the county's schedule (an additional 28-30 days to include Thursdays and days surrounding holidays and July 4 week). The extra hours actually provided will be paid for by RALALA. The hours will cost RALALA \$27.50 per hour. Bob Eddy indicated he will review and sign the agreement when it is received.

Gary indicated that discussions are ongoing with Dana Gutzmann (at Cass County), Lloyd and himself relating to hiring additional inspector hours at the landing on Lake Lawrence possibly for shorter (8-hour) shifts. Dana discouraged trying to schedule people for less than a full 10-hour day, partly because of the driving time required.

Gary shared information and distributed a flyer that will be used by WaterGuards (a company contracted by Cass County) to advertise for hiring of boat landing inspectors. He shared that Dana indicated it's difficult to find Roosevelt inspectors because of the remoteness of the area and that it often requires the inspector to drive a further distance than to other lakes that are nearer to the larger towns. The ads will be run in the Pine River paper and the Northland Press by WaterGuards, and Darril agreed to send an email blast containing the flyer, along with an explanatory message, to all RALALA members. Gary suggested to Darril that the communications need to start within the next 30-45 days. Lloyd offered to distribute the ad created by WaterGuards (that contains pull-tab phone numbers) to local restaurants and businesses to place on their bulletin boards.

The purchase of kiosk(s) for lake landing areas to hold various signage was discussed at prior meetings and Gary indicated that he will be receiving pricing information shortly and that he is requesting incremental pricing for up to four kiosks (for Roosevelt, Lawrence, Leavitt and Smoky Hollow). Bob Lee raised the question as to who needs to be contacted for permission to erect a kiosk at each of the landing areas, since the landing sites are not all under the same jurisdiction. Darril offered to check on who owns what. Bob Lee then raised the issue that RALALA's insurance policy may need to be amended to cover kiosks and signage. He explained the DNR required insurance as a condition for installation of the ILIDs when they were installed at the landing, but does not remember the coverage terms in the policy obtained.

Bob Eddy raised the question of whether the decontamination station can be moved around since it appears to be underutilized at its current location in Outing. Lloyd raised concerns about where the flow of water would be directed if it were near the lake. Darril said that some other lakes have collection bins or large mats that channel the water away from the lake. It was agreed that more focus should be placed on decontamination and that more investigation is necessary. Any thoughts or suggestions on this topic should be directed to Gary, Lloyd and Mark.

2023 Membership Drive: Darril indicated he plans to send out membership solicitations in early April and that most all of them are sent via email as opposed to US mail. He further indicated that a communication will be attached/enclosed outlining what RALALA has accomplished in the past year and the goals for this year. Bob Lee noted that in the last mailing approximately 10% of mailings via US mail were rejected due to outdated/incorrect addresses. Bob and Darril agreed they will work on updating addresses prior to this year's mailings.

Water Testing Data: Darril shared a chart containing water "scores" for area lakes obtained from DNR records. He indicated a desire for historical data so that trends can be identified, and Lloyd suggested that more digging on the DNR website may reveal some historical data/readings. Lloyd noted there is a new DNR site and will send a link to Darril. Darril said he will put together a budget proposal for water testing.

Possible RALALA Income: Bob Lee shared that RALALA received a letter from an attorney indicating that a prior homeowner on Lake Roosevelt established a trust and named RALALA as a beneficiary. Prior to distribution of the trust funds, all beneficiaries have to “sign off” on the final accounting and release any future claims. If this accounting remains uncontested and all releases are received by the trustee, we will receive those funds.

2023 Budget: Bob Eddy indicated that he will meet with Sara in the next couple of weeks to create a first draft of the budget which will then be presented to the Financial Review Committee and ultimately to the full Board for approval. He said that going forward he has established a schedule for annual budget preparation. Starting next year, the first draft will be created in October so that a final budget can be presented to the Board in December.

Annual DNR Grants: Bob Eddy shared the DNR’s response to his questions relating to how grant recipients are chosen and who received them this year. He said that although the DNR claims that recipients are chosen at random, the list of those receiving grants this year raises suspicion as to whether it’s totally random, since all Minneapolis lakes received grants, as well as Lake Minnetonka, and only three lakes in Cass County received them.

Bob Eddy scheduled the next meeting for Thursday, February 23.

Bob Eddy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Minutes prepared by: Diana Lee