

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 16, 2025

Crooked Lake Township Hall

Present (9): Bob Eddy, Gary Langer (via phone), Diana Lee, Bob Lee, Mark Mosman, Lloyd Thyen, Bonnie McGowan, Betsy Skagen, Lisa Bonafede

Absent (2): Kim David, Carolyn Gallagher

Welcome: Bob Eddy

Secretary's Report: Diana presented a draft of the July 17, 2025 board meeting minutes and no changes were requested.

Upon motion made by Bob Lee, seconded by Lisa, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the July 17 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 July 31, 2025.

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

Membership Status: Diana reported that the current membership totals are 273 family members and 36 business members. Gary reminded the Board that an email blast needs to be sent to all unpaid members serving as a third reminder to pay dues. Bob Lee agreed to query the database for 2023 and 2024 members who have not yet renewed and to export that information to a spreadsheet for Darril, so that Darril can send the mass email to the appropriate parties as soon as possible. Betsy agreed to work with Darril on the wording of the message.

There was discussion about solicitation materials for new lake property owners and business owners, and that a trifold brochure describing RALALA exists but should be updated.

Point of Sale System: Bob Eddy reported that the POS system worked well at the Corn Feed and the transactions went through quickly. Bonnie reported the same results at Emily Day. Bob Lee will work with Lisa to add her to the POS system.

Corn Feed Recap: Gary reported that the lake association booth at the Corn Feed was a huge success. Discussion points included:

- “Get the Lead Out” campaign resulted in the collection of 54lb.6oz. of lead — a state record
- 4 memberships were registered (total of \$600 in dues/donations), along with \$126 anonymous cash donations
- Great turnout of visitors at the booth
- The kids’ goodie bags and tee shirts were popular
- The “loon floatie” drawing was popular
- A suggestion was made to inflate the loon floatie at the next Corn Feed -- to draw even more attention to the booth
- It was noted that cell phone service was poor on the Pickled Loon property (especially for Verizon customers), so POS transactions needed to be performed by Bob Eddy who has T Mobile service. This was a problem for all vendors.

AIS Update: Bob Eddy reported on the results of the second AIS survey and launch site dive:

- 2 additional patches of milfoil plants were found in North Roosevelt
- 3 or 4 additional milfoil plants were found in South Roosevelt in an area that was treated with Diquat last year
- 3 adult zebra mussels were found at the Roosevelt launch site

After extensive discussion about implications of finding zebra mussels, Bob Eddy indicated:

- He will immediately set up a meeting among Cass County staff, DNR staff, RMB Labs and RALALA volunteers (including Bob Eddy, Gary, Bob Lee and Darril) to determine next steps to assess the extent of the zebra mussel population and any possible treatment options
- He will work with PLM on a treatment plan for the milfoil sites and will seek approval from the DNR for the treatment
- Videos captured by the ILids at the launch site will be reviewed to help determine when and how the zebra mussels were introduced, assuming they were recently introduced
- Vendors who launch boats and boatlifts will be notified
- City of Emily and Crooked Lake Township will be notified

Bob Eddy indicated he will keep the board advised on developments and will notify all RALALA members of the zebra mussel issue as soon as more information is derived from the meeting referred to above.

Upon motion made by Bob Eddy, seconded by Lloyd, and unanimously carried, the board authorized Bob Eddy to seek DNR

approval for any and all AIS treatment recommended as a result of the above findings.

Summer Newsletter Status: Betsy reported that the electronic version of the newsletter has been published, but the printed version has not yet been mailed. It was agreed that December 1 will be the target date for completion of the Fall newsletter and suggested topics included (1) summary of board changes; (2) annual meeting review, (3) zebra mussels article, (4) lake focus on either Leavitt or Smokey Hollow, and (5) next summer's POL projects.

Channel Depth Update: Lloyd reported on a site visit by Rob Fossum (of Lakes Barge Service) and a meeting held August 6 among Rob, Lloyd, Gary, Bob Eddy & Bob Lee to discuss the possibility of dredging the channel between Roosevelt and Lawrence due to the shallow water that can make boat navigation difficult. He indicated no plan is proposed at this time. Discussion points included:

- The cost of dredging the entire channel (rough estimate \$80-90,000) is prohibitive and there would be no guarantees it would work long term.
- The cost for dealing with only the sandbar at the Roosevelt end of the channel is estimated to be roughly \$30,000.
- DNR approval would be required for dredging and research needs to be done to determine if any other permits would be necessary.
- Rob Fossum concluded that the sediment on the bottom of the creek is mostly comprised of sand eroding from the properties lining the channel (and not by silt being carried in from Lawrence) that can only be adequately fixed by riprap or retaining walls along the channel.
- RALALA should consult with a DNR hydrologist.
- RALALA should measure and monitor depths in the creek to identify seasonal changes and rainfall impact before any conclusions are made or action is recommended.

Adjournment:

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

Prepared by:
Diana Lee, Secretary