

RALALA Board Meeting Minutes – July 30, 2016

The RALALA Board of Directors convened at the home of Bob Lee in Emily, Minnesota on July 30, 2016. The following members attended: Bob Lee, Linda VanStraaten, Roger Brekken, Jackie Evans, Gary Langer, Denny Neill, Anne Bonnerup, Rollie Maki, John Rowell and Darril Wegscheid. Absent: Mikie Walker

Bob Lee called the meeting to order.

Roger Brekken moved to approve the minutes from June 29, 2016., as amended. Darril Wegscheid seconded. The minutes were approved.

The Financial report was provided by John Rowell.

1. Banking—	PRSB Checking	\$ 155.15
	Savings	<u>\$ 25,489.97</u>
	Accounts Total	\$25,645.12

With the current acreage of milfoil infestation, we should not need additional money to cover treatment this year, but this could change after surveying is complete. There followed discussions of the ability to move money from one budget area to another to support new projects and a discussion of the status of business advertising revenues.

Darril Wegscheid motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Roger Brekken seconded. The motion was approved.

Bob discussed the possibility of additional board members. Two members have offered to serve on the board and they will be contacted.

There was further discussion of having restricted funds; i.e., the need to keep separate accounts of restricted funds, if money is designated only for milfoil treatment for example. Concerns were expressed that the monies should be kept flexible to treat anything else that may appear in the lakes, i.e. zebra mussels.

The board was encouraged not to discuss the exact location of the milfoil infestation to prevent boats being driven through it and pieces breaking off.

The DNR will apparently not announce the milfoil find on Roosevelt, because they are only announcing zebra mussel and starry stonewort infestations.

We will need to apply for permit from the DNR to be approved before we can treat.

The price of 650 feet of lakeshore in Cass County has been dropped to \$29,900. The consensus was that the membership needs the money for other projects and we should not pursue this possible land acquisition.

At the last meeting, it was authorized to apply to the Emily Waters Committee and the Emily City Council for 150 hours on a 50/50 basis to pay inspectors. Bob filed this application and it was approved with certain conditions which were acceptable to us. Bob Lee has looked for inspectors but none of the existing inspectors at Roosevelt are willing to do more hours. He found 1 inspector who works on Ruth

Lake (he is an employee of ERC in Brainerd who is willing to work some additional hours for us. This has not happened yet as the City of Emily and ERC need to work on a contract. Darril Wegscheid will assist with getting this underway. We may get 60 additional hours out of this

Bob Lee raised the issue of fishing contests with the Crooked Lake AIS Committee. He reported that the DNR regulates only some contests and the rules are quite complex. They are not obligated to notify local governments. The rest of the contests are regulated by the county sheriffs, but they do not routinely advise anyone when they grant a permit so the word does not get to those who are running the inspector or decontamination programs. Bob will discuss the situation with Jeff Forester. This should also be discussed at the next DNR meeting. Members of the board need to keep an eye out for fishing tournaments for notice to communities.

Bob has had a request from Lloyd Thyen to survey Lawrence as well as Roosevelt for milfoil. This would cost another couple of thousand dollars. The current runs from Lawrence to Roosevelt and due to the serpentine nature of the channel, the wind is unlikely to push anything through.

The DNR promised the milfoil survey to be done by the end of the week and give a report. They have only done a small portion of South Roosevelt so far. They have found nothing other than what Bob showed them so far. A chart of the PLM preliminary finding was distributed. PLM estimates the milfoil has been there about 2 years. The bid from PLM is to treat areas marked 5.66 acres with an average depth of 6.19 feet with trichlorpyr which will wipe out nearly 100% of the milfoil in this area. The alternative is 2, 4, D which is cheaper, but not recommended because 2,4,D is not as effective and will damage native plants in the area. Bob Holman of the Washburn Lake Association said they used trichlorpyr and it was very effective.

This will be a permanent management issue and we will probably have to spend money every year to control the milfoil. Washburn spent about \$40,000 to control their milfoil.

We have a bid of \$3200 from PLM to do a comprehensive survey of Roosevelt. Bob indicated that the DNR says it will do a survey at their cost, but that given our experience with the DNR so far, he is not sure he can recommend that we rely on them to figure out what is there and needs to be treated. After discussion, Linda VanStraaten motioned to hire PLM to do a survey, Anne Bonnerup seconded.

Discussion ensued about where to apply for grants and how to raise additional funds to treat milfoil. Bob advised that Nicole Kovar had told him that the DNR money for milfoil treatment has been exhausted and that you should apply immediately at the beginning of next year for help. Bob has also talked to Cass County which may be able to supply some funds for this year's treatment. Bob also said that he had asked the Crooked Lake Township AIS Committee for help but that they were non-committal and indicated they would consider this when they have the numbers from us. It might be possible to ask for more help from Emily, but need to wait to see what survey shows. The cost to treat what has been discovered to date will be \$10,523.58 (not including the \$3200 for the survey). Darril Wegscheid made a motion to hire PLM to treat whatever is found and to authorize Bob to apply to the DNR for approval to treat the milfoil found. Roger Brekken seconded and the board approved. Treatment takes 21 to 45 days.

Bob Lee also asked for permission to take the survey results to seek grants for funding of treatment of invasive species. Darril Wegscheid motioned, Roger Brekken seconded, the board approved.

Bob indicated that we need to consider training ourselves to find the milfoil. Linda VanStraaten suggested the water patrol assign that as another task to be trained for. Bob Lee indicated that his fishing boat is equipped with a GPS chart plotter, that he would attempt to survey Lawrence and welcomed anyone who wants to help him do so. Anything suspicious would be reported to PLM who will be asked to verify.

Public notice—Roger Brekken spoke about doing a letter to the editor about finding milfoil on Roosevelt and asking for help to find and contribute to Ralala's perpetual management of the milfoil of the lake. If not properly managed, property values have gone down elsewhere. It can be managed. WAPOA was mentioned as a possible resource for training. Roger Brekken, Linda VanStraaten and Anne Bonnerup will form a subcommittee with Bob Lee to discuss new fundraising initiatives.

Membership—Darril Wegscheid wanted more aggressive seeking of Morrison Lake membership. Bob pointed out that Morrison is not listed in the lakes which RALALA is charged with protecting and preserving and that we would need to change the articles to fully include Morrison Lake. Darril stated that if the Articles need to be changed, it might be worth including not just Morrison Lake but the watershed as a whole.

As of last night there were 113-118 members. Given the current milfoil issue we need to seek out members and start talking to people in person. Darril will send out a list of non-members for each director to solicit in his or her immediate area. He also asked that the board congratulate Bob Lee on all the work he has done in the last year for Ralala.

Old business—Linda VanStraaten asked the village about a sandwich board and was told to just do it. Linda suggests one for the median in Outing and one for Blue Lake road. \$ 250 was budgeted for promotion. There is a need to do research about lettering etc.

There was discussion about whether we could gate the landings. Bob pointed out that the landing on Roosevelt is owned by the DNR and they won't allow gates on landing on their land. Their position is that their mission is to keep all lakes open to the public. They will refuse any request for gates.

Gary Langer reported on how we are currently doing with respect to raffle sales. He indicated that we will probably hit the budgeted amount, but we need to discuss revamping the fund raiser at the end of the year.

Roger Brekken moved to adjourn. Denny Neill seconded. Approved.

Prepared by Jackie Evans