

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2023
(Continuation of March 2 meeting/agenda)
Via Webex

Welcome: Bob Eddy, President

Present (10): Bob Eddy, Gary Langer, Diana Lee, Cyrus Malbari, Kim David, Anne Bonnerup, Bob Lee, Mark Mosman, Darril Wegscheid, Mary De Hanson

Absent (4): Sara Parke, Jeff Caza, David Lawson, Lloyd Thyen

Minutes of 3/2/23 meeting: Minutes were revised to reflect requested changes to the initial draft.

A motion to approve the minutes, as amended, was seconded and unanimously passed.

Water Quality Testing: Bob Eddy presented a document showing the costing model for contracting with Enbridge to test water from the stream in order to detect any pipeline leakage. He indicated that an Enbridge employee walked the stream twice this winter looking for any sheen or smell that would indicate oil presence, but that lab testing of water samples would be a better detection method. The cost would include employee trip to site, obtaining samples and the lab work. Comparison pricing was broken out for quarterly vs. monthly vs. weekly testing and also "stream only" vs. "both sites". Discussion points made:

- In order to be useful, sampling needs to occur often, so regularly-scheduled testing is advisable.
- According to Russ Van Dell (with background knowledge), typically a pipe break doesn't happen without warning. There are usually signs of a leak before a full break and, therefore, monthly testing should be sufficient.
- Although it would be cost-effective for us to designate our own person to get trained, obtain the supplies needed and test monthly, Bob Eddy indicated that Enbridge likely won't tell us what the testing criteria is.
- Ideally both sites should be tested monthly and the cost for that would be \$10,128 per the costing model (AW Labs) supplied to Bob.
- Bob Eddy will continue to correspond with Enbridge with regard to testing.

Action Taken: After discussion, the board unanimously agreed that \$10,128 should be added to the proposed 2023 budget to accomplish monthly water testing at both sites.

Marketing Plan: Bob Eddy indicated his desire for a marketing plan/strategy for fundraising and membership drives.

Action Item: Mary De will put together a plan for marketing ideas, including possible events that could be organized to connect people face-to-face and provide an

opportunity for RALALA to be more visible and to message its goals and accomplishments.

Action Item: Darrill will continue to explore ways that lake property owner contact information can be obtained and methods to help keep RALALA database up to date so that membership drives and other communications will get to the proper recipients.

Additional Discussion Topics:

- Gary reported that the agreement with Cass Soil & Water Conservation District (Cass SWCD) has been signed. Per the agreement, Cass SWCD, via its contract with WaterGuards, LLC will provide additional watercraft inspection hours at Lake Roosevelt launching site. Gary also reported that an agreement with Steamboat Lake Kiosk has been signed for the purchase of a kiosk at the Lake Roosevelt launch area, and that he will provide additional information at the next meeting with regard to signage for the kiosk.
- Gary and Mark are working with Eric Lindberg with regard to ILID issues.
- Bob Eddy raised the issue of the proposed beach/park construction at Little Emily Lake and Kirk Soldner's request for RALALA support in fighting the proposal. It was opined that this issue is outside RALALA's purview and that the association should not take a public position on the issue. Discussion was then tabled.
- Bob Eddy indicated that a draft 2023 budget has been completed and will be presented to the Finance Committee within the next week or so, and a final proposal will then be presented to the full board at the next meeting.
- Anne reported that Dave Johnson will reach out to Crow Wing Sheriff's Department with regard to the Youth Water Safety program.
- Anne reported that MAISRC (Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center) is hosting a lake regional workshop June 23 & 24 in Cass Lake. Bob Eddy indicated he will attend and invites others to join him.
- Anne reported that she received information from Dana Gutzmann (of Cass County) regarding Cass County's "Adopt a Harbor" program. They are recruiting people to be trained to conduct an AIS survey twice annually.
- Anne defined the "Bennies" budget item of \$1,500. Under this program, RALALA would match up to \$500 to three lake homeowners who are willing to spend at least \$500 of their own money on lake restoration projects.
- Anne reported that Trista Snapko (photographer) would be willing to supply images (for the "Lake Season Launch" program) of oil covered loons for demonstrating how an oil spill could impact our lake/loons. There was hesitation on the part of some with regard to whether this would be appropriate and the discussion was tabled.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded and unanimously passed.

Minutes prepared by: Diana Lee, Secretary