

Final Meeting of the RALALA Board for 2019

Friday, October 4, 2019

Welcome by President Linda Van Straaten. Board meeting at the Iron Range Coffee Shop in Emily.

Present: John Rowell, Roger Brekken, Bob Edy, Bob Lee, Rollie Maki, Darril Weigshaid, Mark Mosman, Glen Goodwin (Washburn Lake Association Board), Linda and Mikie.

Linda thanked the Washburn Lake Association for the idea of exchanging representatives for board meetings. We all took a look at the matrix of 32 jobs with the Washburn LA being done by 32 people. Linda pointed out that we have 32 jobs being performed by just 8 people. We are desperate for a new organization that will involve more people.

Linda pointed out that she may not have much time to continue acting as president because of Jack's health issues and reminded us that we need to think about getting a Vice President in place.

Secretary's minutes were approved – Roger made the motion and Darril seconded.

Treasurer's report: John reported that we have \$190.25 in the checkbook at this time; \$56,962.51 in savings; \$21,110.53 in the Milfoil account. He will be distributing checks to the First Responders in the amount of \$1,820.00 and for Fireworks in the amount of \$992.00. Our Total, then, is \$75,451.29 at this time. There was discussion about Don Hickman contacting John as the Initiative Foundation liaison. He is based in Little Falls. The IF matches funds that we contribute and then makes grants available to local communities. He has offered to come to our board meeting if asked.

Linda reported signing the LG220a Exempt Permit Financial Report for Minnesota Lawful Gambling. The form has been submitted.

Committees:

Raffle. Discussion concerning new "format." The consensus was that the new format should continue. Some folks missed having the gun as the number one prize – but it was pointed out that if you were the "big" winner, you could choose to buy the gun with your cash winnings. We made a \$4200 profit this year – which was the second highest profit in our history. Everyone seemed pleased with the types and sizes of the prizes. Darril reported that the business donors were thrilled to be included this year. He will seek more prizes like those next year. Tickets, this year were placed at certain businesses and Darril reported sales of around \$200 from those locations. He will continue to place tickets at those locations.

Linda pointed out that Darril does 4 people's jobs – and the need to form committees – of people who do not serve on the board to help out. Darril did list some folks who are regularly willing to help him – who are not board members. We need more of that! To be discussed over the winter.

Membership. We are currently at 231 members with the goal remaining at 260. Discussion as to how to draw members in who have not renewed their memberships. Glen offered the strategy that

Washburn LA follows. They have a “welcome packet” that they present to new residents on the lake. Discussion as to how to get the names and addresses of those new to “neighborhoods” – as in property transfers. They offer those new folks a “free” membership to the LA for one year – and give them a copy of the most recent newsletter. They offer them opportunities to engage in activities and duties. They have business cards.

AIS/PLM results. Bob Lee reported that that he had pulled 13 plants by hand in one spot he found. There were 2 sites with extensive groups of Eurasian Milfoil – one on Bob’s own property and another spot closer to Darril’s property near Dean Parker. About 25 plants were found in front of Bob’s property – in shallow (3’ or less) water. PLM was concentrating on the drop off at about 5-7’ depth. Bob was finding them in much more shallow water. Bob will talk to PLM about what he has found.

Glen asked if we use PLM for both survey and treatment. We do. Washburn uses “Fresh Water” for their survey – then PLM for treatment. Discussion about the excellent relationship we have with PLM and the quality and quantity of correspondence with them.

Newsletter. Bob reported that he has “0” for the next newsletter. Then ideas came in fast. Gary and Sheila Langer will do an article. Sara Pennington has offered to submit an article about the Woods Bay AMA. Bob has photos of board members that need to go into the next newsletter. Bob Edy’s daughter will be reporting on the analytics of water quality. We need a photo to be included of each of the Raffle winners.

Website. Bob reported that he had removed the “store” option on the website – because we were not selling merchandise. Discussion was that it might be more efficient to write a check to pay dues and then indicate the milfoil fund for amounts over and above dues until Bob gets the “join” page fixed to his satisfaction.

Publicity. Linda and Kim had an hour and a half discussion about publicity on the phone. More will be forthcoming.

ILIDS. Mark offered to help Bob with the ILIDS and learn to use the diagnostic software.

Old Business: Mikie reported that the “Protected Bull Rush” signs were discouraging boaters from plowing through the bull rushes to keep the path clear. Except that there had been one speed boat observed by neighbors – and then one fishing boat observed by the Walkers. Mikie called the DNR – and was finally directed to our DNR liaison, Chelsea Best, who is the designated conservation officer for South Roosevelt. Chelsea directed Mikie to the Crow Wing Sheriff’s Office and Sergeant Todd Holck. If boat numbers are reported to Sergeant Holck, he will write a letter to the offending party to inform them that we try to protect native plants and they are not to continue to do that.

Chelsea Best said that she and her partner patrol South Roosevelt on a regular basis – but said that hence forth, they will try to be out more often and be more visible. They will support Mark in his

Water Patrol duties. Linda asked that Mikie e-mail board members with this information. It is good to have a reliable contact with the DNR and the Sheriff's office.

Glen reminded the Board that the Washburn LA shares the Water Patrol boat with us. Since there has been no Water Patrol on Roosevelt – they have had the boat to themselves. We will have to set up a shared plan. The boat is stored at Land O' Lakes Marine. He suggested that Mark contact Vicki Goodwin who is their Water Patrol person.

Roger will involve Dave Johnson (the new DNR liaison) in the discussion of muskies and get his participation underway.

New Business. Linda asked that we review the dates she had offered for Board meetings for 2020, those being: Friday, May 22 and June 19; July 4 for the Boat Parade (to begin at 1 p.m.); Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 25 at the CLT town hall (she will make reservation); Fridays August 21; then September 18. The Raffle will take place on Saturday, September 5. There may be a change of location for the Raffle. To be announced.

Random ideas for the Board to discuss: _____

Restructure board for projects and responsibilities.

Possibility of claiming an area along the highway for "Adopt a Highway" in RALALA's name

Bob Edy asked if we could think about lanyards – or some way of making ourselves look "official" if we are out going door-to-door soliciting memberships or delivering welcome packets

Linda announced the good news that Woods Bay AMA is being used as it was intended – as a Living Classroom. Students from Central Lakes College had been in there studying aquatic species, flora and fauna. DNR Interns were using it for the same purpose.

Roger made a motion to adjourn. John seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Mikie Walker, Secretary