

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 19, 2025
Via WebEx

All Present (11): Bob Eddy, Gary Langer, Diana Lee, Kim David, Bob Lee, Mark Mosman, Lloyd Thyen, Carolyn Gallagher, Bonnie McGowan, Betsy Skagen, Lisa Bonafede

Welcome: Bob Eddy

Secretary's Report: Diana presented a draft of the October 23, 2025 board meeting minutes and no changes were requested.

Upon motion made by Gary, seconded by Lloyd, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the October 23 board meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Diana presented financial statements (Income & Expense, Balance Sheet and Budget vs Actual), distributed prior to the meeting, for the month ended October 31, 2025.

Upon motion made by Bob Lee, seconded by Gary, and unanimously carried, the financial statements were approved as distributed.

Grants: Gary referenced the information he provided last month with regard to grants RALALA has received from Crooked Lake Township and CLT Fire Department. He reported that the Outing Chamber will not be providing RALALA with a grant this year, but instead donating to local food shelves.

Gary also reported that Minnesota's DNR grant application period is now open and that he and Glen Goodwin (Washburn Lake Association) will be applying for an AIS grant. He explained that the range of grants this year is \$5,000 - \$15,000, and that the total available for the "eurasian milfoil" category of AIS is \$420,000, an increase from last year's available funds.

Proposed Emily Mine: There was discussion about a recent Emily City Council meeting, that was attended by many Emily residents, at which Rick Sandri (of North Star Manganese) presented information on a preliminary economic assessment for a potential mine in Emily. Bob Eddy suggested that RALALA keep abreast of any mine-related meetings that get scheduled so that we can pass on those meeting dates, as well as any general information we learn, to RALALA members in the form of email blasts or newsletter articles.

Bob Lee opined that it is important to establish a “base line” for levels of manganese in our current water supplies. The Board agreed that RALALA should send a communication encouraging people to get their drinking water analyzed including manganese levels, and Bob Eddy agreed to check with AW Labs in Brainerd to see if they would be willing to give a group discount to RALALA members who move forward with testing.

Mark reported that Macalester College received a grant to conduct water testing in this area and, in coordination with Emily Mine Information Group (EMIG), a group of students came up to Emily in late October and tested 30 wells. He indicated those test results have now come in, and the group will return in the Spring to test additional wells.

Newsletter: Kim reported that the newsletter is in final form and she will send it to Lakes Printing tomorrow.

Discussion took place about the recognition of EQPI donors in the newsletter and the fact that numerous members, when completing the membership form, seem confused that the “recognition” categories on the form only apply to EQPI donations and do not include dues payments and other types of donations (First Responders etc.). The Board agreed that this should be discussed again when editing the form for next year and possibly amending the form to better highlight that fact.

2026 Budget Preparation: Diana shared a spreadsheet that can be used as a worksheet to prepare the 2026 budget. She agreed to distribute it to the Board and members will be encouraged to send budget requests to her prior to the working meeting scheduled for December 9 at 1:00 Central. Bob Eddy will set up the meeting for himself, Gary, Diana and Bonnie to discuss anticipated costs for 2026 membership solicitation and other budget items.

2026 Annual Meeting: Bob Eddy distributed an “Annual Meeting Process” document he created listing the planning steps and target dates for completing those steps. It was agreed that keynote speaker(s) on a timely topic should be booked early in the year so that promotional communications can include that information. With regard to scheduling the meeting for the second Saturday in August, it was acknowledged that no matter what weekend is chosen for the annual meeting, there will always be lots of members unavailable due to the fact that summer weekends are limited and people are busy. After extensive discussion it was agreed that the board should survey members with regard to their thoughts on the timing and the format for annual meetings, and that a Thursday evening, and possibly also making it available via WebEx or Zoom,

may draw more attendees. Bob Eddy agreed to draft a list of survey questions and Lisa offered to send it out via Survey Monkey.

Zebra Mussels: Bob Eddy reported that he is in contact with people at MAISRC (Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center at the U of M) to get (a) whatever information they have available; (b) whether they can recommend what to convey to members (beyond what the DNR has recommended); (c) whether there are any effective treatments; and (d) whether they recommend any testing, and if so, the value that would be derived from the testing. The Board agreed that communicating with MAISRC will be helpful.

Channel Depth Issue: Bob Eddy requested that the “measurement of the channel depth” be designated an “action item”, now that the soon-to-be published newsletter article indicates RALALA will take on this task. He requested that one or more board members volunteer for this project, which will include the following actions: (a) research “best practices” for measuring depth of a channel; (b) determine how often to measure; (c) determine where in the channel to take measurements; and (d) physically take the measurements (presumably by boat). Lloyd agreed to contact hydrologists at both Park Rapids and Brainerd to see if they have any recommendations that may be helpful. Assigning responsibility for this project will be addressed at a future meeting.

Open Action Items: Carolyn walked through the list of board members assigned to action items, and one by one, the person responsible for such action item(s) provided a progress report. Following that discussion, Carolyn agreed to update the list, add new action items resulting from this meeting, and will forward to Diana for distribution to the board.

Adjournment:

Upon motion made by Lloyd, seconded by Lisa, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by:
Diana Lee, Secretary