

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 10, 2024

Via WebEx

Welcome: Bob Eddy

Present: Bob Eddy, Gary Langer, Diana Lee, Kim David, Anne Bonnerup, Bob Lee, Mark Mosman, Darril Wegscheid, Lloyd Thyen, Mary De Hanson, Carolyn Gallagher

Absent: Cyrus Malbari

Secretary's Report: Diana presented a draft of the June 13, 2024 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 June 13 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Diana presented a financial report for the month ending June 30 and a Budget vs. Actual Report for the period January-June. She noted that the number of business memberships doubled during the past week.

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

Membership Solicitations: Diana presented an up-to-date status report regarding family memberships as well as business memberships, and Gary expressed that he is pleased with the results so far and is encouraged by the number of members willing to donate to EQPI at the Sunfish-Eagle levels. Gary noted the importance of visiting the businesses in person since the mailing of solicitation materials, alone, does not render great results. He encouraged all board members to stop by businesses to thank them for their support. In addition, he asked that all board members keep in mind who their service providers are, and highly encouraged approaching them for RALALA membership.

Gary then raised the topic of the pass-through donations collected by RALALA for Emily and Outing First Responders and for Fireworks and, in light of the large dollar amounts collected, is looking for ideas on how RALALA and its members can be better recognized and credited for the money raised. Darril suggested that photos be taken of RALALA delivering checks to these entities and incorporating that into a newsletter article. There was general consensus that RALALA should continue to collect these pass-through funds as a convenience for our members

and as a benefit to the community. It was also agreed we should pursue ideas to obtain more recognition for these donations. No specific plan was agreed upon and the topic was tabled for further discussion at a later date.

Newsletter Due Dates: Kim indicated she is still missing a couple of articles and advertiser information for the August newsletter and was assured she would have everything she needs as soon as possible and likely within a week or so. Kim agreed to extend the drop dead due dates for advertisements until the time she has received all of the articles. Upon receiving all articles, she will then work on the newsletter layout and decline any additional ads for the summer newsletter edition.

Selection and Purchase of Point of Sale System: Carolyn reported that she devised a list of 10 vendors, 5 traditional and 5 less well-known, and is in the process of gathering all of the information she needs to do a comparison analysis and prepare a recommendation for the board. The criteria she is using includes the requirements/needs of RALALA, the number of services provided by each vendor, pricing, reputation of vendor, etc. She indicated she expects to have a recommendation ready for the board in the next week or so. Bob Lee offered to contact a friend on the board of WAPOA to get information on their POS system and Bob Eddy suggested also checking with Gull Lake association about what system they use.

Enbridge Grant Application: In response to the Board's recommendation at the last meeting to request an Enbridge grant for the purpose of funding an experimental AIS management program, Mary De reported she is attempting to connect with Nick Phelps at the U of M's Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) to discuss possible projects. She also indicated she will keep an eye on state grants as they get posted and become available for applicants. She indicated she intends to solicit a non-board member volunteer, who has experience with grant writing, to assist with this project.

POL (Protect our Lakes) Update: Anne reported that: (1) the parade of shores was canceled this year due to high lake levels and the fact that some of the lakeshore restoration projects she had intended to showcase incurred ice and wind damage during the winter and spring; (2) she wrote an article for the newsletter regarding John & Bonnie Rowell's willow wattle log project and worked with Kim on designing a tri-fold presentation board highlighting the project that can be used as an educational tool; and (3) she prepared an article highlighting Bob & Sandi Eddy's project whereby they purchased property and repaired the lakeshore.

Water Testing and Lake Level: Darril reported that the water testing schedule continues to be the weekend before the 3rd Monday of every month. With regard to lake level readings, Darril reported that this spring, due to beaver activity, the lake was within 6” of the record high (set in 2012) and the lake is currently 9-1/4” below that all-time high. The gauge installed in the lake by the DNR will be read weekly. With the data collected, over time a “normal” depth can be established at various times of the year. Darril also reported that two volunteers have come forward who are willing to walk the creek on a regular basis in order to monitor beaver activity.

Emily Day: Mary De reported that Tremolo is sponsoring RALALA again this year by donating a large inflatable loon that will be given away via a free drawing and that preparations for the day are in progress. She is in the process of collecting displays, flyers and handouts for the booth.

RALALA Annual Meeting: Bob Eddy shared a draft of the agenda for the upcoming annual meeting to take place August 3, and summarized each agenda item. He requested that board members give some thought as to any modifications or additions that would be desirable and to communicate those as soon as possible.

AIS Update: Bob Eddy reported that Freshwater surveyed the lakes over a period of two days—one day for South Roosevelt and one day for North Roosevelt and Lawrence. Bob said he has not yet received written survey results and treatment cost estimates, which he will obtain soon, but relayed the following feedback that he was given verbally:

- There is good control of milfoil in the areas treated last year
- Curly-Leaf Pondweed was found in Lawrence and that can only be treated in Spring time—not the Fall
- As a result of last year’s treatment, no milfoil was found on Lawrence
- One large patch of milfoil was found in North Roosevelt as well as a number of small patches at the far north end
- Milfoil was also found in Woods Bay
- Some small patches found last year (which the DNR did not allow us to treat) have grown
- No Starry Stonewort or Zebra Mussels were found at the launch sites
- There will likely be a recommendation for aggressive treatment at the north end of Roosevelt

Bob indicated he will forward to the Board the survey results/cost estimates documents when he receives them, and the Board can then discuss what actions to take.

Membership Management: Gary suggested that the Board consider a new board member, whose sole focus would be to manage solicitation of nonmembers and new property owners, including physical visits, creating/updating a packet of materials communicating what RALALA is about along with community information, etc. Gary indicated he has someone in mind and there was a general consensus in favor of pursuing the idea of having one person to focus solely on these tasks.

Adjournment:

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

Prepared by:
Diana Lee, Secretary