

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 19, 2023
Via WebEx

Welcome: Bob Eddy

Present (11): Bob Eddy, Gary Langer, Diana Lee, Sara Parke, Kim David, Anne Bonnerup, Bob Lee, Mark Mosman, Darril Wegscheid, Lloyd Thyen, Mary De Hanson

Absent (3): Cyrus Malbari, Jeff Caza, David Lawson

Guest Presenters: James Johnson (Freshwater Scientific Services) and David Hillstrom (PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.)

Milfoil Survey & Treatment: Bob Eddy introduced James Johnson and David Hillstrom to discuss the Eurasian Watermilfoil Survey that was conducted by James and the proposed treatment plan by PLM. James provided a map showing outlines of where milfoil patches were found and then larger outlines around those areas, which are the proposed treatment areas. He explained that:

- 20 milfoil sites were identified in Lake Roosevelt
- The significant increase in milfoil detected this year vs. last year is likely attributable to the spring weather and also the fact it was easier to find it this year due to increased water clarity. The lake was significantly clearer during this year's survey than during last year's survey. Also, clear water vs. cloudy water provides better growing conditions for milfoil.
- The treatment areas need to exceed the boundaries of the actual milfoil so that the chemical stays long enough in the area to kill the plants. Therefore, the acreage of treatment areas shown on the map is much larger than the acreage of actual milfoil. Although the proposed 20 treatment areas equal 14.96 acres, there was less than an .6 acre of actual milfoil found in the lake.
- Each milfoil plot needs between 45 minutes and several hours of exposure to the chemical for the chemical to effectively eradicate the plant. The amount of time varies depending on weather conditions, wind, boat traffic etc.

- The proposed chemical to be used for treatment by PLM is ProcellaCOR. This chemical typically kills 80-90% of the milfoil but can sometimes exceed that success rate.
- Milfoil releases seeds that can later blossom/sprout. Pulling milfoil plants by hand is only effective if the entire root is pulled and it's possible it will grow back due to the seeds left behind.
- Individual plants cannot be chemically treated unless they are near enough to a larger cluster to make it practical to include in the treatment area. The DNR would not permit chemical treatment on a single plant.
- Divers can be hired for a day to pull individual plants if we can point them to each specific area.
- Fall is the ideal time to see the plants as native plants die away. Homeowners can be helpful by marking areas that are identified.
- It may be possible to re-survey and re-treat in the Fall at additional cost but it's up to DNR to grant the permit for additional treatment.
- In addition to the milfoil survey, Freshwater Scientific conducted AIS diver surveys at both the Roosevelt and Lawrence Public Access. No starry stonewort or zebra mussels were found. Early detection is critical and both starry stonewort and zebra mussels have been found in nearby lakes.

Secretary's Report: Diana presented a draft of the June 14 meeting minutes and no changes were requested.

Upon motion made by Mary De and seconded by Anne, the minutes were approved as distributed prior to the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Sara discussed the income report, including bank balances. She noted that the disbursement for the milfoil survey is not yet reflected in the balance. She also noted that fewer membership dues have been received than anticipated by this date. Darril indicated he will be sending out dues reminders to unpaid members via US mail enclosing the membership/dues form.

There was discussion about how to make it as easy as possible for people to send payment and a suggestion was made to create a path for people to automatically renew their \$25 dues payment every year via Paypal or Quickbooks Online or some other avenue. Bob Eddy pointed out that Washburn

Lake Association has a method for automatic dues renewals and he will check with them on what they are using for that.

Upon motion made by Darril and seconded by Mary De, the financial report was approved as distributed prior to the meeting.

Financial Committee Report: Sara reported that the Financial Committee met with an advisor from Propel Nonprofits, which is an entity funded by the state to serve as a resource for nonprofits. They met to discuss how to best move forward in dealing with the large bequest received by RALALA. As a first step, it was agreed that Sara will prepare a cash flow analysis to help determine what RALALA needs to retain in a checking account vs. accounts or investments that provide access to cash on short notice if or when needed vs. long-term investments. Following Sara’s preparation of the analysis, the committee will meet with a certified investment advisor to get advice as to what amounts should be placed where to ensure that RALALA has ample cash flow as well as investments that provide a healthy return and long-term benefit.

AIS and Launch Site Management: Gary reported that he made a request to Dana of Cass Soil & Water asking for 50% reimbursement for RALALA’s AIS survey expenses, which totaled \$4,035 for the milfoil surveys at four lakes and \$800 for the starry stonewort surveys at Lake Roosevelt and Lawrence Lake:

Milfoil survey Roosevelt	\$1,850
“ “ Lawrence	915
“ “ Leavitt	590
“ “ Smokey Hollow	<u>680</u>
	\$4,035
Starry Stonewort diving surveys	\$ 800

Gary said that Dana agreed to contribute the 50% requested. Gary then asked Sara to send Dana a copy of the invoices RALALA paid, and Dana will then send RALALA a check for \$2,017.50 for milfoil surveys and \$400 for starry stonewort surveys.

Gary suggested that RALALA needs to continue to reach out to Cass County, Crooked Lake Township, and City of Emily for support.

Gary further reported that the total cost related to the kiosk at the Roosevelt landing was \$1,443.22 including the kiosk structure, signage, and installation. He indicated that Cass County has agreed to pick up \$600.25 of that expense. Gary pointed out that our portion of \$842.97 is under the \$1,000 estimated cost for the kiosk project and, therefore, there is still money in the budget for any additional signs we may wish to create.

Gary then relayed his recommendations regarding moving locations of a sign and adding two signs. He also said that he and Mark Mosman would do the installation work. Anne suggested a different sign than Gary proposed for the Outing docks and also reminded the Board that permission from Crooked Lake Township was likely needed to install a sign at the docks. After discussion, it was ultimately agreed that Gary's proposal be approved, as amended to reflect changes suggested by Anne, as follows:

- Add the "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" sign to the kiosk (sign provided by DNR at no cost)
- Print the "Watercraft/Wake Guidance" sign (aka "Own Your Wake—Building Awareness & Encouraging Action") and install it at the Outing Public Docks to the right of the docks as you enter by boat
- No moving of signs will be required
- Cost of printing "Watercraft/Wake Guidance" sign is estimated to be less than \$100.

Upon motion made by Bob Lee and seconded by Kim, the above outlined actions and associated cost were approved.

Protect Our Lakes Initiatives: Anne reported that there are two new qualified "lake stewards" on the lake, and that two additional parties have inquired as well. Anne said she has contact with people who received free consultations from Prairie Restorations and some of them are trying to work through the sticker shock or figure out how to do the work in incremental steps or where to begin with do-it-yourself projects. There was also discussion around Crow Wing's matching funds program for projects done by Prairie Restoration, and that people wanting to do projects should check into the process.

Marketing Plan/Emily Day Booth: Mary De discussed the Emily Day booth and felt it was a success and that the booth drew a lot of people. She shared that Tremolo, who donated the loon floatie prize for the free drawing, is going to put a picture of our booth in their newsletter. She also said that she will send a note (to everybody who entered their name and contact information on either the newsletter signup sheet or the free drawing entry slips) to express appreciation for their visit to the booth and to invite feedback or questions people may have.

Lloyd suggested that RALALA and other lake associations should coordinate and put on a presentation at various seniors groups' meetings/events in hopes of drawing more members from that segment of the community.

Newsletter: Kim reported that the newsletter is essentially completed but that the milfoil report that was recently issued should probably now be added, which would be an additional 4 pages and \$40 cost. After discussion, it was decided that the milfoil should be added to the newsletter, along with a sentence or two indicating RALALA is taking steps to address the milfoil and that the topic will be addressed at the upcoming annual meeting.

Water Quality Testing: Bob Eddy reported he is moving forward with the Enbridge water testing previously approved by the board, and provided a copy of the AW Research Laboratories cost estimate for the testing totaling \$6,828.

Upon motion made by Darril and seconded by Mary De, the Board ratified approval of the contract with AW Research and related cost.

“Own Your Wake/Wake Guidance” Poster: Bob Eddy expressed his intent that RALALA send members an email blast attaching the poster with an explanation of why it was created. Anne added that the poster is included in the upcoming newsletter.

August Corn Feed Event: Gary reported that CLT Lakes & Shores Committee, along with Lake Washburn Association, will join together with RALALA in a “Get the Lead Out” campaign at the Corn Feed and that he has created a flyer with details about the event including a notice that a “drawing for prizes” will take place for those who bring in lead tackle for disposal. Gary recommended that each lake association commit to spending up to \$500 to cover the cost of the

prizes and to also contribute 5 volunteers to take 2-hour shifts at the booth. He indicated that Lake Washburn Association agreed to make that commitment. Gary said that a meeting will be organized at the Crooked Lake Town Hall for the volunteers to meet in advance of the Corn Feed to assign specific duties and firm up plans.

Upon motion made by Mary De and seconded by Diana, a commitment of RALALA contributing up to \$500 for the corn feed event was approved.

Bob Eddy asked for clarification regarding CLT Lakes & Shores' annual \$5,000 contribution to each of the lake associations to spend on AIS and lakeshore projects. He asked about what happens to the leftover money if the lake associations don't end up spending the full amount in any given year. Gary indicated the money is then rolled over into the following year and added to the following year's commitment. He further explained that if Washburn doesn't use its annual allotment this year, it potentially becomes available to RALALA with CLT Lakes and Shores Committee approval.

Lake Patrol: Bob Eddy indicated that Dave Johnson has volunteered to be a "lake patrol" but at least one more volunteer is needed. It was agreed that two people would be the minimum required to move forward, and additional volunteers will be sought.

August 5 Annual Meeting Agenda: Bob Eddy discussed his ideas and topic suggestions for the annual meeting agenda including the following:

- Rather than having a big line-up of speakers, focus should be on the critical issues and challenges currently being addressed by RALALA
- AIS topics:
 - Significant increase in milfoil resulting in funds needed for surveys and treatment
 - Dealing with close proximity to AIS infested lakes, which is driving RALALA to hire additional AIS inspector hours - and funds needed for that
 - Proposed future project to install a decontamination station at the Roosevelt boat launch site - also a potential cost
 - Water testing being conducted in connection with Enbridge pipeline in order to detect any possible leaks and the need to be proactive in

order to mitigate potential future problems - also resulting in costs to RALALA

- Engaging the audience in discussion of these critical issues and following up after the meeting with an email blast requesting additional funding for these projects/activities
- Dr. Phelps of MN AIS Research Center may be available to participate remotely via WebEx to talk about the importance of being proactive in dealing with AIS especially in light of our close proximity to lakes already containing zebra mussels and starry stonewort, and the value in aggressively managing our launch sites
- In the event MN AIS Research Center is not available, Steve Henry could be asked to do a similar presentation

The Board agreed that the above agenda is appropriate and desirable.

Discussion followed relating to reaching members and encouraging their attendance at the August 5 annual meeting. It was decided that, in addition to the notice in the newsletter, an email blast would be sent next week and again on August 4, and also a notice would be posted on Facebook. It was also suggested that a flyer be created and posted on bulletin boards of local businesses and also an article for the Northland Press that would include information about the annual meeting. Bob Eddy and Kim will create the flyer and short article, and Lloyd offered to submit the article.

AIS Next Steps: Bob Eddy inquired as to whether a board subcommittee should be formed to recommend next steps to deal with AIS. It was decided that it is not necessary at this time, and Bob offered to check on options and costs for hiring divers. Bob Lee suggested calling Freshwater and Lloyd suggested contacting Cass County who has a “divers organization” that could possibly assist. Bob Eddy will gather the information and bring it to the board for further discussion.

Buoy Update: Anne reported that the buoy that Bonnie McGowan requested has been installed and that it's serving its purpose well, and that Bonnie was very pleased and sent a thank-you note in appreciation of the assistance in getting it done.

Little Emily Lake Park Proposal: Bob Eddy reported that Jan Mosman informed him that Crow Wing representatives will be attending the next Emily City Council meeting to present a revised park concept for the proposed park/beach at the southeast corner of Little Emily Lake.

Adjournment:

Upon motion made by Lloyd, seconded by Bob Lee, and carried, the meeting was adjourned.