

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 2, 2023
Via WebEx

Welcome: Bob Eddy

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

Absent: Cyrus Malbari, Mark Mosman

Secretary's Report: Diana presented a draft of the September 13 board meeting minutes, and no changes were requested.

Upon motion made by Lloyd, seconded by Mary De, and carried, the minutes of the September 13 minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Eddy notified the Board that Sara Parke has resigned from serving on the Board and serving as Treasurer due to time constraints and a very busy work schedule. He indicated that Bob Lee has agreed to serve as Interim Treasurer until a replacement can be found. Bob Lee indicated he has received from Sara boxes of materials including checkbooks, and that he is going to meet with Sara by phone in the next few days to discuss where things stand, obtain necessary passwords, etc. Followed was a discussion as to possible candidates for new board members and everyone was asked to spread the word that we are looking for additional directors and also a treasurer, and to let Bob Eddy know about any interested parties.

Newsletter: Anne indicated the due date is November 8 for articles for the December newsletter. She noted the newsletter will include a list of volunteer opportunities, the fact that the board is searching for additional members, and also several planned topics. Followed was a brainstorming session around desirable topics and who is willing to submit an article for each. Anne said she will type up the list of articles and designated assignments, and will distribute the list following adjournment of the meeting.

AIS and Launch Site Management: Gary provided the following update relating to a new portable decontamination ("decon") unit to be placed at Roosevelt launch site in 2024:

- Steve Henry, Cass County AIS Lake Technician, partnered with RALALA and Crooked Lake Township (CLT) in developing an agreement with Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD), which agreement has been approved by CCSWCD, for the purchase, operation and maintenance of the new unit. The term of the agreement is 3 years with a rollover clause.
- CCSWCD has also agreed to purchase the old unit currently located in CLT from CLT.
- The portable unit will be transported by CLT to and from the Roosevelt launch site every week and will stay on-site for operation from Thursday morning to Sunday night each week during the season.

- Two inspectors will be on site (rather than the current one) – one for managing the launches and one for managing the decon unit. CCSWCD is providing 40 man hours per week for 16+ weeks to operate the unit (essentially opening fishing weekend through September).
- CCSWCD is covering the purchase price of the unit.
- CLT will be responsible for storing the unit, filling the 400-gallon water tank, fueling the unit and transporting the unit back and forth between the storage site and the launch site. CLT people will be trained by the DNR to do these tasks.
- RALALA will be responsible for payment of up to \$1,000 annually for costs related to maintenance and operation of the unit. CCSWCD may request additional contributions from RALALA but payments exceeding the \$1,000 will only be paid upon approval of the RALALA board if and when the request is received. RALALA will advertise the existence of the unit and will promote usage of the unit via newsletter and other communications.
- In 2023, CCSWCD supplied 600 man hours and only decontaminated approximately 30 boats at the current CLT site. It is anticipated that hundreds of boats will use the unit as a result of it being placed at the Roosevelt launch site.
- In 2023, the inspectors at Roosevelt launch site tallied approximately 1,690 boats, a 13% increase over 2022.
- CCSWCD will provide signage in various locations informing the public of the location of the decon unit.
- At the end of the 2024 season, after usage is determined, CCSWCD will do a comprehensive cost analysis, taking into account the value in preventing the cost of AIS treatment.

Upon motion made by Bob Lee, seconded by Lloyd, and carried, the Board authorizes Bob Eddy, as President of RALALA, to review and execute the Agreement among Cass County Soil & Water Conservation District, Crooked Lake Township and RALALA in connection with a portable decontamination unit to be placed at the Roosevelt boat launch site, and which obligates RALALA to pay up to \$1,000 per year as a contribution toward the expenses for maintenance and operation of the unit.

Enbridge Water Testing: Bob Eddy reported that he was notified by Brian Palkovich (CLT board member & supervisor) that CLT's Chamber of Commerce (on behalf of the Fire Department) will donate \$3,500 to RALALA to offset the cost of Enbridge water testing.

Other Business:

- Pulltabs – Bob Eddy reported that both Brian Palkovich and Kirk (Outing marina) suggested that RALALA explore investing in pulltabs to raise money. Gary is investigating and communicating with CLT board members who have experience and knowledge about the legalities, requirements, etc.
- First Responder donations from RALALA members – Bob Lee reported that RALALA received a letter from the Emily City Council acknowledging donations from RALALA members to Emily First Responders. The letter thanked RALALA and its members for

the donations and indicated the funds received have been earmarked for the first responders' equipment fund.

- Crooked Creek Debris – Darril reported that the lake level, a week ago, was 9” higher than normal, the cause of which includes a significant amount of debris in Crooked Creek due to beaver activity. Permission has been received from the landowner to remove the debris, hopefully preventing the construction of a beaver dam now in the making, which would result in major shoreline issues next Spring.
- Beaver Activity near Lawrence Lake – With regard to beaver damage to trees near the Lawrence Lake landing, Lloyd forwarded pictures of the gnawed trees to CLT, and confirmed that it's the responsibility of CLT to take any action needed including notification to the adjacent homeowner. It appears that at least one tree needs to be removed to prevent it from falling and causing damage.
- Volunteer Group Needed – With regard to water levels and water flowage, Darril suggested that a volunteer group be assembled to monitor water levels and to clean up the creek or channels when the need arises.
- RALALA Presentation at Emily City Council meeting – Bob Eddy reported on his formal presentation to the City of Emily on October 10. He was given 30 minutes for the presentation and, with questions afterward, it ran for about 40 minutes. The Council expressed they would like to receive this type of presentation on a regular basis. Gary Hanson, a Council member, indicated he wants to approve additional funding to RALALA going forward in order to further assist RALALA with the cost of initiatives. Bob Eddy plans to work with the Council and Jan Mosman to (1) form a City of Emily committee similar to CLT Lakes & Shores Committee; and (2) submit a formal request for additional funding for expenses related to AIS, launch site management, Enbridge water testing etc.
- CLT Annual Meeting – Bob Eddy received a request from CLT to give a RALALA presentation (a refined 10-minute version of the presentation given September 14) at CLT's Annual Meeting scheduled for the second week in March 2024. Lloyd suggested combining his CLT Lakes & Shores Committee presentation with RALALA's presentation and will represent both at the annual meeting. Lloyd pointed out that tax levies are voted on at the annual meeting by CLT residents. Lloyd will draft a presentation document and meet with Bob Eddy and any other interested board members to finalize the presentation.
- Facebook – Mary De indicated she will write an article for the newsletter announcing the new Facebook page and will include a URL address and QR Code to link to the page. She reminded board members that nobody will be authorized to post anything on the site except her and her daughter and, eventually, Bob Eddy.
- Thank you note to Sara – Board members were encouraged to send a note of appreciation to Sara for serving as Treasurer.

2024 Projects: Bob Eddy outlined some projects in the works:

- Possibility of raising the price of membership fees – Bob Eddy asked for volunteers to explore and discuss this topic with him, and Darril and Mary De volunteered to participate.

- 2024 Budget – Bob Eddy asked board members to keep in mind that any projected costs tied to 2024 projects need to be estimated/determined and presented prior to completion of the 2024 budget, including costs anticipated for newsletter distribution and other communications.
- Subgroup to Discuss Marketing and Newsletter Distribution Issues – Bob Eddy will be organizing a meeting to discuss possible changes to how newsletters are distributed (i.e. electronic vs. US mail), and ideas to improve readership. Kim, Anne and Darril volunteered to participate in the meeting. Bob Lee volunteered to work on refining a tool to measure the number of “hits” on the website and possibly how many times the newsletter document is opened so that we can monitor readership levels. The group will also discuss our current communication methods (newsletter, Facebook, email blasts, messaging that accompanies dues invoices, newspaper articles etc.), and ideas for any new methods. Bob Eddy would like to come up with a formal communication plan linking message type, intended recipient (member/public), and communication method(s).

Board Meeting Schedule: Bob Eddy reminded members that at the last meeting, it was agreed that for the remainder of the year, board meetings would only be scheduled on an as-needed basis to approve or discuss something that requires the attention of the board. Members again approved that plan.

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