

## ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

[www.rocklake.org](http://www.rocklake.org)

Minutes for September 16, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.,

City of Lake Mills City Hall, 200 Water Street, Lake Mills, WI 53551

1) **Call to Order** – 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Jim Colegrove, Wes Dawson, Mike Nesemann, Stan Smoniewski, Bonnie Nolan, Nathan Pyles, John Crump, John Thode

Absent: Susan Trier, Ralph DePasquale

Guests: Patricia Cicero

2) **Welcome New and Returning Board Members**

3) **Motion to accept the agenda** Made by Jim, seconded, and unanimously approved.

4) **Good News Minute** – Meeting participants shared recent good news

5) **Secretary's Report** – Motion to approve August 2019 minutes and August Annual Meeting minutes made by Nathan, seconded, and unanimously approved.

6) **Treasure's Report** Jim. Referred to August's financial reports distributed previously by email – no questions.

7) **Public Comment(s)/Correspondence** –

Jim received a newsletter from [Groundswell](#), a land trust active in Dane County and the surrounding area.

8) **Election of Officers:**

President. Nathan made a motion to nominate and elect Wes President. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Vice-President. Nathan made a motion to nominate and elect Susan Vice-President. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Secretary. Nathan made a motion to nominate and elect Mike Secretary. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurer. Mike made a motion to nominate and elect Jim Treasure. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

9) **Committee Reports**

a) **Water Quality**

i) Agricultural

Nathan referred the Board to the 2019 report by Alana Herro on conservation farming

practices in Wisconsin, with particular emphasis on cover cropping and no-till or minimum till tillage practices. He felt this would be very useful information. He also referred to a follow-up meeting with Daybreak re their involvement in a producer led network – they seemed very interested and the manager of the supply chain would know many local farmers but senior management will have to approve.

ii) Public Streets. Jim confirmed that the city will again insert our flier on keeping leaves off the streets. They had requested B&W instead of color citing reproduction costs but apparently that will not be an issue next year, allowing us to include more info and graphics on issues like algae blooms. Asked if his committee works with the town as well as the city, he said that although both are in the committee's purview, the focus has been on the city which collects the leaves rather than the town, where it is more of an individual's responsibility.

A discussion ensued re drainage issues in the town, specifically regarding Shorewood Hills Road. Patricia reminded the Board that drainage issues are addressed in the current Rock Lake Management Plan.

iii) Residential.

1) Susan was absent but had alerted the Board to the expansion of eligibility for Healthy Lakes shoreline restoration grants to properties within 1000 feet of lake shore. She asked the Board to consider expanding our recruitment efforts (including mailing of post cards) for this program to include riparian owners (approximately 350 properties) and people living on the opposite side of roads running along the lake, but also anyone residing within 1000 feet of the shoreline. A discussion ensued re the logistical feasibility of this, the additional costs involved, and even whether paper mailing was even effective. John T. suggested looking at contacting owners who have applied for permits to do property work, reasoning they would be more likely to be interested as they are already planning on making changes. At the end of the discussion, Stan made a motion to send postcards encouraging participation in Healthy Lakes program to riparian owners and people living on the opposite side of the street, with a limit of \$1,000.

2) Stan and Nathan are working on addressing construction site erosion.

iv) Water Sampling. Ralph was absent but Patricia handed out a detailed proposal (see attached) for water quality monitoring in the Rock Lake watershed. She explained that the term "internal phosphorous loading" referred to phosphorous (Pi) generated by the lake itself rather than Pi added to the lake from external sources. Below 30 feet there is little oxygen so processes like decomposing biomass down there generates Pi. This is especially problematic in fall and spring when there is little temperature gradient between the upper and lower strata of the lake and thus there is mixing of the layers with a resultant spread of the Pi which can lead to things like algae blooms. It has not been a big problem here in the past (unlike Lake Ripley) but the DNR data is a bit old and this is something we need to monitor. Jefferson Co is already sharing equipment and costs with the DNR but additional funding is needed. Patricia estimated that after the initial startup costs, it would cost less than \$700/yr to continue the described testing regimen. Jim made

a motion to allocate up to \$2,000 for the first year with funding for continuing costs to be considered later. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**b) Public Outreach.** Stan noted there were few people at the recent informal gathering and that issues discussed included the drop in attendance at the annual meeting. Susan sent out an email to all members re “leaves getting blown into the lake.”

**c) Habitat** – No chairman.

**d) Membership and Lake Recreation** – Bonnie discussed the recent drop in family memberships and that we are currently at 136 total members. Jim pointed out that we had a membership of > 200 at our highest, but usually ran 150- 175.

#### 10) Other Reports.

**a) County.** Patricia has been in email contact with the DNR fish biologist re a fall electric fishing survey. They used to issue a report after every survey, but for some reason this was stopped in 2016. She will see if we can’t get that data. She reported that we are due for a comprehensive fish survey in 2020 – usually done every 5 years. There is special interest in this because Rock Lake receives extended growth walleye stocking. She has heard that the survey may be delayed and will investigate. Finally, she noted there was a bass fishing tournament last weekend, something the sponsors would like to make an annual event. She discussed providing information on Aquatic Invasive Species to participants next year and the organizers seemed interested.

**b) JRLC.** Stan.

There was an informal sense that fish production is down but no hard data. A committee member noted 2 possibly illegal piers being put in on the south east side of the lake. Sandy Beach was closed twice this summer due to bacterial levels.. Apparently, the city closes the beach for a week in these situations to let the levels drop rather than performing more frequent testing which might allow the beach to be opened more quickly.

#### 9) Old Business

- a) We are registered for the Fall Festival – a signup sheet was passed around for volunteers.
- b) Storm Drain Protection program. Pending.

#### 10) New Business

Committee chairs and members selection.

##### Water Quality

- i) Agriculture. Chair Nathan. Members: John T, John C, Susan, Wes (ex officio), Stan, Patricia (advisor)
- ii) Public Streets. Chair Jim. Members: John T., John C, Stan
- iii) Residential. Chair Susan. Members: Bonnie, Mike, Cynthia Chmell, Stan

iv) Water Sampling. Chair Ralph. Members: John T, Wes (ex officio)  
Public Outreach. Chairs Susan & Stan. Members: Mike & Susan Nesemann, Bob & Sue  
Volenic, Bonnie, John and Shelly McCoy, Meghan Gauger  
Habitat. Chair none.  
Membership and Lake Recreation. Chair Bonnie. Members: Jim, Ralph

- 11) **Adjourn** – Nathan made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded and unanimously passed at 7:50 p.m.
- 12) **Next Meeting:** Monday, October 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., Lake Mills City Hall