

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 19, 2025

Crooked Lake Township Hall

Present (8): Bob Eddy, Gary Langer, Diana Lee, Bob Lee, Lloyd Thyen, Mary De Hanson, Bonnie McGowan, Betsy Skagen

Also Present via Webex (3): Mark Mosman, Carolyn Gallagher, Lisa Bonafede

Absent (3): Cyrus Malbari, Kim David, Darri Wegscheid

Welcome: Bob Eddy

Secretary's Report: Diana presented a draft of the May 15, 2025 board meeting minutes and no changes were requested.

Upon motion made by Bob Lee, seconded by Mary De, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the May 15 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 May 31, 2025.

Upon motion made by Lloyd, seconded by Bonnie, and unanimously carried, the financial statements were approved as distributed.

Gary reported two financial-related updates:

- Crooked Lake Township has agreed to contribute \$7,500 in 2025 toward AIS surveys and treatment
- Cass County has agreed to grant an amount equal to 50% of the cost of late-summer AIS surveys in the event we go forward with those (in addition to the previously-approved grant earmarked for expenses related to early summer surveys)

Board Member Nomination and Appointment:

Upon motion made by Bob Eddy, seconded by Gary, and unanimously carried, Lissa Bonafede 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.

Membership Update: There was discussion about the current status of paid 2025 memberships and the fact that a large number of members have not yet responded to the membership solicitation mailing. The board agreed that it would be beneficial to send a second mailing (as well as a reminder email) to all who were members in 2023 and/or 2024 but have not yet renewed in 2025.

Bob Lee agreed to send those names and addresses to Lakes Printing for the mailing as well as a list to Darril for the email blast.

Gary reported that he, Bob Eddy and Diana met to discuss fundraising ideas which included creating a packet of information that can be used to solicit neighbors and new residents that may not be familiar with RALALA. Gary then coordinated with Lakes Printing to obtain an adequate numbers of copies of each document in the packet and distributed a sample packet to every meeting attendee. The packet includes:

- 2025 Membership Form (with blank areas for filling in contact information)
- A 4-page colorful brochure relating to Eurasian Watermilfoil with maps of North Roosevelt, South Roosevelt and Lawrence showing where milfoil was located in 2024, treatment areas, information about the products used, and costs associated with the surveys and treatments
- Copy of the Spring newsletter

All board members were encouraged to use these materials when approaching neighbors and newcomers about joining RALALA, and to obtain from Gary as many packets as needed.

Point of Sale System: Bob Lee reported on his findings after reviewing Carolyn's research and research he did on his own. Focus was narrowed down to two vendors: PayPal POS and GoDaddy Payments. After discussion, the Board agreed that GoDaddy Payments should be purchased as soon as possible so that a system is in place prior to Emily Day and the Corn Feed. Bob's findings included the following:

- GoDaddy Payments would involve seamless integration since RALALA's website already uses GoDaddy software;
- With GoDaddy we would have only one vendor to deal with in the event any problems arise;
- Our current GoDaddy software will need to be upgraded (regardless of the vendor chosen) at a cost of \$93 for 2-year service;
- No new hardware is required;
- Transaction costs are similar for both vendors;
- The GoDaddy phone app can be used on both Iphones and Androids.

Upon motion made by Bob Eddy, seconded by Mary De, and unanimously carried, Bob Lee is authorized to purchase GoDaddy Payments system, to upgrade our current GoDaddy software as needed, and to take whatever other steps necessary to get the system implemented and training underway as soon as possible.

AIS Update: Bob Eddy reported that he had a conversation with James Johnson of Freshwater regarding the timing of our first AIS survey this year. He indicated that James recommends waiting until early July (rather than June) to perform the survey in light of the slow plant growth this spring. By waiting until July, it will be easier to locate plants that may have gotten a slow start, and less chance of missing areas. He further indicated that it is likely a second survey will be done in late summer, after treatment is completed on areas found in the first survey. The Board agreed with the recommendation to wait until early July.

Summer Picnic: Bonnie requested input from the Board as to where to hold the summer picnic following the Annual Meeting on August 9. Bonnie noted that it's not possible to reserve space at either Luscher's Park or Little Emily Lake Park, which were previously-suggested picnic locations. After extensive discussion, it was agreed that in light of the reservation issue (for the most desirable locations) and a lack of helpers to organize a big "family event" (games, prizes, etc.), this year's picnic/hot dog lunch will be held at the CLT Township Hall immediately following the Annual Meeting and will involve a simple menu. It was agreed that a nice family-inclusive picnic in a desirable lakefront location would be ideal, and further thought will be given as to how we can accomplish this in future years.

Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members: Bob Eddy presented a matrix that he created to identify roles and responsibilities involved in running the association, in order to help current and future board members understand who is doing what -- and in what areas further help is needed. Due to time constraints at the meeting, he indicated he will be emailing it to the board.

Emily Day July 19: Mary De reported that she has submitted payment for a RALALA booth, that Tremolo is again supplying a loan floatie as a door prize, and that she is still seeking volunteers to work with her at the booth, whether for a 2-hour shift or longer. Bob Eddy indicated he will assist with setup, takedown, and may be available to spend some time in the booth during the event. Bonnie offered to help get things organized and to accompany Mary De to the storage barn to gather supplies, handouts etc.

Corn Feed August 16: Gary distributed a volunteer sign-up sheet for the various timeslots and roles needed for the event, and indicated Lake Washburn Association will be sharing the same booth as RALALA, with separate tables for

each association. He indicated he needs a receptacle for donations, and assistance with scouting for \$50 door prizes. He noted that a trolling motor will be given as a prize for the "Get the Lead Out" campaign. Lissa offered to find a "loon" receptacle for collecting donations, and Bonnie offered to help solicit gift certificates from area businesses.

Summer Newsletter: Betsy indicated that the due date for business advertising is July 2 and that June 30 is the due date for identifying article topics and authors. The actual articles will be due July 21. There was discussion around desirable topics including: a summary of the Youth Boater Training event (including photos from Sheila Langer), AIS identification, volunteer opportunities, a summary of how our members' donations to First Responders are used by Emily and CLT, etc.

Roosevelt/Lawrence Channel Depth: Lloyd reported that there have been complaints about boats getting stuck in the channel between Roosevelt & Lawrence, and wanted input as to what can and can't be done. Discussion points were made as follows: (1) there is no government entity assigned to be responsible for the channel's maintenance; (2) the channel can be dredged without adjacent property owner permission as long as people and equipment do not touch anyone's property; (3) dredging using a backhoe would be intrusive and require approval of affected property owners; and (4) dredging using a barge may be an option that would not require permission from property owners. Lloyd agreed to further research options and related costs.

Blue Lake Annual Meeting: Bob Eddy reported that he, along with Gary and Sheila Langer, attended the Blue Lake annual meeting to participate in discussions about AIS. Bob noted that Blue Lake residents are concerned with AIS and will be arranging for a survey.

ACCL Meeting: Bob Eddy reported that he and Lloyd attended a meeting of the Association of Cass County Lakes.

Next Meeting: The next Board meeting will be held July 17 at CLT Township Hall at noon and will include lunch.

Adjournment:

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

Prepared by:
Diana Lee, Secretary