

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2025
Crooked Lake Township Hall

Present (7): Bob Eddy, Diana Lee, Bob Lee, Lloyd Thyen, Bonnie McGowan, Betsy Skagen, Carolyn Gallagher

Absent (4): Gary Langer, Kim David, Mark Mosman, Lisa Bonafede

Welcome: Bob Eddy

Secretary's Report: Diana presented a draft of the August 16, 2025 board meeting minutes and no changes were requested.

Upon motion made by Bob Lee, seconded by Bonnie, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the August 16 board meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Diana presented financial statements (Income & Expense, Balance Sheet and Budget vs Actual), distributed prior to the meeting, for the month ended August 31, 2025.

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

Certificate of Deposit Renewal: Diana reported that the six-month term of the \$150,000 Certificate of Deposit at First Western Bank & Trust is maturing on September 28 and recommends receiving payment for the interest earned and rolling the principal into a new six-month CD.

Upon motion made by Bob Eddy, seconded by Lloyd, and unanimously carried, Diana Lee, as Treasurer of RALALA, is authorized to sign any and all documents required by First Western to extend the \$150,000 Certificate of Deposit for another 6 months at the rate offered by First Western on the date of renewal.

AIS Update: Bob Eddy shared a list showing RALALA's AIS-related costs so far this year for surveys, dives, launch site inspectors and milfoil treatment -- broken out for each of the four lakes. He noted that:

- The total of \$18,951 to date is significantly lower than budgeted for 2025
- The total cost this year should be largely covered by grants and cost-sharing agreements involving Cass County, City of Emily and Crooked Lake Township

- A new agreement was entered into with Crooked Lake Township whereby they will contribute to RALALA's AIS expenses via a grant vs. paying vendor invoices directly to the vendor
- In connection with RALALA's commitment to pay up to \$1,000 annually for decontamination unit maintenance (if maintenance becomes necessary), Lake Washburn Association has agreed to pay a portion of that cost if and when charges are incurred

Communication Regarding Zebra Mussels: Bob Lee reported he is working on creating a written communication relating to Lake Roosevelt's zebra mussel discovery so that RALALA members have as many facts as possible, along with recommendations on how to deal with the infestation, including tips for handling docks, lifts & boats. The message can then be posted on RALALA's website, social media, and printed in the newsletter. He indicated he will have a draft of the document completed within the next day or two and will send to the Board for review.

Bob Eddy stressed that there are many open questions relating to what actions RALALA can and/or should take concerning zebra mussels such as testing for veligers, tracking infestation locations, reporting those locations to members and/or DNR, MAISRC etc. It was agreed that more information is needed before the Board can decide on a plan of action, including the need to assess whether there is sufficient value resulting from the time, effort and cost involved in testing/tracking activities. Therefore, board members will continue to research the issues as well as seek advice and input via conversations with other lake associations that are dealing with the same situation.

Boat Launch Inspectors: Bob Eddy reported that 1,500 boat inspections took place mid-May through August at the Roosevelt launch site and 338 at the Lawrence Lake launch site, along with data on number of inspector days and hours.

Channel Depth Update: Bob Eddy reported that he is working on a written response to a lake property owner who has voiced concern about navigation challenges in the channel between Roosevelt and Lawrence. Once finalized, the communication can then be shared with all members via newsletter, email etc. The communication will include:

- General observations about the channel
- The need to assess whether the channel is actually getting significantly shallower or whether channel depth varies due to drought and seasonal weather conditions
- What steps RALALA is taking, including measuring depths over the course of the year, obtaining cost estimates on dredging or other possible

remedies, identifying what approvals would be needed to alter the channel etc.

Open Action Items of Board Members: Diana distributed an updated Open Action Item list containing task assignments, and a discussion took place as to what has been accomplished since the last meeting and what items to add to the list. Bob Eddy indicated he will set up monthly meetings all winter so that we can track progress on projects and tasks that need to be accomplished.

Newsletter: Betsy listed off the article topics anticipated for the next newsletter and, after discussion, the following schedule was agreed to with regard to desirable publication dates:

- For Fall/Winter 2025, deadline for article submissions is October 20 (striving for December 2-6 print date)
- Spring 2026: May 1 print date
- Summer 2026: August 1 print date
- Fall/Winter 2026: December 1 print date

Betsy recommended that the newsletter contain a Calendar of Events that would include not only RALALA-related event dates (annual meeting, highway cleanup etc.) but also community events scheduled in Outing and Emily. The Board agreed that it would be very useful to members and something they can save and reference.

Adjournment:

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

Prepared by:
Diana Lee, Secretary