RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 17, 2025
Crooked Lake Township Hall

Present (10): Bob Eddy, Gary Langer, Diana Lee, Bob Lee, Mark Mosman, Lloyd Thyen, Mary De Hanson, Carolyn Gallagher, Bonnie McGowan, Lisa Bonafede

Absent (3): Cyrus Malbari, Kim David, Betsy Skagen

Welcome: Bob Eddy

Secretary's Report: Diana presented a draft of the June 19, 2025 board meeting minutes and no changes were requested.

> ***Upon motion made by Bob Lee, seconded by Mark Mosman, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the June 19 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 June 30, 2025.

> ***Upon motion made by Mary De, seconded by Carolyn, and unanimously carried, the financial statements were approved as distributed.***

Purchase of Certificate of Deposit: Diana noted that a final bequest check payable to RALALA was received in the amount of $43,028.86 from the William George Estate and suggested that it be invested in a Certificate of Deposit at Pine River State Bank.

> ***Upon motion made by Bob Eddy, seconded by Lloyd Thyen, and unanimously carried, Diana Lee, as Treasurer, is authorized to sign, on behalf of Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association (RALALA), any and all documents required by Pine River State Bank in connection with the purchase of a $45,000 Certificate of Deposit for an initial term of up to 13 months.***

Membership Update: Gary reported that the second membership solicitation mailing was sent out by Lakes Printing and noted that the number of paid members is lower than where we were last year at this time. After discussion, the Board agreed it would be appropriate to send a third reminder via email blast shortly before the August 16 Corn Feed to all members on the unpaid list at that time.

Gary then reported that he was successful in obtaining 11 new business members that were not solicited last year. A discussion followed relating to the necessity to visit businesses in person in order to successfully obtain a majority of the renewals and to solicit new business members. In light of the time and energy required to do these visits, Gary is asking for additional board members to get involved in the process, since it is an enormous task for one person. The Board acknowledged that these business relationships are important to both RALALA and the business community.

Point of Sale System: Bob Lee reported that the GoDaddy payment system is now up and running on RALALA's website to collect dues and donations via credit cards, and that the payment system app can be loaded on board members' phones to collect payments in person at events. He indicated he will work with GoDaddy on improving the website to show "buckets" for the EQPI donations and to provide additional ways to pay dues and donations including PayPal, ApplePay and GooglePay.

AIS Update: Bob Eddy reported that he received the results of the recent milfoil survey conducted by Freshwater on North and South Roosevelt, as well as a portion of Lawrence Lake, and that only one milfoil plant was found (in the southeastern area of Roosevelt). Freshwater reported that, although they are scheduled to survey all of Lawrence Lake later this summer, they took advantage of the excellent survey conditions to survey the northern shore of Lawrence with a focus on the area where milfoil was found in the past. Freshwater recommended that RALALA hold off on treating the one plant found until after the second survey is done later in the summer, and the Board agreed with that recommendation.

There was also a discussion about curly leaf pondweed and the possibility RALALA may want to treat that invasive species as well in the future, which would require DNR approval. The Board tabled that issue.

Emily Day July 19: Mary De discussed preparations underway in advance of Emily Day, including the gathering of handouts and other materials for the RALALA booth. Bonnie agreed to volunteer alongside Mary De at Emily Day to assist with memberships and interacting with people visiting the booth.

Corn Feed August 16: Gary reminded the Board that there will be three tables in the Corn Feed booth, one for RALALA, one for Lake Washburn Association, and one for CLT Lakes & Shores Committee, and that each entity is responsible for their own table and volunteers to "man" their table. He created a sign-up sheet describing the various duties/roles that require volunteers, along with 90-minute timeslots for each role, and encouraged board members to volunteer at least 90 minutes if available. In connection with the "Get the Lead Out" campaign, he noted that the first place winner who brings in the most lead will receive a trolling motor, second place will receive a gift certificate for a round of golf at Emily Greens, and there will be a drawing for four $50 gift cards to local restaurants. Lisa presented a receptacle that she crafted, on which she painted a beautiful loon, to be used for collecting donations.

<u>Summer Newsletter:</u> Bob Eddy listed the newsletter articles that are still in process. There was discussion about Lakes Printing's ability to create a "flip version" of the newsletter for those receiving it via email (as opposed to a normal PDF document). The Board agreed that we should get a cost estimate for that option, assuming members would find it convenient to be able to flip to specific pages and articles while reading it.

<u>Roosevelt/Lawrence Channel Depth:</u> Lloyd reported that, as a follow-up to a discussion at the previous board meeting about complaints that boats were getting stuck in the channel between Roosevelt and Lawrence, he talked to a hydrologist and a barge service vendor and requested a site visit and cost estimate on dredging the channel. He indicated that he has not yet received the estimate, and therefore will provide an update at the next board meeting. Lloyd also suggested that the Board may want to invite the proposed dredging vendor to a board meeting to discuss the process and answer any questions (in the event the cost estimate is not prohibitive).

<u>Starry Stonewort AIS Training:</u> Carolyn discussed the starry stonewort issues on the Whitefish chain of lakes, and indicated they rake the lake in an attempt to control it. She acknowledged that it's not currently a problem on RALALA lakes, but that it may be advisable for RALALA to get educated on identifying the plant. Therefore, she plans to attend two upcoming WAPOA events:

- July 25 Starry Stonewort Early Detection Training
- July 26 WAPOA Annual meeting at which a DNR specialist will present an update on starry stonewort and other AIS in the Brainerd lakes area

Carolyn also noted WAPOA will be holding a fundraising event on August 20 for starry stonewort resources.

<u>Credit Card Fees:</u> In light of RALALA's ability to now accept credit card payments via the website or in person at events, Bob Eddy asked the Board for input on whether the cost of the credit card fee should be passed along to the donor, as opposed to RALALA eating the cost. Since there were mixed opinions on the issue, the topic was tabled and will be addressed again later in the year when we have a better idea of how many dollars are at stake.

Roles and Responsibilities of RALALA: Bob Eddy distributed the list he created of all roles and tasks associated with operations, activities and initiatives of the association, and asked Board members to indicate which items they are currently responsible for, or participating in, or willing to become involved with. He also indicated a discussion needs to take place regarding who and how to fill in the gaps. In light of time constraints, and anticipating a lengthy discussion, this topic was tabled and a special meeting was scheduled to focus on this exercise and discussion.

Upcoming Meetings:

- July 21 -- Special Board Meeting to address assignment of roles and responsibilities (referred to above)
- August 9 -- Annual Meeting of RALALA members at CLT Township Hall (at which directors will be elected)
- A short Board Meeting will be held immediately following the Annual Meeting to elect officers

Adjournment:

Upon motion made by Mark, seconded by Bonnie, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by:
Diana Lee, Secretary