

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
September 11, 2024  
Via WebEx

**Welcome:** Bob Eddy

**Present (7):** Bob Eddy, Gary Langer, Diana Lee, Kim David, Bob Lee, Mary De Hanson, Carolyn Gallagher

**Absent (4):** Cyrus Malbari, Mark Mosman, Darril Wegscheid, Lloyd Thyen

**Also Present:** Bonnie McGowan

**Board Member Nomination and Appointment:**

***Upon motion made by Bob Lee, seconded by Mary De, and unanimously carried, Bonnie McGowan is appointed to serve on the Board of Directors until the next RALALA annual membership meeting, at which she can officially be elected by the association's membership.***

**Secretary's Report:** Diana presented a draft of the August 21, 2024 board meeting minutes, and no changes were requested.

***Upon motion made by Bob Eddy, seconded by Gary, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the August 21 board meeting were approved as presented.***

**Treasurer's Report:** Diana presented a financial report for the month ended August 31 and a Budget vs. Actual Report for the period January-August. She noted that the six-month Certificate of Deposit (purchased at First Western Bank) matures on September 28, at which time there will be ten days to take action before it automatically rolls over into another six months. After discussion, it was agreed that RALALA will collect the interest that accrued over the six-month period and will reinvest the \$150,000 in another short-term Certificate of Deposit. Diana agreed to check the interest rates and term options offered at First Western as well as Pine River State Bank and will select the product that will reap the best returns.

***Upon motion made by Bob Lee, seconded by Gary and unanimously carried, the August financial statements (as presented), along with the purchase of another \$150,000 Certificate of Deposit, were approved.***

**Fundraising Report:** Gary reported that he met with Brian Palkovich (CLT Board member) regarding \$3,500 that was previously pledged, but not yet received, from the Fire Department Pulltab Fund to RALALA to assist with milfoil treatment costs. Gary and Bob Eddy reported that they will submit a letter of request for the \$3,500 contribution.

Gary reminded the Board that earlier this year he and Bob Eddy submitted a letter of request to the Outing Chamber of Commerce for a \$7,500 grant to assist RALALA with expenses related to AIS surveys, milfoil treatment and other initiatives to protect our lakes. At that time, the Chamber awarded RALALA a \$5,000 grant with the understanding that more money may be available later in the year. He reported that he recently met with Meri Lysne to inquire about whether RALALA can now receive an additional \$2,500. Meri Lysne suggested that Gary and Bob Eddy submit another letter of request for the \$2,500.

Bob Eddy and Gary then reported they will co-author letters to both the Crooked Lake Township Board and the Outing Chamber of Commerce to request those contributions.

**Roosevelt Launch Site Update:** Gary reported that 63 boats were decontaminated so far this year using the new unit vs. 30 boats last year when the old unit was at the CLT Township location. He anticipates more usage next year since there won't be "start-up" issues, the same trained inspectors will be here again next year, and signage will be improved. In addition to increased number and size of road signs, a feather flag will be posted at the entrance, which will be delivered and removed along with the unit each week. Gary further reported that the decontamination unit was placed at Lake Washburn during the July 4 weekend and will be there again during next year's July 4 weekend. Gary explained that the old unit is placed at Roosevelt when the new unit is at Washburn.

Gary suggested that RALALA hold another decontamination demonstration event at the launch site next year, with more emphasis on promoting and advertising the event than was done this year.

Bob Eddy reported he was informed that more boats were decontaminated by RALALA's decontamination unit than all other units in Cass and Crow Wing counties.

**Water Testing:** Bob Eddy reported that the last monthly water testing for the year (in cooperation with WAPOA) will take place this coming weekend, and that

the volunteer participants were successful in collecting samples from all four lakes, and on time, during each of the 2024 water-testing months.

**Adopt a Highway:** Bob Eddy reminded the Board that the next highway clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 21 and that he will ask Darril to send an email blast asking for volunteers. Mary De agreed to post the same message on RALALA Facebook page.

**Newsletter:** Kim indicated she will call for newsletter articles on or about October 15, at which time she will give a deadline for submissions so that the next newsletter can be published in early December. There was discussion around the need to finalize plans for who will collect articles, who will edit articles and who will proofread articles in advance of sending them to Kim for layout. Bob Eddy agreed to set up a meeting among himself, Kim, Anne and a possible new volunteer to learn what Anne's role encompassed as well as the anticipated time commitment that will likely be needed from those volunteering to assist.

**Social Media:** Mary De indicated she needs to obtain a new "free" QR Code (that links to RALALA's Facebook page) from a new source, since her current vendor has alerted her that the free-trial period is ending and continued use will result in charges. She also reported that the Facebook page has 207 followers.

**Grant Applications:** Mary De reported that the Tremolo grant application has been submitted and that completion of the Enbridge grant application is still in progress. She reminded the Board that she intends to use whatever funds are received for the production of a "Protect Our Lakes" related film, along with hosting a "film festival" event, and that James and Trista Snapko have offered to assist with production of the film.

**Selection and Purchase of Point of Sale System:** Carolyn reported that she is continuing research on two vendors that the Board previously agreed should be focused on: Square and Zettle by PayPal. PayPal has indicated they would like to speak to the owner of RALALA's PayPal account, which is Bob Lee, so Carolyn will coordinate with Bob to set up a conference call so that questions can be resolved around our current account and integration with our website. Carolyn expressed she would like to preview our current PayPal setup before the conference call occurs. Carolyn noted that she is leaning toward Zettle (vs. Square) since the two vendors offer much of the same services and pricing, but Zettle may be easier to integrate since we already have a PayPal account.

Carolyn was also asked to add another question into her list of inquiries as to what specific credit cards are accepted by each vendor.

**Milfoil Treatment Feedback:** Bob Lee mentioned that PLM chose a calm, perfect-weather day to treat the milfoil and that he has been unable to find any milfoil on the lake since the day of treatment, both in areas treated by ProcellaCor and those treated by Diquat. Two other board members received messages from homeowners who reported they found milfoil still surviving in areas that were treated near their homes. Bob Lee agreed to make a site visit to determine if these sites actually have EWM that survived treatment. Bob Eddy stressed that more education needs to take place so that people can more easily identify AIS vs. native plants.

Bob Lee reported that Starry Stonewort was found in the Rush Lake channel (on the Whitefish chain), and that it's disturbing to hear another nearby lake is infected.

Bob Eddy encouraged board members to attend an "AIS Identification" course that is offered every year so that more of us will be competent at identifying milfoil and other AIS. He said that next year when he receives the course details, he will forward the information to the board.

Gary pointed out that messages coming in to the board, with reports of suspected milfoil, is an indication that more and more people are aware of the problem and aware that they can turn to the board for assistance. He views this as a positive sign that our activities and communications are getting noticed.

Bob Lee pointed out that another benefit to people reporting possible AIS, is that if it is confirmed to be Eurasian milfoil or any other AIS, Bob can submit GPS coordinates to Freshwater so that they can focus on those areas at the time the lake is surveyed.

**City of Emily City Council Meeting:** Bob Eddy reported that he made a presentation at the City Council Meeting September 10, on behalf of Emily Waters Working Group, and that he requested that the Council agree to increase its contribution to Emily Waters next year to \$30,000 (double the \$15,000 received this year). He also requested additional funds this year to assist RALALA and also Ruth Lake Improvement District with AIS treatment costs.

**2025 Budget Preparation:** Bob Eddy asked all board members to submit, for purposes of creating next year's budget, expense projections for the various RALALA projects and functions (membership solicitation, point of sale system, etc.) as well as any ideas for new projects or initiatives. He noted there will be discussions on this topic at the October and December board meetings. He stressed that new project ideas (activities outside our "normal" functions/activities) need to be shared as soon as possible.

**Board Member Roles and Responsibilities:** Bob Eddy indicated, in light of the addition of new board members, that he will update a matrix (that he previously created) showing the various roles and responsibilities of board members.

**CLT Lakes and Shores Committee Meeting:** Gary announced that the next Lakes & Shores Committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night (Sept. 12) at which a discussion will take place regarding the status of additional funds available to RALALA, and encouraged board members to attend. The discussion is a follow-up to its August meeting at which Bob Eddy made a presentation explaining the AIS situation, the related costs, and RALALA's need for additional assistance.

**Communication to all Members re AIS:** Bob Eddy indicated he is working on a document to send to all members to provide a status report on AIS, what's happened this year, what's changed, the resulting budget challenges, etc. Once completed, he will send it to the Communications Committee for review and when finalized, it will be sent to all members via email blast, posted to the website and posted on Facebook.

**Next Board Meeting:** The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 17 (the calendar in the meeting materials showing October 15 is not correct).

**Adjournment:**

***Upon motion made by Carolyn, seconded by Bob Lee, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.***

Prepared by:  
Diana Lee, Secretary