

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 13, 2024
Via WebEx

Welcome: Bob Eddy

Present: Bob Eddy, Gary Langer, Diana Lee, Cyrus Malbari, Kim David, Anne Bonnerup, Bob Lee, Mary De Hanson, Carolyn Gallagher, Darril Wegscheid (joined late)

Absent: Mark Mosman, Lloyd Thyen

Secretary's Report: Diana presented a draft of the May 16, 2024 board meeting minutes and no changes were requested.

Upon motion made by Bob Lee, seconded by Anne, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the May 16 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Diana presented a financial report for the month ending May 31 and a Profit & Loss Statement for the period January-May. She reported that a \$5,000 donation from the Outing Chamber of Commerce Gambling Fund does not appear on the May financials but was received and deposited in June. She also provided information relating to the status of collection of dues payments, EQPI donations, as well as first responder and fireworks donations.

Upon motion made by Mary De, seconded by Carolyn, and unanimously carried, the May financial statements were approved as presented.

Business Member Renewal Solicitations: Diana presented her spreadsheet containing a list of businesses that sponsored RALALA in the past, showing which of those have renewed and which have not yet responded to this year's solicitation. The spreadsheet also contains a column showing type of advertisement and whether Kim has sufficient information from those placing ads for the upcoming summer newsletter.

Newsletter Due Dates:

There was a lengthy discussion about the business members and the summer newsletter due dates. It was agreed that (1) the summer newsletter will be published shortly after the August 3 Annual Meeting, (2) newsletter articles are due by July 5, (3) advertising information is due by July 8 and (4) any business members who are not yet paid and want an ad in the summer newsletter must

pay dues by the end of June. Diana agreed to follow up immediately by email to both (1) those businesses that have paid dues but have not confirmed/supplied ad information for Kim and (2) those businesses who have not yet responded to this year's solicitation, letting them know the above due dates for payment and summer newsletter ads.

Second Membership Solicitation Sent to Lake Property Owners: Gary reported that Lakes Printing mailed the second solicitation package on June 5 to 163 prior members who did not respond to the first solicitation, at a cost of approximately \$500 including postage. He expressed he is optimistic that we will receive a good response to the follow-up solicitation and explained that some people never received the first mailing due to being in transit or in a location other than the mailing address. Gary expressed optimism in reaching this year's \$40,000 EQPI goal since we are over \$35,000 at this point. He further expressed appreciation to Kim for designing an impressive "thermometer" sandwich board showing the \$40,000 goal that can be displayed at various events including Emily Day and the Corn Feed.

New Business Member Solicitation: Carolyn referenced the "Hot List" of 20 business nonmembers she will solicit and pointed out that she has a contact person's name for only 6 of them. After discussion, it was agreed that she should move forward at this point regardless of whether she has a contact name. Carolyn then agreed to send out 20 solicitation packets within the next day or two, including the due dates (referenced in "Newsletter Due Dates" above), and also including Kim's document showing her advertising measurement requirements (business card vs. ¼ page ad vs. ½ page ad dimensions). There was discussion about whether Kim will have time to work with a number of new ads (assuming we get several new members) in advance of the summer newsletter, and Kim confirmed she will be okay if everything is submitted to her by the due dates agreed on.

Enbridge Grant Application: Mary De asked the Board for direction in the type of grant RALALA would like to seek from Enbridge. After extensive discussion, the following three priorities were agreed upon:

- Funds for a maintenance program to maintain the native plant gardens at Roosevelt and Luscher Park on Lawrence. Since the Luscher Park garden maintenance is currently the responsibility of CLT Lakes & Shores Committee and the Committee's budget and main focus is on AIS projects rather than lakeshore protection projects, Bob Eddy and Gary will ask Crooked Lake Township to approve granting RALALA permission to take over the Luscher Park garden maintenance.

- Funds for a maintenance program of Crooked Creek to manage removal of beaver dams and other obstacles as needed that prevent proper flowage in the creek resulting in higher-than recommended lake levels.
- Funds to sponsor an experimental AIS management program. This would allow us to work with the U of M's Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center and the Minnesota DNR to establish a program involving experimental AIS treatments and control strategies on RALALA lakes.

Water Testing Schedule: Bob Eddy reported that this month's water testing is occurring this weekend.—collection of 6 samples on the 5 lakes and also samples from 3 streams. He further indicated that the DNR's water level measuring device is now installed in South Roosevelt, so that changes in water level can be monitored.

Decontamination Unit Demonstration Day: Gary reported that the decontamination station is now at the boat launch Thursdays through Sundays, but that only one inspector is on site on Thursdays and Fridays. With one inspector, the water collection tarp is sometimes not set up, but the decon unit can still power wash boats on those days. There are two inspectors present on Saturdays and Sundays and the tarp is easily set up with two people. He reminded the Board that this coming Saturday, June 15, there will be a demonstration of a boat being decontaminated by Steve Henry (a Cass County AIS Technician) at both 9:00 and 10:00am at Roosevelt boat launch area, and that the event has been promoted by Washburn Lake Association, CLT Lakes & Shores Committee and RALALA.

Youth Boater Operation Training: Gary reported that he and Sheila substituted for Dave Johnson at the recent Youth Boater Training event. There was a group of 13 youth (12-17 year olds) that participated and 4 Crow Wing Water Patrol officers attended, two of which conducted the training. The training session was followed by a test and then lunch and ended with the group being taken out in small groups on Sheriff patrol watercraft. Gary expressed that he was very impressed with the training and the entire event, and feels it's important that RALALA continue to support and promote the program. Sheila took pictures to be placed on the Outing and RALALA Facebook sites.

Adopt a Highway—May Cleanup: Bob Eddy reported that the clean-up event went well and 13 bags of garbage were picked up. Gary pointed out that some of the volunteers didn't know each other, and it may be a good idea in the future to plan to regroup after garbage pickup (possibly for a beverage somewhere) just to socialize for a few minutes before heading home.

Summer Newsletter Articles: Bob Eddy suggested the Board come up with a list of newsletter articles and who is assigned to each. After discussion, the following people agreed to submit articles and/or photos on the following topics:

- Youth Boater Training article and photo (Gary)
- Adopt-a-Highway cleanup crew photo (Bob Eddy)
- Decon Unit Update and demonstration event (Gary)
- AIS Survey Results (Bob Eddy)
- Finding and identifying AIS and encouraging people to contact RALALA when they discover an infestation (Bob Lee)
- Loon Initiative (Sheila Langer)
- Lake level update & monitoring device (Darril)

Purchase of Point of Sale Device: Bob Eddy referenced a document he distributed to the board listing various requirements and functions that he thinks fits our needs, and asked for feedback on those lists. There was discussion about whether we would want to use the device for point of sale only, or whether we would also offer credit card payments on the web (without card present). Bob Lee pointed out that the latter scenario will likely add substantial cost due to higher risk of fraud. After further discussion, the Board agreed that the project should move forward, and that we should further investigate the POS options and prices that are available. Carolyn offered to head the project by investigating a number of brands available, the various services offered by each along with related costs, and will present her findings to the Board once she has compiled the information.

Emily Day Booth on July 20: Mary De informed the Board she has secured an Emily Day booth again this year and arranged for Tremolo to donate another Larry the Loon floating device for a raffle. She then listed types of handouts and items she intends to display on the tables, including Get the Lead Out items, native plantings information, information on the new decon unit, a supply of newsletters, etc., and asked the Board for other ideas on what we want to message and promote. Mary De also stressed it is ideal to have two RALALA people in the booth and it would be helpful to get more volunteers to take a 2-hour shift so that she and Diana would not necessarily be on duty all day. Bob Eddy offered to help with setup and takedown, as well as take a 2-hour shift. Mary De confirmed that we will set up early and then take down the booth mid-afternoon.

2024 Annual Meeting Planning: Bob Eddy reminded the Board that the annual meeting will take place on August 3 and that we have new signage that will be placed in more locations this year in order to get better coverage, including in Outing, boat launch sites, main roads leading to the lakes, etc. Bob Eddy also

asked for suggestions on topics to address at the meeting. Gary indicated that Sheila has arranged for a Loon Center speaker to give a presentation at the meeting. It was also suggested that we address well water testing and provide literature in that regard.

Orders for New and Additional Signage: Kim asked for confirmation, before placing an order for “annual meeting” signs to be printed, as to how many to order and what additional signs need to be ordered or replaced at this time. She also wanted to confirm newsletter due dates that were agreed to earlier in the meeting.

Adjournment:

Upon motion made by Darril, seconded by Mary De, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by:
Diana Lee, Secretary