

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2026

Via WebEx

Present (9): Bob Eddy, Gary Langer, Diana Lee, Kim David, Bob Lee, Mark Mosman, Bonnie McGowan, Betsy Skagen, Lisa Bonafede

Absent (1): Lloyd Thyen

Welcome: Bob Eddy

Secretary's Report: Diana distributed a draft of the March 19 board meeting minutes and no changes were requested.

Upon motion made by Gary, seconded by Bonnie, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the March 19, 2026 board meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Diana presented financial statements (Profit & Loss Statement along with balance sheet) for the month ended March 31, 2026 as well as a year-to-date Profit & Loss Statement.

There was discussion about the fact that every year there is a period between the time that the majority of income is collected and the time that AIS expenses are paid out, during which it may make sense to purchase an additional short-term Certificate of Deposit to increase investment income. The topic was tabled and will be readdressed after the AIS survey is completed and the Board has a better sense of this year's AIS situation. It was also agreed that it is desirable to purchase Certificates of Deposit from banks in the local area, even if slightly better rates are available elsewhere.

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

Newsletter: Kim indicated the Spring newsletter is finished and awaiting final approval, and will be sent to the printer within the next day or two.

Membership Status: Gary reported that he picked up a significant stack of mail from RALALA's post office box and summarized the receipts of dues payments, EQPI donations, pass-through donations, etc. that have arrived to date.

Zebra Mussel Safari Project: Bob Eddy reported that RALALA is now officially participating in the Zebra Mussel Safari Project (a University of Minnesota

research project), that he is willing to act as coordinator of the project, but that volunteers will be required to assist with collecting water samples and reporting data. Bob referenced a letter he drafted to send to all RALALA members soliciting volunteers to assist with the project. Bob is requesting that every board member read the draft of his letter and provide feedback, so that he can send the letter out via email blast as soon as possible.

Annual Meeting Speaker: Bob Eddy reported that he has requested a speaker from MAISRC (Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center), affiliated with the University of Minnesota, and that he has not yet received confirmation of availability.

Contract with Freshwater Scientific Services: Bob Eddy referenced a proposed contract with Freshwater relating to AIS surveys that he sent to the board for review. He noted that Freshwater recommended only one “diver” search on each lake this year, as opposed to last year’s schedule when diver searches took place twice (early and late summer). The proposed contract involves five surveys as follows:

- One EWM (Eurasian Watermilfoil) survey in early summer on Roosevelt
- Two EWM surveys in late summer (one on Roosevelt and one on Lawrence)
- Two AIS diver surveys in late summer (one on Roosevelt and one on Lawrence)
- Total estimated cost of the 5 surveys is \$7,160

The contract states that intensive searches will take place in areas where EWM was found in the past, and rapid searches will take place in areas where no EWM has been found in the past.

Upon motion made by Bob Lee, seconded by Gary, and unanimously carried, Bob Eddy is authorized to sign, on behalf of RALALA, the above-referenced contract with Freshwater Scientific Services as presented to the Board.

Cass County AIS-related Grants: Gary reported that he has requested an AIS grant from Cass County in the amount of \$6,000, which is the maximum that can be requested. He noted that Steve Henry (Cass County) has requested the following documents so that Steve can present them to the “grant approval board”: (a) Eurasian Watermilfoil survey results from the second survey performed by Freshwater for RALALA last year; and (b) this year’s survey results once those are available. Bob Eddy agreed to send Gary last year’s report to forward to Steve. Gary further noted that next year’s grant request is likely to be reduced or denied completely due to the fact that the State of Minnesota has

reduced the amount of AIS funds available for distribution by counties by 50% for 2027.

Annual Meeting Survey: Lisa presented survey results received thus far by RALALA members relating to the timing and content of RALALA's annual meetings. From these "early" results, there appeared to be a trend showing that respondents: (a) prefer continuing a Saturday morning timing for the meeting; (b) place more importance on informative topics and speakers than the social aspect; (c) would appreciate shorter meetings; (d) have an interest in the topic of fishery management; and (e) have an interest in being able to attend remotely (via Webex or similar vehicle). It was also noted that email reminders of the meeting are important. It was agreed that the board should investigate the technology questions surrounding remote attendance including whether the bandwidth connection at Crooked Lake Township Town Hall is adequate, how to coordinate questions from remote attendees, etc.

July 4 Boat Parade: As a follow-up from discussions at previous meetings, Betsy reported that she attempted to get input from members on Lawrence, Leavitt and Smokey Hollow lakes about whether there is interest in having RALALA "sponsor" their July 4 parades. After discussion, it was agreed that unless people come forward and request that RALALA play a part, RALALA should not get involved in the parades, but just post those parade dates on the calendar if and when the dates/times are known.

Roosevelt/Lawrence Channel Depth: Bob Eddy confirmed he has a group of board member volunteers to help with taking depth measurements in the channel this summer. Discussion followed with regard to the process, the timing and frequency of the measuring excursions, the equipment needed (stadia rod, waterproof tape, stakes/posts), etc.

Upon motion made by Bob Lee, seconded by Kim, and unanimously carried, Bob Lee is authorized to select and purchase the channel measuring supplies and to spend up to \$150 for those supplies.

Loon & Lakes Festival: Gary announced that through Sheila's involvement with the Loon Center, RALALA has been invited to be the featured lake association at this year's Loons & Lakes Festival scheduled for June 27 in Crosslake. He shared that he and Sheila enjoyed attending last year, and that it's well-organized, draws a lot of people and includes games, events, food vendors, etc. RALALA will have a booth where we can showcase ways RALALA works to keep our loon population safe and healthy. Sheila will be providing additional information and will be seeking volunteers to assist with setup, takedown and staffing the booth.

Adjournment:

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

Prepared by:
Diana Lee, Secretary