

# ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

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

Minutes for January 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.  
Via ZOOM

1) **Call to Order** – 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Mike Nesemann, Nathan Pyles, John Crump, Stan Smoniewski, Sharron Webster, John Thode

Guests: Patricia Cicero, Anita Martin

Absent: Jim Colegrove, Susan Trier, Bruce Ward

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

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

The December financial report and the “year end report” were both emailed to board members on 1/02/21 by our treasurer, Jim, who was unable to attend the meeting They were both briefly summarized by John C in Jim’s absence A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the December report. The year end report will be reviewed and considered for a motion of acceptance at the annual meeting in August.

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

A. Guests. Anita advised the Board of an [Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program](#) will have a 5 year update on Zoom 1/27 from 1100-1300.

B. Mail. Jim. Absent

C. Email. (Stan and John C). Nothing

D. Facebook (Susan). Susan emailed that she’s heard a member was interested in working with students on a dark skies program modeled after one in Lake Geneva, but so far no response to Susan’s request for further info from the member.

7) **Committee Reports**

**Water Quality Committee**

A. Agriculture. Nathan. Nathan reached out to Dean Weichman, the head of nascent producer led group, the Jefferson County Soil Builders. Dean has offered to come speak at an RLIA meeting about their organization when we begin meeting in person. Patricia will reach out to Michelle Scarpace of the UW Ag Extension to offer assistance.

B. Residential. John T will assume the chair and John C will join the committee.

i) Shoreland zoning education brochure for riparian owners. Shoreland zoning education brochure for riparian owners. Susan and Shar are working with Susan Nesemann of the JRLC, who is the lead. XXX Circulation

logistics remain to be worked out. XXXRLC has a small budget so RLIA may need to circulate. John T will be kept in the loop.

ii) Breakfast for Lake Management Plan rollout has been on hold due to CoVid.

iii) a Subcommittee will be working on a letter to the City ZBA re following existing regulations, and one to the City Council re enhanced penalties for owners who fail to comply. See item 4c in minutes of 1/16/21 meeting.

iv) Updating the homeowner's packets and arranging a mailing for which \$1000 was allocated.

John C pointed out that Hope Oostdik is resigning from the Town Board and the board agreed she had been a very steady advocate on behalf of Rock Lake.

C. Streets Jim. John T has joined Jim on this committee and Mike offered to pitch in when needed. Issues include the Storm Sewer Stewardship program (see 10A below). Shar said the City is apparently continuing to use the land adjacent to the Mill Pond as its primary snow dumping site. Jim had spoken with Paul Hermanson of the City Streets Department and understood that they would try to use the site as little as possible. But it's much cheaper and more efficient to dump it there than the alternative site on the east side near the Industrial Park. Patricia agreed this is a problem given that all the salt and other contaminants in the snow will go right into the Mill Pond. She will reach out to DNR personnel as the Mill Pond is considered a Sensitive Area, but it is unclear if their Enforcement branch would pursue.

D. Sampling. Patricia said that sampling, like most other programs, has been largely put on hold due to CoVid.

i) Patricia would like to work with Bob Volenec to measure oxygen concentrations at the deep hole site more frequently than monthly.

ii) They are also interested in phosphorous loading, particularly coming in from Marsh Lake. There are questions of costs and testing protocols, but she is hopeful the new County water resources officer will assist.

iii) She is also interested in measuring the phosphorous and chlorophyll (a surrogate for algae load) in Mud Lake. The money is apparently already authorized so she will work with Jim and the DNR to set up an account for billing.

E. Miljala Channel (Susan) Will see if there is any new approach we can take to that.

F. Public Outreach (Susan). Susan emailed and Stan summarized. CoVid has inhibited any public gatherings.

1) Facebook: Susan will continue making posts but would welcome anyone who wished to drive a strategy. She spoke back in Oct/Nov about a FB campaign based on [Tallamy's](#) concept of making our yards nature preserves and has been writing posts and gathering images. She plans on asking [Sustain Jefferson](#) (which is sponsoring a Tallamy book club) to help with review/editing and hopes to run it in the March/April timeframe. She'll share each post from our FB page with the LM Family Nature Group and the LM Community Group, and is open to suggestions for other groups. She doesn't want to send simultaneous emails to members, as that would be

redundant, but we might consider alerting members via an email on the kickoff of the idea and encourage them to watch our FB account.

2) Emails. Our emails are generated through *Vertical Response*. Susan is willing to format and send out the emails if other committees would let her know what they are interested in promoting. She also proposes emails to members re both our carrying capacity letter (to the City Council) and the new shoreland zoning webpage/ brochures.

## **8. Other Reports.**

### **a) County. Patricia.**

The Water Resources Management Specialist (75% position) will be posted soon. The DNR has made some changes to [Healthy Lakes Grant](#) timing: the county must now submit a pre-application by September 2<sup>nd</sup> with a final application due by November 1. It used to be due in February but she thinks this is actually better timing, allowing her to evaluate proposals during the growing season. She had two grantees this past year but both withdrew so she has funding available for 2021.

**b) JRLC. Stan.** They are working on increasing the slow no wake zone to a uniform 200 feet (see item 4.B from 1/16/21 meeting). The town had been looking at installing [ice spar buoys](#) to make it easier to replace the regular buoys when the lake thaws, but decided against it given the potential for accidents with snowmobiles and ATVs. Talks continue re use of brining by City and Town.

## **9) Old Business. None**

## **10. New Business**

**A) Rock River Storm Water Group.** This is a coalition of municipalities committed to improving the health of the Rock River and other local waterways. Patricia said that cities of a certain size are required to document phosphorous release and this coalition helps collect and collate data for that. The Whitewater chapter includes a student based marketing group, [Creative Marketing Unlimited](#), which helps with marketing local efforts. The board is interested in working with them, but requested Mike determine the specifics of what they would have to offer in re to our Storm Sewer Stewardship program. He will contact them and get back to the board.

**B) Checking account for grant money.** This account was originally opened to handle grant moneys received from the DNR, although Patricia pointed out a separate account is not required by the DNR. However organizations must be able to account of any grant moneys received. The Bank of Lake Mills had advised they were going to charge \$5/month for this account, but when Susan called and told them we were a non-profit, they agreed not to charge anything. The question of closing it was tabled until next meeting when Jim can present.

**12) Adjourn** – A motion was made to adjourn, which was seconded and unanimously passed at 7:20 p.m.

Next Meeting (via Zoom): Monday, February 15, 2021, 6:30 PM.