

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2026

Via WebEx

Present (8): Bob Eddy, Gary Langer, Diana Lee, Kim David, Bob Lee, Mark Mosman, Betsy Skagen, Lisa Bonafede

Absent (3): Lloyd Thyen, Carolyn Gallagher, Bonnie McGowan

Welcome: Bob Eddy

Resignation of Board Member: Bob Eddy informed the Board that Carolyn Gallagher has submitted her resignation as a board member effective immediately. He also reported that Carolyn agreed to continue managing buoy maintenance tasks.

Ratification of Approval of Documents: In light of a lack of quorum at the scheduled board meeting in February, all board members submitted their approval via email of the January board meeting minutes and financial statements, as presented at the meeting. Bob Lee proposed that those approvals be ratified at this meeting.

Upon motion made by Bob Lee, seconded by Gary, and unanimously carried, the board hereby ratifies approval of the following documents as presented at the February meeting: (a) minutes of the January 15, 2026 board meeting, and (b) financial statements for the month of January, 2026.

Treasurer's Report: Diana presented the financial statements (Income & Expense Report along with Balance Sheet) for the month ended February 28, 2026. She also reported that she has filed the 2025 Tax Form 990EZ with the IRS.

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

Newsletter and Social Media: Betsy reported that all articles have been submitted for the upcoming newsletter and that she is in the process of editing them. She will then send them to Kim for formatting and designing. Kim will submit them to the printer.

Betsy also indicated that she will post two messages on social media: (1) the date, time and meeting location for the Spring Highway Cleanup; and (2) a message that the Board is seeking new and additional board members.

Gary raised two suggestions for future newsletters:

- Importance of getting a photo (for posting in the newsletter) of the group of “clean-up” volunteers at every Highway Cleanup event.
- An article acknowledging the generous bequest by the William George Estate that RALALA received last year. Gary agreed to search for a photo of Mr. George and also agreed to contact one of his prior neighbors on the lake to request that they write the article.

Membership Solicitation: Gary reported that the membership solicitation documents have been finalized and are ready for printing and mailing, and that the distribution schedule is as follows:

- Property Owner packets will be printed by Lakes Printing and mailed on or about April 1
- Second mailing (reminder for those unpaid) will be mailed June 1 with due date of June 30
- Email blast (second reminder for remaining unpaids) will be sent July 15
- Business Member packets will be mailed March 24 (to both current members and those on “hot list”)

Zebra Mussel Update: Bob Eddy reported that a meeting took place among himself, Gary Langer, Bob Lee, Steve Henry (Cass County), David Schotzko (MN DNR) and Glen Goodwin (Washburn Lake Association). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Roosevelt Lake zebra mussel situation and RALALA’s desire to gain insight as to actions RALALA can take with regard to launch site improvements, signage improvements, education for boaters and lake property owners, monitoring recommendations, benefits of monitoring, etc. Bob Eddy noted:

- There is no silver bullet or new technology at this point in time to deal with zebra mussels
- Suggestion was made to keep in touch with MAISRC (U of M’s AIS Research Center) and also an AIS specialist at the DNR to keep apprised of any new developments or education available

After discussion, the Board agreed that:

- RALALA will post (via email and social media) recommended “Dos” and “Don’ts” for lake property owners to help deal with zebra mussels.

- RALALA will continue to pass along any new information or recommendations that come along to members via social media and newsletter.
- The quality of inspectors at the launch site is of great importance. The inspectors need to have good communication skills and be aggressive at encouraging decontamination of boats both entering and leaving Roosevelt. We need to show support for the inspectors by stopping by to thank them for what they do.
- We now have the responsibility of doing what we can to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to other area lakes.

Bob Eddy then discussed MAISRC's (MN AIS Research Center) Zebra Mussel Safari Program. He explained that, if we want to participate:

- RALALA will need non-board member volunteers
- MAISRC will provide training and on-call support to volunteers
- Volunteers will deploy a "sampler" device into the lake from the dock, retrieve the device, take a photograph, and send the photo to MAISRC for automated analysis
- The program will help MAISRC track population density and population shifts, and monitor spread across Minnesota lakes
- Volunteers would need to install an app on their phones and would need to be somewhat "phone savvy" and "computer savvy".

Bob Eddy will get more details before asking for Board approval of the program or soliciting volunteers. Additional details will include how many sampling areas would be recommended, how often the testing would need to occur, how to obtain the sampling devices, etc. The topic was then tabled until further information is gathered.

New RALALA Website Page: Pursuant to a request by Betsy, Bob Lee indicated he has created a new website page for posting informative, individual newsletter articles. Betsy suggested that this will be a helpful reference tool. This new page will enable website users to easily find a specific article of interest. Also, when new articles are written on a specific topic, they can reference past articles that can be found on this page.

Annual Meeting: Bob Eddy suggested that, in order to timely arrange for a keynote speaker at the annual meeting, the topic needs to be agreed upon at this meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that the "Zebra Mussel" topic will be of greatest interest to members this year, and that only one keynote speaker should be invited in order to keep the meeting to a reasonable length of time. Bob agreed to contact MAISRC about speaker availability.

Member Annual Meeting Survey: Lisa reported that she purchased Survey Monkey software that will be used for the annual meeting survey, and that she is ready to send another “test” survey to the board to make sure there are no fixes needed before sending to the full membership. She agreed to send to the Board within 24 hours and if all goes well, she will then send the results to the board. If no problems found, it will then go to the full membership within a few days. Bob Eddy agreed to contact Darril about his willingness to assist by sending the email blast that will contain the survey.

Shared File Structure: Lisa and Betsy indicated they will work on finalizing the Google Drive file “structure” that will be used to house shared files created by Board members. Lisa will then send instructions on how to upload files.

City of Emily Funds: Bob Eddy reported that the City of Emily has approved funds of \$23,772 for the Emily Lakes and Rivers Protection Fund this year. The fund can now be used for both surveys and treatment of AIS in Emily lakes. Appropriation Applications are due tomorrow, March 20. He indicated he is submitting an application for \$7,924 (one-third of the available funds).

Bob further reported that he has agreed to be a member of Emily Waters Group to serve as a liaison for RALALA since Jan Mosman is retiring from serving as a member.

Summer Board Meeting Schedule: Bob Eddy suggested that all monthly board meetings from May through August be “in-person” meetings and be held at CLT Town Hall Noon to 2:00pm. The Board agreed to that plan.

Boat Parade: Betsy suggested that RALALA should take a role in coordinating or sponsoring “July 4” boat parades on all four lakes. A discussion followed, including the following points:

- Darril used to take the role of coordinating lake “captains” to lead on each lake, and then communicated dates, times and meet-up locations. Nobody has volunteered to take that role since Darril discontinued doing so.
- Some lake captains in the past wanted to coordinate their own date and time, not necessarily the same day as Roosevelt parade.
- RALALA could sponsor each of the parades by providing a prize for the “best decorated” boat in each, the judging of which would be determined by each captain.
- Betsy agreed to call Jeff Caza (on Leavitt Lake) and Bill Schaefer (on Smokey Hollow Lake) to get their feedback and ideas. She will give feedback to the board at the next meeting.

RALALA Merchandise: Betsy shared some ideas (along with prices from a local vendor) about items that RALALA could sell or small items that could be used as “give-aways” at events. After discussion, the board agreed that the prices of the shirts was too high a price point and that other vendors should be scoped out. The topic was then tabled and will be addressed after further options are found.

Channel Depth Measurements: Bob Eddy indicated that volunteers need to be found as soon as possible so that the RALALA can move forward with addressing the channel depth issue by taking measurement readings this year. A hydrologist that was consulted suggested that measurements should be taken once a month at 50-100 foot intervals (starting 50-100 feet from each entrance and then throughout the channel). There followed a discussion about how to go about it, and Gary, Mark and Bob Lee all offered to assist. Bob Lee will try to secure use of a duck boat for this task.

Adjournment:

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

Prepared by:
Diana Lee, Secretary