

RALALA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, July 27, 2019

Welcome: Meeting called to order by President Linda Van Straaten

Linda welcomed us to the 25th Annual Meeting of RALALA. There were 42 people in attendance.

Minutes of the last meeting were not read, as they are on the website for all to read.

Treasures report: John Rowell, Treasurer, gave a report on how RALALA is doing financially. In checking, we have \$ 139.80; Savings, \$49,314.04; and in the Milfoil account, \$21,860.56. He thanked all of the many donors who keep us in money to treat the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). We have not had to dip into our savings for the past two years, because we are able to keep the AIS down to small, treatable areas. John recognized the several communities who give us money for that purpose: Cass County, Crow Wing County, Crooked Lake Township and the City of Emily.

Thank you to Jackie Evans for serving as Newsletter editor and secretary for many years.
Recognition of Bud and Joyce Heineke for their years of service on the RALALA board.

Election of Board Nominees:

Re-elect Linda Van Straaten for 2 years and Bob Eddy , Darril Wegshchied, Mary Weihrauch and Kim David for 3 year terms. Linda called for further nominations from the floor, and hearing none, Bob Lee made a motion that nominations cease.

Mary Kowalski made a motion that we accept the slate of officers. John Rowell seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to accept new board members.

Committees:

CLT/AIS... Bob Lee reported that the survey of invasive species on our several lakes by PLM was postponed until the week after the 4th of July due to cool weather. We have permission from the DNR to treat 3.3 acres with chemicals. There will be some manual removal done also of individual

plants. Gary Langer will assist Bob in seeking out those lone plants, or groups of plants and removing them. Bob explained that the plants are in 4-8' of water on the edge of drop-offs. It takes time and warmer weather for them to reach nearer the surface in order to remove them. There were offers to assist Bob and Gary – but Bob and Gary, as well as both Mary Kowalski and Darril Wegshied have been specifically trained by the DNR to spot identify the invaders. Lloyd shared that that a dive team will be making a second visit for the AIS and survey for villagers of Zebra Mussels. The question was raised asking how much it costs to have the surveys done by PLM. Bob said that because all of the ground work has been done in previous years, it costs us \$1600 to survey Roosevelt and \$1900 to survey the other associated lakes.

Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL) ... Mary Kowalski reported that she and Darril had taken the training for identification of invasive species and that the training included 20 hours of classroom training as well as 20 hours of on-line work. She reported that ACCL includes 2 counties, 2 cities and several lake associations, including ours. We are now into prevention and maintenance in the pursuit to eradicate invasive species. She encouraged listeners: “If you see something – say something!” A couple had been fishing near a dock on Lawrence Lake and spotted what they suspected was a Zebra Mussel. They took a picture of it and sent it to Darril – but did not keep the shell itself. Mary and Darril stressed the importance of keeping the sample you have a question about and noting the GPS coordinates (can be done with location on a smart phone) and/or take pictures of the thing in question as well as the surrounding area so that it would be easier to survey a certain area from helpful markers to further research the finding.

Mary Kowalski and Darril Wegshied created a video and presented it to the ACCL meeting on June 18, 2019 in Walker, MN. This video shows all that RALALA has achieved and is a wonderful promotional piece.

Membership..Darril reported that our target for membership is 260. We were near that last year – but now we only have 142 paid members. He will be assigning areas and hoping that folks will encourage their neighbors to send in their memberships.

Darril reported that there had been questions asked of him about stocking walleyes in Leavitt Lake and that was discussed. Darril also was asking for volunteers to request a Secchi Disk to drop into the

water at regular intervals in specific areas in order to check the clarity of water in their lake to note changes. There had been a group who did this on a regular basis, but due to health issues the group no longer exists.

Raffle...Darril The drawing for the many prizes for our Annual Raffle will be at 6 p.m. on August 31. The items up for winners have changed and will no longer list a gun, but \$1300 with which to purchase one or any other outdoor items at Reeds Sporting Goods, i.e., paddleboard, clothing, water toys etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gary Langer reported that the CLT and Army Corps of Engineers are teaming up for a booth at the Annual Corn Feed at the Pickled Loon Saloon on August 17. Children will be coloring a picture of invasive species, then the picture will be pressed onto t-shirts which the children will be able to wear. Gary said that there will be few in adult sizes.

The information we heard from Ron Meyer (Pine River Watershed Alliance) will be scanned and put on our website for information purposes. Linda makes regular posts to the Outing Facebook page, so along with our newsletter, website and social media, we can all be kept in the loop for information.

Linda asked us to please let our advertisers in the newsletter know that we are part of RALALA and appreciate their support.

Linda mentioned the Crosslake Nation Loon Center and for folks to be watching for news about that. Also, she announced that the Outing Station was hired to cater our coffee and cookies.

Linda announced that we are doing an "exchange" of members attending the Lake Washburn board meetings with one of our members each month.

Motion to adjourn: John Rowell made a motion for adjournment. Dave Johnson seconded that motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mikie Walker, Secretary