

RALALA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2025

Via WebEx

Present (10): Bob Eddy, Gary Langer, Diana Lee, Kim David, Bob Lee, Lloyd Thyen, Mary De Hanson, Carolyn Gallagher, Bonnie McGowan, Betsy Skagen

Absent (3): Cyrus Malbari, Mark Mosman, Darril Wegscheid

Also present: Lissa Bonafede

Welcome: Bob Eddy

Secretary's Report: Diana presented a draft of the April 17, 2025 board meeting minutes and no changes were requested.

Upon motion made by Bob Lee, seconded by Mary De, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the April 17 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 April 30, 2025.

Upon motion made by Gary, seconded by Mary De, and unanimously carried, the financial statements were approved as distributed.

In connection with projected income for 2025, Gary reported that two sources of financial assistance received in 2024 will not be provided in 2025:

- Cass County provided a \$2,500 grant for AIS treatments in 2024, but will not be doing so in 2025 due to the State of Minnesota's proposal to cut 50% from County AIS Prevention Aid. Cass County, however, will continue contributing a grant in an amount equal to 50% of AIS survey expenses, as they did in 2024.
- Crooked Lake Township paid \$9,640 to vendors in 2024 for AIS surveys, milfoil treatment, and inspector hours, and has now indicated they will pay nothing toward AIS-related expenses in 2025. This will shift the responsibility for nearly \$10,000 of such costs to RALALA.

After discussion, it was agreed that a conference call would be scheduled for the budget committee to brainstorm ideas for ways to increase revenue enough to make up for these actions by Cass County and Crooked Lake Township, since AIS-related expenses are not expected to decrease. There was also discussion

around whether to revise the budget, but was tabled until after the budget committee meets.

Newsletter Status: Betsy reported that the spring newsletter is complete. Kim noted the only step left is for Lakes Printing to insert its advertisement, and after doing so, Lakes will send the final version to her and others on the board for approval before it is mailed and posted on the website.

There was discussion about extra copies needed for Emily Day (15), Corn Feed (25) and Bonnie's new member solicitation packets (25). Gary agreed to get a price from Lakes Printing on the cost of extra printed copies and will order a supply of extras assuming the cost to do so is reasonable.

Membership Drive Status: Diana reported that as of May 15, 60 family members and 9 business members have submitted dues payments and donations.

Gary requested an analysis as to how the amount of EQPI contributions coming in compare to the amounts received last year. After discussion, it was determined it's too early to determine a "trend", and that this could be done after a more significant number of members have paid.

Gary also requested that a list be created of property owners who paid memberships in 2022 and/or 2023, but not in 2024 so that those can be targeted for additional encouragement. It was acknowledged that a number of those people have sold their property and moved.

Bob Lee agreed to create lists of (a) past members who did not rejoin in 2024; and (b) a list of properties that were sold and now have new owners. Bonnie offered to assist with soliciting both unpaid members as well as new property owners and Lloyd offered to assist with contacting "unpaid" homeowners on Lawrence Lake.

Point of Sale System: Bob Lee reported that, after some research, he is focusing on two systems (Zettle by PayPal and Go Daddy Payments) that appear to have the capability of being smoothly integrated into our website software, and would accomplish our goals. His criteria included:

- Enhancing RALALA's ability to receive modern forms of payment (credit cards, ApplePay etc.) both in person at events and also online via RALALA's website
- Finding a system that will easily integrate into the GoDaddy software used to create our website without the need to write new code or pay a high price for programming services

- Implementing a system with minimal hardware and software components (creating minimal updating and maintenance burdens on our volunteers)
- Creating a system that imposes as few administrative burdens as possible (particularly for the webmaster and treasurer)

Bob Lee indicated he will contact our Go Daddy account representative with his questions, get pricing information, and will send a recommendation to the Board in the near future.

AIS Surveys & Treatment Methodology: Bob Eddy referenced his recent meeting with James Johnson (Freshwater), David Hillstrom (PLM), Steve Henry (Cass County Soil & Water) and other board members, at which they discussed the process RALALA has been using to address AIS, and at which the suggestion was made that a late summer AIS survey may be advantageous in addition to the early summer survey. In light of that suggestion, Bob Eddy received an updated Proposal and Services Agreement from Freshwater that includes a late summer milfoil survey for Roosevelt and Lawrence Lakes at a cost of \$3,680. Bob stressed that RALALA will not be obligated to pay for, or move forward with, the second survey even though it's included in the agreement. It was agreed that we will make that determination after we see the spring survey results and evaluate the success of the 2024 treatment.

Upon motion made by Lloyd, seconded by Carolyn, and unanimously carried, the above-referenced Proposal and Services Agreement between RALALA and Freshwater, including a proposed late summer survey, was approved and Bob Eddy was authorized to sign the document on behalf of RALALA.

After discussion, it was agreed that:

- Based on the results of the early summer survey and the extent of follow-up milfoil treatment, and based on further consultation with PLM and Freshwater after those are completed, the Board will then readdress this issue and decide whether to move forward with the \$3,680 second survey.
- Gary offered to submit a request to Cass County to obtain a commitment from them to pay 50% of the second survey cost in the event RALALA authorizes Freshwater to perform the second survey.

Upcoming Events and RALALA Calendar: Bob Eddy reviewed upcoming events and important dates, including:

- Highway cleanup on May 17 at 9:00am
- Monthly water testing begins on May 18

Gary added:

- Decontamination unit demonstration at Lake Roosevelt boat launch area scheduled for June 14 at 10:00am. Lake Washburn Association will promote the event as well.
- Watercraft Training for 12-17 year-olds scheduled for June 19 9:00am-Noon at The Channel

New Member Process: Bonnie raised the issue of planning a picnic and asked for input on dates, location etc. After discussion, she agreed to look into how to reserve space at Luscher's Park or Little Emily Lake Park and to present a plan at the next board meeting including date options, menu options, cost estimates etc. Bob Eddy will arrange a WebEx call to further discuss and will include those willing to help with the planning.

I-Lid Installation: Bob Eddy reported that the I-Lids have been installed and that he was able to replace the Lawrence Lake batteries without requiring professional assistance.

Summer Board Meetings: Bob Eddy reminded the board that the June 19, July 17 and September 18 board meetings will be held in person at CLT Township Hall at 1:00pm

Adjournment:

Upon motion made by Gary, seconded by Betsy, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by:
Diana Lee, Secretary