

ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

www.rocklake.org

Minutes for June 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Lake Mills City Hall

1) **Call to Order** – 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Jim Colegrove, Wes Dawson, Mike Nesemann, Bonnie Nolan, Nathan Pyles, John Crump, John Thode, Susan Trier
Guests: Patricia Cicero, Bruce Ward, Sharron Webster
Absent: Stan Smoniewski, Ralph DePasquale

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 May 2020 meeting minutes made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

5) **Treasure's Report** Jim.

He noted a discrepancy of \$10.50 with the CDs due to an accounting issue with Quicken and data entry and will correct it and send the numbers out.

Submitted a reimbursement check for postage of \$7.70 to Wes for signing.

Noted that about 15 of the 515 membership drive letters were returned due to address issues, he referred them to Bonnie.

Dispersed \$712.08 to the Leader for the membership letters (included postage).

We received about \$10 from Amazon Smile. He suggested we include a link to Amazon Smile on our FB page and website.

Mail consisted of latest issue of [Lake Tides](#).

6) **Public Comment(s)/Correspondence** –
Sharron and Bruce introduced themselves.

7) **Committee Reports**

a) **Water Quality**

i) Agricultural Nathan. No news, awaiting info from Jefferson Co. group.

ii) Public Streets.

1. John C and John T met with Town Board Chair Hope Oostdik re the Town Ordinances and Shorewood Hill building permits. They confirmed an absence of guidelines re runoff.

2. Jim said the Eagle Scout wants to move ahead with the storm drain stewardship project

but has to check with the City re appropriate “physical distancing” during CoVid.

iii) Residential.

1. Construction. The Town follows County guidelines re shoreline construction, which in turn mirror the State’s i.e., any kind of work within 75 feet of the shore must have a permit as would any new boathouses, and a view corridor that can be 35% of the width of the lot. Enforcement is by the County. Erosion Control Plans are currently overseen by consulting building inspector Chris Butchske of Safe-Built, but they are looking at having the Town consulting Civil Engineer (Cory Horton of R.A. Smith) review and approve all Town Erosion Control Plans.

The City does not follow County guidelines and its regulations are less stringent, with variable interpretation and enforcement. It would be good to review the zoning code. John C and John T hope to meet with City Council member Vicki Schmidt re concerns about how there might need to be additional shoreland protections given the amount of shoreland cutting that has occurred. Patricia asked if she could attend that meeting.

2. Communication to riparian owners regarding the regulations pertaining to the regulations 75 ft buffer zone. Hope reported that the town communicated this information to riparian owners by placing an information sheet in the welcome packet distributed to all new owners and a discussion ensued re how to enhance the flow of information as well as how to check on riparian properties in the process of being sold.

John C moved that RLIA allocate up to \$1000 annually to fund the sending out of a note or letter each March or earlier to all riparian owners in the Town and City containing key information that these regulations exist and links for obtaining the full details. Exact wording of the cards/letters TBD. The motion passed unanimously. John C will contact Bonnie in early February 2021 to work on the card/letter.

An additional discussion was held re the new riparian home owner packets and when to send out – currently they go out in Spring and Fall. Frequency remains TBD.

Susan raised the possibility of having a Shore Owner award for riparian owners who have done particularly good jobs on their shorelines, possibly alternating with the Stewardship Award. Wes asked her committee to flesh out that idea.

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

b) Public Outreach.

- i. Update on actions taken. Pending
- ii. Advisory Committee. Pending.

c) Habitat – Committee chair pending.

d) Membership and Lake Recreation – Bonnie. Discussion occurred re taking a survey of lake usage, Bonnie referenced the 2003 survey referred to in the Management Plan. It was done on the July 4 weekend and she plans to do it again this year. Mike volunteered to help.

8) Other Reports.

a) County. Patricia.

Advised the Board of the City Parks Board meeting 6/17 at which the bike trails at Tyrana Park will be discussed.

Said there seems to be higher columnaris levels in the lake. It's a naturally occurring bacteria but levels are up due to recent rains which produced runoff and thus increased nutrients in the lake. It can negatively affect fish and cause spawning stress. The fish sticks seem to have all changed positions due to ice with many broken cables. But they are still good habitat so the DNR considers it a success.

Clean Boats initiative. We follow the State guidelines re CoVid and thus it's on hold. Rock Lake water quality monitoring and stream quality monitoring have also been on hold due to CoVid, but hope to start end of June.

The Rock River Coalition is apparently holding a litter pickup challenge ("litterati") starting today with prizes for various categories.

b) JRLC. NO meetings till July.

9) Old Business

a) Website dashboard. Nathan and Susan discussed their ideas for the new dashboard, including two displays, one results-driven and the other activity-related. They presented examples that were color coded for intuitive appreciation and planned on including links to the Management Plan. They would like to have it set up by August and refreshed each January. Nathan will send an Excel sheet to committee chairs to decide on colors and decide on other specifics.

b) Groundwater awareness. Pending..

10) New Business

a) Membership database. Jim said the current one is an old Excel based system that is set up on 10 year cycles, 2020 being the end of one. Although still functioning and containing information from as far back as 1990, it is not as flexible in providing different data sets and sorting. A technical discussion ensued between Jim, Bonnie, and Susan. The upshot was that we will stay with Excel for now.

b) Annual Stewardship Award. The nominating committee had not come up with a name and in the Board discussion, Glenn Zastrow was nominated and universally agreed upon as deserving this year's award. Mike will write up a citation with help from Wes, and Susan will arrange for the award.

c) Agenda for annual meeting. As of now we are still planning on holding it in person at

Korth. We will limit the presentations to approving the minutes from last year, reports from Treasurer and Committee Chairs, and the election of new Board members; no outside speakers or food. Jim asked about sending out post card reminders, especially given the CoVid situation – this was last done in 2016. Examples of previous postcards were passed around and one was accepted for this year. A motion was made to allocate \$250 to print and mail the postcards. It was seconded and unanimously approved. Notices will also be sent out by email.

11) Next Meeting: Monday, July 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Location: TBD.

12) Adjourn – A motion was made to adjourn, which was seconded and unanimously passed at 8:10 p.m.