

ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
www.rocklake.org

Minutes for September 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Commons Park, outdoors

1) Call to Order – 6:30 p.m. Members present: Jim Colegrove, Nathan Pyles, Bruce Ward, Sharr Webster, Ralph DePasquale, John Crump, Stan Smoniewski, Susan Trier Guests: Patricia Cicero, Anita Martin, Carol Burrows Absent: Mike Nesemann, John Thode

2) Good News Minute – Meeting participants shared recent good news.

3) Motion to accept the agenda made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

4) Election of the new Board Members:

- President: John Crump
- Vice President: Susan Trier
- Treasurer: Jim Colegrove
- Secretary: Mike Nesemann

5) Assignment of Committee Chairs

- Water Quality/Agriculture: Nathan
- Water Quality/Public Services (streets, recycling): Jim
- Water Quality/Shoreline: Susan
- Water Quality/Water Sampling: Open
- Public Outreach/Education: Stan, Susan
- Habitat: Fisheries: Bruce All others: Sharr
- Membership: Ralph
- Lake Recreation: Ralph

4) Secretary's Report – Motion to approve July 2020 meeting minutes (which a date change) made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

5) Treasure's Report-- We had a one year CD mature on 9/10/20 which Susan rolled over. With the change in presidency, John Crump will have to go the Bank of Lake Mills and sign the paperwork and Wes Dawson will have to go and remove himself from the paperwork to make the transition effective. Jim had two checks to submit: one to Wallflower for the Annual Stewardship Award; and one for Geerds to reimburse him for some expenses in the Eagle Scout AIS project. Jim also mentioned his desire to transition off of Treasurer within his current term. He had previously outlined his responsibilities for the position which are included here:

- Write checks for expenses, however the treasurer is NOT a signer on any of the accounts this is standard accounting practice in small organizations and provides clear separation of duties and a check and balance system
- Track income and expenses, balance accounts to bank statements, I use a program called Quicken to track and manage our books there are others that can be used
- Deposit moneys collected from fund raising and memberships
- Report monthly on status of accounts, income and expenditures like the ones I have attached to this email.

- Check PO Box on a regular basis. Once or twice a week most of the year, more frequently after our appeal letter goes out to solicit memberships and donations March to June time frame.
- Track memberships, I use Microsoft Excel Workbook spreadsheet with tabs for each year
- Send out Thank you letters to renewing members and donors. I use a mail merge feature in Microsoft Word tied to the Excel workbook and a yearly form letter which I believe all of you should have received from me for your membership
- Send out annual meeting postcards to members, work with Leader Printing and our membership list
- Compile a Yearend report to present at the annual meeting for membership approval
- Lead an internal audit of bookkeeping accounting with at least two other board members. This protects both the treasurer and the board from fraud, another check and balance and standard accounting practice. This happens every other year or every year if we have received a Grant for some lake related study or project.
- File tax related documents for RLIA with the state and Fed as required by law
- All this takes varying amounts of time depending on the time of year. This can be as high as several hours a night following our appeal letter for memberships to as low as an hour or two a month if little activity is happening with the group.
- Hold past accounting records as an ongoing archive and history of the organizations accounting. This is in a “bankers” box

6) Public Comment(s)/Correspondence – The board received a thank you from Glenn Zastrow for the Annual Stewardship Award. Jim will get Sharr, Bruce and John C on *Lake Tides* distribution list. Carol Burrows recommended that RLIA should strive to provide more easily accessible information for riparian residents on shoreland requirements.

7) Committee Reports

a) Water Quality

i) Agricultural: Nathan. No news.

ii) Public Streets: Jim mentioned that our Leaf Free flyer will be sent to all residents who receive utilities through the city. This includes town residents who use sewer. The flyer will be in color and will be sent in the October billing. Jim would like the letter to be updated for the 2021 season. He would like board members to be on the lookout for good photos this season to be used in the updated letter.

iii) Residential: No News.

iv) Water Sampling: No News.

b) Public Outreach: No News.

c) Habitat: No News.

d) Membership: No News.

e) Lake Recreation: No News.

8) Other Reports:

a) County--Patricia updated the board on: some of the recently installed AIS tools at the town boat launches have been stolen; the Fremont resident who clear cut their shoreland is ordering plants and have not yet applied for the Conditional Use Permit from the city; A north side resident on Schultz Bay used a firm to remove aquatic plants without a permit. The DNR is

reviewing and it is anticipated that a fine will be issued. The extraction method was DASH: Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting; The Cedars have applied for a Conditional Use Permit from the city. Patricia, Ryan Glassmaker (county engineer), city representatives and Cedar members met and reviewed options along the shoreland, the city maintained stormwater infiltration basin, and the Cedar's kettle. Patricia will be documenting the recommendations to all stakeholders.

b) JRLC-- Changing the No-Wake-Off-Shore-Distance: Stan discussed the JRLC's desire to change the No-Wake-Off-Shore-Distance to 200' throughout Rock Lake and their interest in whether RLIA would support the effort. No decision was made. Discussions touched on: the increasing use of wake boats; the increasing numbers of kayakers, paddleboarders and open water swimmers on the east side and the potential for a safety incident; water skiers tendency to come close to shore looking for flat water; enforcement of the change; public awareness campaign for the change; whether a lake can have more restrictive laws (yes, both Lake Ripley and Lake Mendota have more restrictive No-Wake-Off-Shore-Distance zoning.)

9) Old Business:

a) Review letter to sellers and realtors—A motion was made, seconded and approved to send a letter to riparian homeowners/lot owners who are putting up shoreland property for sale. A letter will also be sent to the listing agent. The project will be managed through the Water Quality: Residential Committee with a spreadsheet and monitoring Zillow. Jim offered to help print out letters with the wavy letterhead. This project will be reviewed after a year to review the logistics/manageability, the effectiveness and perceived value.

b) Discuss "carrying capacity" – Stan outlined to the board his thoughts on "carrying capacity":

Carrying capacity refers to the ability of Rock Lake to safely manage recreational utilization in the form of boating. All figures pertaining to Rock Lake are only estimates made by a novice and should be confirmed before using for any purpose.

The definitive study for a water resource's carrying capacity was done on Lake Ripley, our neighbor. In 2003, Lake Ripley Watercraft Census & Recreational Carrying Capacity Analysis was carried out by the Lake Ripley Management District.

[http:// www.lakeripley.org/files/lake_ripley_carrying_capacity_report.pdf](http://www.lakeripley.org/files/lake_ripley_carrying_capacity_report.pdf)

There are 2 basic sets of data used to understand lake carrying capacity. 1) What is the usable lake area? 2) How much space does an active boater need? Usable Lake Area: Rock Lake is 1370 acres. I grossly estimate that if we take out a buffer of 200 feet around our shoreline, and our Slow-no-wake areas for active boaters, we are left with 20% less surface area--or approximately 1,100 acres. Active Boater Need: an active boater is defined as having a boat larger than 5 HP. Waterskiing, tubing, and similar activity needs are estimated at 30 to 40 acres per boat. This space approximation considers safety and the user experience. Boats that are simply idling around the lake are estimated to need 10 acres per boat. So using 30 acres per boat for active boating, Rock Lake could handle 37 boats, or 138 idling boats on all of Rock Lake. In 2003, and again in 2020, RLIA carried out a watercraft census on Rock Lake. On the afternoon of a busy Holiday weekend, (7/5/03) Rock Lake had 203 boats on the water. On a Sunday morning (7/5/20) after a busier Friday and Saturday of a Holiday weekend, Rock Lake had 67 boats on the water, about 47 of which were active boaters. Holidays and warm summer weekends are the most popular boating times. If our main concern is safety, less boats during the peak periods must be considered. A main issue seems to be Sandy beach. Their boat trailer parking spills out on the streets

and into Rotary park. On 7/5/03 there were 66 Parked Trailers and on 7/5/20 there were 39 Parked Trailers at the peak on that day. I think Sandy Beach has 16 official boat trailer parking spots.

The board decided to continue the conversation during our next board meeting.

10) New Business:

a) RLIA letter of support for filling the Water Resources Management Specialist in the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department-- After discussion a motion was made, seconded, approved to send an email to the Jefferson Finance Committee and County representatives for the city and town of Lake Mills advocating for the full funding of the Water Resources Management Specialist.

b) Storm Drain Steward Program-- Due to time constraints, the board pushed this discussion to the October meeting.

c) Set up group to develop zoning brochure for New Home Owner packet-- Coordinate with JRLC. Due to time constraints, the board pushed this discussion to the October meeting.

11) Next Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Location: Zoom. Nathan will be setting up the meeting.

12) Adjourn – A motion was made to adjourn, which was seconded and unanimously passed.