

# ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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

Minutes for November 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Via ZOOM

1) **Call to Order** – 6:45 p.m. (Delayed due to our Zoom session being hacked and disrupted)  
Members present: Jim Colegrove, Mike Neemann, Nathan Pyles, John Crump, Stan Smoniewski, Susan Trier, Bruce Ward, Sharron Webster, John Thode  
Guests: Patricia Cicero, Wendy Davies, Wendy Proeber, Glen Proeber, Lee Gatzke  
Absent: 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 October 2020 meeting minutes made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

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

Motion to accept October Treasurer's report made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

We have about ½ of our funds in a checking account for rapid access and the rest in 4 laddered CDs, with maturities ranging from 9 – 14 mos. One is maturing 11/17 and needs to be rolled over, although if interest rates are too low, it might as well go into checking account.

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

Besides Patricia, the other guests represented residents on the Miljala channel and a detailed discussion of Miljala related issues ensued. Responding to a question re pollution from Korth, Patricia does not see runoff from the park's impervious surfaces, which drain to well vegetated areas, as a source of pollution for either the Miljala channel or the lake. Susan said she has been perusing both the [2013 UW study](#) as well as the [2014 study](#) from Montgomery Associates: Resource Solutions, LLC (MARS) study saying they are extremely detailed and will require a fair amount of time to really understand. Both Susan and John C recommended that the interested residents peruse the above studies and provide names and contact info so they can be contacted once the pertinent committee comes up with an action plan and establishes sub-committees.

7) **Committee Reports**

**Water Quality Committee**

A. Agriculture. Nathan. Nathan had to miss the middle part of the meeting, but later confirmed the report he had emailed prior to the meeting: "I was invited to attend an organizational meeting for a group of Jefferson County Farmers held on November 9th. They will likely be calling this group: Jefferson County Soil Builders. There was lots of enthusiasm for healthy soil practices. Tony and Marty from the Dodge County Healthy Soil, Healthy Water group were in attendance and shared some of their experience and contacts. I shared with the group RLIA's support and willingness to help as needed. They determined that they easily have the minimum 5 farmers required to form a DATCP Producer-Led group and apply for grants for 2021."

B. Residential: Susan. Her committee has been discussing several plans which they will flesh out, including: i) Shoreland zoning education topics for riparian owners. They are working on this with the JRLC, and will put on the web page via a special slider. ii) Updating the homeowner's packets. iii) Working on a mailing for which \$1000/yr was allocated

C. Streets Jim. i) The Eagle scout project to update the markings on the roughly 66 storm sewers draining directly into the lake was completed. ii) The leaf-free streets program continues, nothing really new there. iii) Looking at the storm sewer steward program, Jim doesn't live in the city and is a bit tentative on that. Mike volunteered to help look into that project. Susan suggested that some of the drains in the Town also be included in this. iv) The city used to routinely dump excess snow, inevitably containing a lot of salt, along the gravel road to the south east of the Mill Pond, but has agreed to do that only as a last resort if/when the main site is too full. v) The Town's use of salt in winter instead of salt brine is a difficult issue. The Town would like to use brine (which is cheaper and results in less of a salt load on the environment) but only one firm bid on the Town snow removal contract and they are not interested in using brine, which requires special equipment. Jefferson County was one of the first in the state to use brine and is a good resource. Lake Mills City is doing it in a limited fashion. For now, we will concentrate on educating people as to the differences between the two methods. vi) Susan suggested we may look at encouraging the City and Town to cooperate on a new center for recycling plant and small wood items, similar to the soon to be phased out site on Stony Road in the city.

D. Sampling. Patricia. She said that CoVid had largely put this effort on hold but is hoping we can renew next summer. Susan asked if they needed particular equipment or other materials and that perhaps the RLIA could help fund and/or provide additional volunteers. Patricia stated that the costs were already approved at a previous RLIA meeting.

## **8. Additional Committee Presentations and Discussions**

A. Membership – Ralph. A co-chair would seem useful and Jim said he has been regularly working with the Chair given the intrinsic role the membership rolls play, which Jim tends as part of his Treasurer job. John T volunteered to assist as formal co-chair. Jim felt we needed a plan to increase membership, noting that we had dropped from a normal 175-200 households to about 116 currently. Jim, John T, and Ralph will meet to discuss.

B. Lake Recreation. Ralph. Pending.

## **9) Other Reports.**

a) County. Patricia.

1. Discussed the recent approval of a request for a variance by the Zoning Committee despite a recommendation from the City's staff that it not be granted due to the request's failure to meet the stated regulatory conditions required for a variance approval. The Committee Chair opposed granting it but the rest of the committee, citing in person input from the petitioner and neighbors, approved it. Susan was contacted via our Webpage by the Chair and she in turn spoke to the City Attorney. It seems that additional education and instruction would be of benefit to Zoning Committee personnel. It is also clear that the lake zoning regulations require some "teeth." The way they are currently written, for example, someone could cut down a fully mature native tree and satisfy the remediation demands by planting a few cheap saplings. Jim reminded the Board to be cognizant of the need to delineate when speaking/acting as an individual vs as a Board member. Mike made a motion to have Susan draft a letter to the City Attorney with copies to the City Council, expressing our concern over the proper interpretation and application of City regulations, the apparent need for additional training in regards to interpreting regulations, and establishing significant consequences for ignoring said regulations.

Given the lack of a Board meeting in December, the letter will be circulated through the board via email and Board approval will also be electronic. The motion was seconded and approved 8-1.

Patricia explained the 2021 budget for the Land & Water Conservation Department now includes funding the Water Resources Management Specialist at 70%, which includes a DNR grant to work on aquatic invasive species. Patricia provided information on the County Comprehensive Plan, Agricultural and Land Use Plan, and the Land and Water Resource Management Plan and public hearings coming up in December for all the plans.

b) JRLC. Stan. Tabled.

#### **10) Old Business**

A) Update on letter of support to JRLC advocating the City limit parking as a strategy to prevent lake over usage/crowding. (Stan). Mike and John T will help draft a letter and have it ready to present to the Board in January.

B) Ad hoc committee developing lakeshore zoning brochure (Susan/Shar)  
They met with Susan Neemann of the JRLC to discuss several ideas re this brochure and will present to both the JRLC and RLIA Board when a draft is ready.

#### **11) New Business**

A) Storm Drain Steward Program. Tabled.

B) Consider running ads in the Leader promoting our Website and Facebook page. Will revisit in January.

C) The goal is for all Committees to have their plans set by January so they can be rolled out in February. John C suggested that given the amount of material, we hold an additional meeting to go over the suggested ideas. Thus a special one-hour meeting will be held on 1/16 (see below) at which time the following committees will present their ideas to the Board: Habitat/Fisheries (Bruce), Habitat/Other (Shar), Membership (Ralph, co-chairs Jim & John T), Lake/Recreation (Ralph), Public Outreach (Susan). The others will be presented at the regular Monday Meeting.

**12) Adjourn** – A motion was made to adjourn, which was seconded and unanimously passed at 8:20 p.m.

Next Meetings (all via Zoom):   Saturday, January 16, 2021, 9:00 AM  
  Monday, January 18, 2021, 6:30 PM