

Minutes 2022 RALALA Annual Meeting

President Bob Eddy called to order the Annual Meeting on August 6, 2022 at 9 a.m. at the Crooked Lake Township Town Hall.

John Rowell moved for approval of the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes, Jan Mosman seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Sara Parke, treasurer, opened with praise for John Rowell, former treasurer, and thanks for his many years of dedicated service.

Copies of the 2021 financial summary were available to members and were summarized:

Membership dues:	\$8,195
Additional general fund donations:	\$8,503
Milfoil treatment donations:	\$11,354

Paid Memberships : 292

Treasurer summarized that all of the RALALA programs and initiatives were fully funded in 2021 and RALALA is in a good, healthy financial situation.

President Bob Eddy thanked retiring Secretary, Mikie Walker, and Board member and former President, Linda Van Straaten, for their many years of active service and involvement in RALALA. He presented the slate of Board members for three year terms:

- Bob Eddy, continuing President
- Kim David, continuing Board Member
- Darril Wegscheid, continuing Board Member
- Mary De Hanson, nominated Board Member
- Russ Van Dell, nominated Board Member

Roger Brekken moved to accept the slate. Mark Mossman seconded the motion. Members approved unanimously.

Bob Eddy presented a PowerPoint summary of RALALA actions and initiatives for the previous year to fulfill its mission:

- to protect and preserve our lakes and watershed
- to provide educational programs
- to aid, advise, assist municipal, county and state policy makers

He summarized:

Water quality testing, monthly sampling May through September
Negative impact of excess phosphorus in our lakes and prevention

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention and mitigation efforts

RALALA continues its contract with PLM to survey and treat the lakes for Eurasian watermilfoil. Survey was completed on July 13, 2022.

Treatment of 3.3 acres, including an area in Lawrence Lake by Luscher Bay, will be scheduled after securing the necessary DNR permit.

Eddy reported we have reached a manageable phase. The total cost of treatment is approximately \$2800 to \$2900 per acre treated. In 2021 RALALA secured a DNR grant and funding from Crooked Lake Township and City of Emily to cover all treatment expenses.

May 7, 2022 Bob Eddy attended a roundtable discussion with state researchers and experts to discuss AIS solutions. It was concluded the most effective way to deal with AIS is prevention.

RALALA's prevention efforts include:

Partnering with Crooked Lake Township Lakes and Shores Committee coordinating efforts with the decontamination station and launch site **inspectors**

Roosevelt Lake in 2021
1,196 inspections
19 plug violations
25 plant violations

Lawrence Lake in 2021
332 inspections
3 plug violations
3 plant violations

ILIDs, the electronic surveillance devices, at the boat launches on Roosevelt and Lawrence Lakes

It was asked the annual cost of the ILIDs and the consequences of any suspected violations. The ILIDs expense is approximately \$4500 annually and suspected violations are referred to Cass County Sheriff for follow-up.

Anne Bonnerup summarized the **Protecting Our Lakes, Shoreline Initiative** including the importance of naturalized shorelines and upland spaces to preserve and improve water quality. RALALA programs to educate and support property owners in that endeavor include:

- Educational programs including the June Lake Season Launch
- Lake Steward Program in partnership with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

- The demonstration buffer zone and No Mow Let it Grow areas at the Outing public dock including educational signage
- Financial reimbursement “Bennies” (\$100 for approved restoration projects that benefit the lakes, or Soil and Water Conservation District site visits)

Gary Langer summarized **Get the Lead Out (GTLO)** efforts to collect lead tackle and prevent loon deaths. In 2021 27 pounds of lead tackle was collected at the Crooked Lake Township Lakes and Shores booth at the Lions Corn Feed at the Pickled Loon Saloon, Highway 6 in Emily. 2022 RALALA and Lake Washburn Association will share the booth and continue lead tackle collection. Prizes will be awarded.

Bob Eddy reported RALALA has received many questions about boats creating large wakes causing shoreline damage and threatening loon nesting sites. He shared information how challenging it is to get no wake zones designated on Roosevelt Lake because it spans two counties as well as local jurisdictions. Enforcement is also a challenging problem.

RALALA embraces DNR recommendations to **Own Your Own Wake** and will continue its educational efforts in newsletters and emails.

An attendee commented citizens can report to the Crow Wing and Cass County Sheriff’s Department anonymously.

It was also reported the DNR has been out on the lake patrolling.

RALALA sponsored the **Youth Operator Training Course** in collaboration with the Crow Wing County Sheriff’s Department in June. Ten youth participated and received their certificates.

Sheila Langer, **RALALA Loon Liaison**, reported “We love our loons and take good care of them.” We have 15 loons consistently on Roosevelt Lake, including 6 breeding pairs. There were 6 loon chicks, one was lost the July 4th weekend which is often the case because of high boat traffic. If chicks survive their first 8 weeks it is likely they will survive to leave the lake in the fall for the Gulf of Mexico.

Sue Schaeffer reported there are 2 chicks on Smokey Hollow Lake.

Gary Langer, Dave Lawson and Kim David worked closely with the DNR to get signage installed in **Woods Bay** designating that Aquatic Management Area—Judy and Charlie Eggers Tract and encouraging respectful use of that fragile environment.

Volunteers cleaned up the ditches along two miles of Highway 6 north of Emily twice each year in the **Adopt A Highway** program.

Bob Eddy reported on the work of the **Enbridge Pipeline Working Group** and its efforts to communicate and collaborate with the oil company to avoid any chemicals entering and contaminating our lakes. He emphasized RALALA is not anti-pipeline or anti-petroleum, rather very concerned about protecting our lakes.

The pipeline runs approximately 600 feet from the north end of Roosevelt Lake. 760,000 barrels travel through the pipeline daily.

The corridor is wide enough for additional pipelines which seems likely because the company believes the Canadian tar sands hold more oil than in the Middle East

Two salient points of concern:

1) Barr Engineering, the firm providing pre-routing analysis, noted three areas of heightened concern:

- 1) Whitefish Chain of lakes
- 2) Roosevelt Lake
- 3) Norway Lake

2) The precedent of Enbridge's Kalamazoo River Spill, the second largest spill in the US, releasing 1,000,000 gallons of toxic material. 200 people were never able to return to their homes.

Enbridge has made improvements and there is an oversight group. They have established an Emergency Call Communication Process and if a report is received of suspected leaks or ruptures, the pipeline can be shut down immediately. Enough concerns remain that RALALA, Lake Washburn Association (LWA), Crooked Lake Township, and the City of Emily wrote a letter of engagement seeking talks with Enbridge. Enbridge has put forth a communication plan, but it did not provide a risk mitigation plan. The working group submitted a proposed plan. A meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2022 to discuss it.

Featured speaker, Jeff Forester, the Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) shared a summary of their efforts to protect lake properties he called "Heirlooms."

- Equitable property taxation
- AIS battle
 - Helping get established Minnesota's AIS research center, the largest in the US
 - Helped secure \$10,000,000 Department of Revenue allocation to counties based upon number of lake entrance ramps
 - Worked for \$850,000 for AIS treatment first come, first served, DNR grants

- Lobbied to create links and connections with lake associations to benefit from BP Oil Spill revenue through DNR Loon Restoration Project and MPCA Get the Lead Out
- Sponsoring research and educational programs such as Project Wet
- Stop Starry Project successfully sought funding for installation of solar powered cleaning equipment at the launch sites of infested lakes

Jeff also expressed disappointment and concern that very little constructive lake protecting legislation was passed in the state legislature this session. He is particularly disappointed the attempt to pass DNR supported Watercraft training and operators licensing requirements for those born after 1991 was killed by inaction. One of the goals was education, based upon research, and targeting teens, to build an understanding of the consequences of wave damage caused by wake surf watercraft (which teens often operate). Enforcement of wake surf watercraft is often difficult to prove (if regulations address water depth or distance from shore, for example) and enforce.

In answer to an audience member question Jeff spoke briefly about Lake Improvement Districts, or entities established with powers to self tax if requirements are met and a majority of citizens agree to establish one. It would be difficult with the two counties and Crooked Lake Township and City of Emily governing RALALA lakes.

Eric Hanson moved to adjourn
Bob Lee seconded.
Annual meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Bonnerup, RALALA Board Member