

Minutes of RALALA Association Annual Meeting
August 8, 2026
Crooked Lake Township Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Bob Eddy, President of the Association, called the meeting to order shortly after 9:00 am.

GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTATION

Special Guest Speaker: Madeline Hayden, Research Outreach Specialist of MAISRC (Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Research Center)

Madeline joined the meeting via remote audio/video connection, which included a helpful power point presentation (a copy of which is available on RALALA's website). Madeline first discussed background information about the research center, which was established at the University of Minnesota in 2012. She discussed the types of research projects conducted by MAISRC and the staff conducting those projects which includes Research Fellows and Graduate Students. Madeline then discussed the important and timely topic of zebra mussels, which have now made their way to Lake Roosevelt. She discussed their biology, their impact, and the research underway including:

- Zebra Mussel distribution (currently in 33 US states and several provinces in Canada)
- United States Map showing spread of the species
- Life cycle of a zebra mussel
- How the mussels impact a lake: aquatic plants, fish, increase in mercury levels, increase in water clarity (more sunlight results in more plant growth) etc.
- Zebra mussels stay in 30' or less of water (not deeper levels)
- Zebra mussels tend to have a "boom" and "bust" cycle
- Identification of zebra mussels vs. native mussels
- Impacts to sportfish (mercury increase in walleye and yellow perch)
- Low Dose Copper is a treatment currently being tested on a lake in the Twin Cities – If successful, it could be impactful
- Zebra Mussel Safari Research Project in which 19 RALALA members (from Roosevelt and Lawrence lakes) are participating
- Zebra Mussel Safari Project details:
 - Project volunteers deploy sampling devices from their docks in late May
 - At the end of the season (late Sept), the devices are collected and photographed using the University's software that counts the mussels
 - Water samples are also collected to help understand "conditions" of the mussels' environment
 - All of the information gathered will help researchers understand spread rates as well as how water chemistry may play a role
 - The Safari Project will continue annually for the foreseeable future and will hopefully result in methods to manage or eliminate their presence in our lakes

RALALA appreciates the information that Madeline provided and the work that is conducted by MAISRC, acknowledging that although there is no current treatment available for Lake

Roosevelt, education and research are critical steps in understanding the situation and finding solutions.

APPROVAL OF 2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Copies of the 2025 Annual Meeting minutes were available for review and a draft of the document was posted on RALALA's website shortly after the meeting was held last year. No changes were suggested. Upon motion made, seconded and carried, the minutes were approved as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Diana Lee (Treasurer) provided copies of the 2025 year-end financial statement and presented a report showing 2026 budget vs. actual numbers January-July 31, 2026. She then highlighted the following to help understand the categories and numbers:

Income Categories

- Business Members (annual dues entitle the business to advertise in 3 newsletters)
- Corporate Donations (some members have employer match programs that result in income to RALALA)
- AIS Grants (Crooked Lake Township, Outing Chamber & Fire, Cass County and Crow Wing County all provide grants—amounts differ from year to year). City of Emily contributes by paying a pre-approved amount directly to the vendor conducting AIS surveys and treatment (rather than paying RALALA via a grant).
- Interest income (vast majority of interest income is coming from Certificates of Deposit purchased with the money received from the Bill & Jo Ellen George Estates). The current board believes the bequest income should be saved for the future – not knowing what's ahead with AIS, climate changes or other unknowns.
- Member Dues & EQPI Donations (2026 goals: 300 members and EQPI donations of \$40,000). We expect to reach the \$40,000 EQPI goal but currently expect not to reach the 300-member level.

Expense Categories

- AIS (aquatic invasive species) category includes surveys, treatment and inspector hours. Budgeting is difficult in advance of getting survey results and receiving recommendations for treatments.
- IT (information technology) category includes database license fees, bookkeeping software (monthly fee), newsletter software, website costs, GoDaddy software (for capability to receive online payments), WebEx meetings, etc.
- Newsletter printing and mailing covers 3 newsletters per year
- RALALA membership dues are paid by RALALA to related organizations that share similar missions: Crow Wing Lakes & Rivers Alliance, Association of Cass County Lakes, WAPOA (lake association for Whitefish area lakes), and Minnesota Lakes & Rivers
- Water Testing (Enbridge Pipeline) – now reduced to two samplings per year to enable RALALA to detect a gas leak

Diana also reported that the balance sheet is in healthy condition and the only liabilities are the payouts RALALA is obligated to make after year-end – all donations received from members earmarked for Emily & Outing First Responders, Outing Fireworks and Emily Food Shelf.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Bob Eddy’s slide presentation can be found on RALALA’s website. His presentation includes information and updates regarding RALALA’s Board of Directors, current projects and initiatives, as well as projects slated for the next 12 months.

<u>Current Board Members</u>	<u>Title(s)</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Robert Eddy	President	2028
Gary Langer	Vice President	2026 (retired eff. 8/31/26)
Diana Lee	Secretary & Treasurer	2028
Kim David	Director	2028
Bob Lee	Director	2027
Mark Mosman	Director	2027
Lloyd Thyen	Director	2027
Lisabeth Mackall Bonafede	Director	2028
Bonnie McGowan	Director	2028
Betsy Skagen	Director	2028

RALALA Objectives

Bob Eddy summarized the association’s objectives and activities including:

- Organize and fund volunteer projects designed to preserve, protect and improve our four lakes and their watersheds
- Organize and fund educational programs and materials to promote healthy balance between recreation and protecting lakes as a natural resource
- Aid, assist & advise policymakers in making decisions affecting our lakes
- Continue to seek funds and financial assistance to support our projects and activities

AIS-related Initiatives and Projects

Bob Eddy discussed RALALA’s initiatives to prevent, detect and treat aquatic invasive species, including:

- AIS Prevention at launch site(s):
 - Decontamination unit at Roosevelt launch site (per partnership agreement among RALALA, Crooked Lake Township, Cass County, and Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District)
 - ILids that photograph boat launches and broadcast a recorded message (helpful when inspectors are not present)
 - Expanded inspector hours
 - Kiosk containing AIS-related signage
 - Monofilament fishing line collection tubes
 - Own Your Wake signage at launch sites on all four lakes and Outing public dock

- AIS Detection: Hire outside vendors to survey for AIS in all four lakes, including surveys conducted by divers near Roosevelt & Lawrence launch sites
- AIS Treatment: Based on surveys, and recommendations from experts, approve application of chemicals to treat appropriate areas containing EWM (Eurasian Watermilfoil)
- Support of AIS education and research, including RALALA participation in MAISRC's Zebra Mussel Safari Project

Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)

Bob Eddy presented information relating to dates of the 2026 surveys and treatments, maps of the survey and treatment areas, and historical data (2016-2026) relating to acreage of treatment areas and costs of treatments.

Curly Leaf Pondweed

Information was also presented regarding curly leaf pondweed, an invasive species that has affected some area lakes but not yet spread to any of RALALA's four lakes.

Zebra Mussels

Bob Eddy summarized when and where zebra mussels were found in Lake Roosevelt, and what steps have been taken by RALALA to seek out information, guidance and support from the DNR, MAISRC and other lake associations to help determine next steps. Bob reported that 19 RALALA members have stepped up to volunteer their participation in MAISRC's Zebra Mussel Safari research program.

Water Testing

Bob Eddy reported on two water testing initiatives:

- Water Quality Testing in partnership with WAPOA (lake association of Whitefish area lakes). RALALA has six volunteers that perform water testing monthly May-September. Following testing, WAPOA publishes a Water Quality Report.
- Enbridge Water Testing. RALALA hires AW Research Labs to conduct water testing twice a year in the Spire Valley creek at the north end of Roosevelt to enable detection of a pipeline gas leak. The purpose is to detect a leak before it could become disastrous.

Protecting Our Lakes (POL) Initiative and Lake Steward Program

Bob Eddy reported on the growing decline of natural shorelines and the negative impact it has on lake quality. The POL and Lake Steward program was created to educate property owners on how natural shorelines improve water quality, reduce erosion and provide quality habitat for fish and wildlife. Through these programs, RALALA's POL team can connect property owners (who are interested in restoring all or a portion of their shoreline) with expert planning consultants and restoration service vendors. In addition, money is earmarked in RALALA's budget to assist with the financial burden of restoration. Bob stressed that RALALA is in desperate need of volunteers to advance this program.

Lawrence/Roosevelt Channel Depth

Bob Eddy reported that complaints have been received regarding shallowness in the channel. In an effort to better understand changes taking place, and the cause of any such changes (weather related, erosion of adjacent property, etc.), and before reaching conclusions as to appropriate actions, the Board decided that depth measurements should take place intermittently and in a consistent method. The first such measuring project took place August 4, 2026.

RALALA's Connections to Community

Bob Eddy highlighted several ways RALALA connects with the community, including participation in CLT Lakes & Shores Committee; Emily Waters committee; Adopt-a-Highway cleanup every spring and fall; Collection of funds for first responders, food shelf and fireworks; Get the Lead Out program; Youth Boater Training; Loon Liaison Program, etc.

2026-2027 Goals/Projects:

- Continue Zebra Mussel Safari research project
- Communicate with members re channel measurements, lake level, AIS updates, etc.
- Develop and roll out New Lake Owners information packet
- Redeploy our Protect our Lakeshores (POL) program
- Pursue board members and volunteers (leaders and team members are needed for POL, technology support & member database management, membership solicitation etc.)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by: Diana Lee, Secretary