

ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

www.rocklake.org

Minutes for April 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.,

This meeting was a virtual one held on Microsoft Teams platform

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, Ralph DePasquale
Guests: Patricia Cicero, Anita Martin

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

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

4) **Secretary's Report** – Motion to approve March 2020 meeting minutes made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

5) **Treasure's Report** Jim referred to the upcoming maturity of one of our CDs and the need to roll it over. Wes wasn't sure it's possible with the banks being closed. There were no questions re March's financial reports distributed previously by email.

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

Jim received the latest [Rock River Reflections](#). He also advised that we have reservations for the Korth Park shelter on 8/15/2020 for our Annual Meeting, depending on the pandemic situation.

Anita raised the issue of how the bacterial counts obtained from the beaches will be handled and wondered if it could be put on next month's agenda. Wes said the JRLC will be addressing that.

7) **Committee Reports**

a) **Water Quality**

i) Agricultural Nathan summarized a meeting he and Wes had with Wade Moder of the [Upper Sugar River Watershed Association](#) re how to organize a producer led group. Their sense was that trying to establish a strictly Rock Lake watershed organization would not be feasible for us and it was more realistic to work with Michelle Scarpace and the Jefferson County group. Apparently of about the 40 interested Jefferson County producers, there are 20 or so ready to commit. This group includes 2 farms in the Rock Lake watershed, 1 of which is amongst the three largest active farms in the watershed. Their organizing efforts have been put on hold by the COVID-19 outbreak and they are currently not a legally recognized organization and thus cannot apply for grants, etc. Daybreak is supportive in general, but their senior management is understandably

consumed by their extensive expansion project. Mr. Moder also cautioned that this would be a long term project and not to expect it to really get off the ground for several years.

Nathan made a two-part motion whose final form, after much discussion was: 1) to offer up to \$1,000 for reimbursement of expenses necessary to organize the group, e.g., business cards, meeting expenses, etc. and 2) the expenses would be reimbursed through Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department with RLIA vetting the expenses before transferring the money to Jefferson County. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

ii) Public Streets. Jim said a Boy Scout is committed to doing the drain marking project as part of his Eagle Scout program and is currently working with the City Council to get it done this summer. Another scout would like to do a project making and installing signs about invasive aquatic species at all the Rock Lake boat landings.

iii) Residential.

- John T's article on construction is pending.

- Susan said a planned breakfast for this fall was postponed due to CoVid.

iv) Water Sampling. The testing program is on hold, both training and the actual program, because of COVID-19.

b) Public Outreach.

i. John Crump described a very successful "Science on Tap" program he'd attended when he lived in Minocqua. UW experts came up and gave presentations at a local brewery. The presentations were videotaped and can be accessed online. Questions were raised re whether the presenters were paid, expenses to be covered, etc. For now, Stan will set up some links on our website to the recorded presentations and the matter will be revisited once the pandemic situation clarifies.

ii. Dashboard. How to show progress (or the lack thereof) of the Lake Management Plan goals in an easy to understand graphic format was discussed.

iii. Homeowners' packets. Patricia will see when her contact at the County can provide Susan an updated listing of riparian owners.

iv. Posting of JRLC fish article on the web site. The Committee agreed the JRLC article on the 2014 DNR fish survey should be posted, the survey itself is already posted. The next survey was scheduled for this year, but it seems very likely to be postponed. Everyone agreed, anecdotally, that the quantity and quality of fish has dropped over time.

c) Habitat – Wes reported that all the fish stick cables had broken, which he removed, and that the sticks are now at about a 45 degree angle with the shore.

d) Membership and Lake Recreation – Bonnie asked if we should use a totally new letter or make some edits and add updated pictures to last year's. The committee recommended the latter.

8) Other Reports.

a) **County.** Patricia said the COVID-19 situation has prevented any training of new Clean Boats/Clean Water inspectors, although we are lucky 2 of last year's inspectors have signed on again for this year. But as inspections are highly interactive, it remains to be seen when that type of activity will be allowed. She said she had been contacted by someone complaining about problems with upkeep of the recently installed dirt bike trails at Tyranena Park, as well as a near collision between a walker and biker. She will contact the City Council. The osprey are back at Korth – she was questioned about putting up a “no not disturb” sign again this year, but a DNR expert had told her it wasn't necessary.

b) **JRLC. Stan.**

At the March 3rd meeting they discussed the difficulty of finding all the City's lake zoning regulations, as they appear to be spread over several areas. It was decided that the Town would not add language about the popular large floating mats to their lake Ordinance as it is sufficiently covered in the existing language. They also discussed the development on the south side of the City, where 42 new homes are to be built and were told there should be no ill effects on the lake.

9) Old Business

a) Environmental Clean-up. We cannot sponsor group activities as in the past, but Ralph will contact the City re placement of a dumpster at Bartel's to deposit debris and garlic mustard. He will also write an announcement for our web page and FB.

10) New Business

a) Storm drain stewardship program. There was a discussion of exactly what this entails, e.g., what exactly are stewards responsible for, necessary training, etc? Patricia will email some examples of successful programs elsewhere.

b) Educational programs/projects for youth. Given that everyone is forced to stay home, Susan thought the time was right to introduce some web-based environmental learning programs. Storm water management was mentioned and Wes had distributed some information on that previously. Susan also wondered about launching a monthly newsletter along the lines of Friends of Korth Park. Besides interesting nature articles, she wondered if members would submit brief reviews of nature themed books they'd liked. Several questions were raised, including how this publication would relate to the RLIA, the frequency of the newsletter, would it be year round, etc?

c) Town and Country Days. Cancelled for this year.

d) Candidates for the 4 Board vacancies coming up this year, and we need candidates for the Lake Stewardship Award. Mike volunteered to chair the nomination committee and John T. and Stan volunteered to assist. They will submit requests for both for posting on the web page and FB.

11) Next Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Location: TBD.

12) Adjourn – John T made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded and unanimously passed at 8:45 p.m.