

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 17, 2024
Via WebEx

Present (8): Bob Eddy, Gary Langer, Diana Lee, Kim David, Bob Lee, Mark Mosman, Darril Wegscheid, Lloyd Thyen

Absent (4): Cyrus Malbari, Mary De Hanson, Carolyn Gallagher, Bonnie McGowan

Also Present: Betsy Skagen

Welcome: Bob Eddy opened the meeting and announced that this is the last regularly-scheduled meeting of 2024. Over the next several months, meetings will be called only as needed. Bob then introduced Betsy Skagen. Betsy expressed interest in joining the board and summarized her personal and professional background.

Board Member Nomination and Appointment:

Upon motion made by Gary, seconded by Darril, and unanimously carried, Betsy Skagen is appointed to serve on the Board of Directors until the next RALALA annual membership meeting, at which she can officially be elected by the association's membership.

Secretary's Report: Diana presented a draft of the September 11, 2024 board meeting minutes, and no changes were requested.

Upon motion made by Bob Eddy, seconded by Darril, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the September 11 board meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Diana presented a financial report for the month ended September 30 and a Budget vs. Actual Report for the period January-September. She noted that additional income was received after September 30, including a \$6,000 Cass County grant and over \$3,780 in interest received after the \$150,000 Certificate of Deposit matured on September 30. She reported that the \$150,000 principal was rolled into a new 6-month Certificate of Deposit at First Western Bank that will mature on March 28, 2025.

Upon motion made by Darril, seconded by Bob Eddy and unanimously carried, the September financial statements (as presented) were approved.

Cost-Sharing Arrangements: Diana shared a summary of the contributions received to date this year totaling \$26,378 (either via direct payments to vendors or paid directly to RALALA in the form of a grant) from Crooked Lake Township, the Outing Chamber of Commerce, the City of Emily and Cass County -- all of which were contributed to RALALA to help offset expenses relating to AIS prevention and detection, and milfoil treatment. The summary included a list of the invoices paid to Freshwater Scientific, PLM and Cass County for surveys, diving, milfoil treatment and inspector hours along with a breakdown of how each of the cost-sharing contributions were applied, and the resulting net expenses to RALALA.

Fundraising: Gary shared letters dated October 3, that were co-authored by himself and Bob Eddy, sent to the Outing Chamber of Commerce and Crooked Lake Township Fire Department requesting RALALA contributions from pulltab proceeds.

Gary explained that:

- With regard to Outing Chamber of Commerce -- earlier this year RALALA's request for \$7,500 resulted in a \$5,000 grant, and RALALA is now requesting the additional \$2,500.
- With regard to Crooked Lake Township Fire Department -- RALALA is requesting a \$10,000 contribution.
- As of today, no decisions have been made regarding these requests.

Bob Eddy reminded the Board that he made a presentation to the Emily City Council on September 10, on behalf of Emily Waters Working Group, at which he explained the milfoil situation at area lakes and the costs associated with surveys and treatment. He requested that the Council agree to increase its contribution to Emily Waters next year to \$30,000 (double the \$15,000 received this year). No decision has yet been communicated by the City of Emily.

Minnesota Environmental Trust Fund: Darril suggested that RALALA send a blast email to members relating to the Minnesota constitutional amendment that is on the ballot this November and that failure to vote on the amendment would be counted as a "no" vote. He wants members to know that the Amendment would continue a program that allocates funding from the Minnesota Lottery to the Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund. Darril agreed to draft a message that will be sent to the communications committee for approval prior to emailing all members.

Launch Site Update: Gary distributed a document showing statistics on boat inspections and decontaminations performed at the Roosevelt launch site this

year, including the fact that 1,462 boats were inspected, 22% of which were coming from zebra mussel-infested lakes. Gary indicated that he and Steve Henry have had discussions about increasing inspector hours next year so that inspectors would be on-site Wednesday through Monday (rather than the current Thursday through Sunday). If these increased hours are approved, it would likely go into effect when activity is highest (starting mid-to-late June through August) and likely at no cost to RALALA. Gary also indicated that he is planning to hold another “decontamination demonstration” event at the launch site next Spring and will work to ensure it is better promoted than last year’s event.

Water Sampling and Water Lake Level: Darril reported that water sampling (in cooperation with WAPOA) was successfully completed on every RALALA lake every month as scheduled.

Darril further reported that the water level last Spring on Lake Roosevelt was measured at 5 inches short of the all-time high and is now 5 inches above the all-time low, which is a remarkable change. Beaver activity on the creek is being monitored and there currently are no lodges or dams causing problems with water flow.

Enbridge Water Testing: Bob Eddy reported that water testing (by AW Labs) has now been completed 12 consecutive months with no issues being identified. Therefore, monthly testing will be discontinued and 2025 testing will be done in January and June only. This testing strategy was approved by a consultant who is a hydrologist and former EPA scientist.

Newsletter: Kim requested that newsletter articles be submitted to her by October 31, after which Kim will work on the layout and then Betsy will assist with editing and proofreading. The final product will then be sent to Linda Van Straaten and Sandi Eddy for final proofreading. Kim indicated she will prepare, and distribute to the board, a list of already-identified articles (and assigned authors) along with possible article topics suitable for a Fall newsletter that may not yet be assigned.

Grant Applications: Bob Eddy reported (on behalf of Mary De who was absent) that no response has yet been received relating to the Tremolo grant application that was submitted, and that preparation of the Enbridge grant application is still in progress.

CLT Lakes and Shores Committee Meeting: Bob Eddy reported that he attended a Crooked Lake Township Lakes & Shores Committee meeting on October 10 to formally request the funds that RALALA requested via the letters referenced above under “Fundraising”.

Bob Eddy stressed that it's important that we request funding from CLT and Emily at the right time of year (September/October), so that the requests are received and considered prior to their finalizing the following year's budgets.

Board Member Roles and Responsibilities: Bob Eddy indicated he has been working to update a matrix (that he created in the past) showing the various roles and responsibilities of board members, and will soon be sharing that with the full board for their input.

Minnesota Lakes & Rivers: Bob Eddy reported that Jeff Forester (Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates "MLR") is working to partnership with lake associations, including RALALA, to help raise the level of MLR memberships, which would give MLR a stronger voice when lobbying on environmental-related issues. After discussion, it was agreed that more research needs to be done to determine whether RALALA can assist MLR with membership solicitation in light of IRS rules, and that RALALA will not be willing to do anything that risks our 501(c)(3) status which prohibits RALALA from directly engaging in lobbying activities. Bob Lee agreed to read Jeff Forester's letter and to review the IRS rules relating to what RALALA is allowed to do, or not do, regarding associating with or assisting a group involved in lobbying activities. Bob Lee will then connect with Bob Eddy to discuss.

2025 Budget: In advance of a meeting of the Finance Committee, Diana agreed to begin preparing the 2025 budget by listing anticipated expense and income categories and what forecasts are needed from whom. She will then work with the Finance Committee on next steps.

Adjournment:

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

Prepared by:
Diana Lee, Secretary