

# ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

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

Minutes for July 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.  
Lake Mills City Hall

**1) Call to Order** – 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Mike Nesemann, Nathan Pyles, John Crump, John Thode, Jim Colegrove, Susan Trier, Bruce Ward, Ralph DePasquale

Absent: Stan Smoniewski

Guests: Tom Krejcie, Candace Diaz, Wendy Catalani-Davies, Lee Gatzke, Wendy Proeber, Glenn Proeber, Debbie Numberg, Jean Schoeni, Keith Clark, David Aunley,

**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 June 21, 2021 minutes made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**5) Treasure's Report.** There were no questions on reports Jim had previously mailed and a motion to accept the treasurer's report was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. We have four \$5,000 CDs, \$275 to keep the lake grant account open in case another grant, \$50 in the PayPal account, and \$21,358 in the checking account.

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

A. Guests. Tom Krejcie. Candace Diaz, Cory Nelson.

A group of mainly Miljala Channel residents including Wendy Catalani-Davies, Lew Gatzke, Wendy Proeber, Glen Proeber, Debbie Nunley, David Aunley, Jean Schoeni, Keith Clark.

During public comment, channel residents asked the RLIA to endorse requests they made to the Town Board during the Board's 7/13 meeting including:

- 1) Authorize a new, independent testing of the channel's water quality for bacteria and phosphorus and
- 2) Have the town board chairman talk to a ditch owner encouraging him to participate in efforts to mitigate phosphorus and sediment feeding into the channel.

Wendy Catalani-Davis asked whether RLIA would support doing something smaller with a quicker implementation time (ie: using locally donated ground covers to stabilize the ditch). She also wanted to know what RLIA had accomplished from their 2018-2028 Management Plan and whether the organization was responsible for maintaining the turbidity curtain (This curtain crosses the channel just downstream from the ditch at Cedar Lane.)

See responses under 7.D. below

B. Mail. Nothing significant to report.

C. Email. Nothing significant to report.

D. Facebook. Nothing significant to report.

## 7) Committee Reports

A. Water Quality – Agriculture. Nathan. He felt the two main sources of phosphorous pollution for Rock Lake were the Miljala Channel and the drainage basin into Mud Lake, both of which are largely related to agricultural practices. He felt the key was to influence those practices and a good start is being made with the formation of the Jefferson County Soil Builders, a producer led group. The organization is taking shape and plans on applying for a state grant (up to \$40,000) to aid their efforts. Initial grant applications are due in August. Patricia Cicero is helping with that process, and we will support as much as possible. There will be an informal meet and greet with the group at the upcoming Brew with a View. Besides the producers, Mike Tiboris (Rock River Alliance), Michelle Probst (nee Scarpace), Dean Weichman, and representatives from the Lake Ripley Management District will be there. We will have a tent and tables set up and all Board members were strongly encouraged to attend.

B. Water Quality Residential. John T will present the recently released riparian owners' pamphlet (successfully mailed) to the City Planning Commission. The Town Board felt they needed more time to review it before putting it on their website, but it is on the RLIA website.

C. Water Quality Streets. Jim. We will need to contact the City in July/August re the leaf free streets brochure and he requested volunteers to look at the brochure with a view to updating it.

### D. Water Quality Miljala Channel.

Susan agreed that the channel is a significant source of phosphorous for Rock Lake. But she reported very significant progress, quite recently, in receiving a ditch owner's support for moving forward with remediation of the ditch. Given that, she requested that the Miljala channel residents postpone their request for Town Board involvement with the ditch owners. Glen Proeber offered to make this recommendation to the town chairman. RLIA's next step in the project is filing for a DNR surface water grant– the initial submission is due in September, and the final in November.

She stated flatly that the turbidity barrier is beyond repair or use and that it was never the intent of RLIA to assume responsibility for maintaining the curtain. The plan simply offered a recommendation that the curtain should be maintained until the upstream practices were implemented. The Management Dashboard on the website will be updated in time for the annual meeting, and John C will supply the group with additional information re RLIA activities.

E. Public Outreach Nothing to report.

F. Habitat – Fisheries. Bruce referred to a very good article in the Leader re fish sticks and Jefferson County's attempts to obtain grant money.

G. Habitat – other. Mike updated the Board on the results of the frog counts (lower numbers in our part of the state) and turtle project (anecdotally lots of enthusiasm amongst members and the public).

H. Membership. See Treasurer's reports

I. Nominating Committee. Mike reported that three new qualified candidates for the upcoming Board elections have expressed a desire to run for the Board,

Candace Diaz, Jim Kerler, and Tom Krejcie. All of them have had experience on environmentally related organizations and are eager to participate in RLIA activities. Three board seats (all three year terms) are up on the usual election cycle rotation: Susan, Ralph, and John T. Susan and John T wish to run again, while Ralph has declined. Also, Sharron Webster resigned last month and Stan this week announced his intention to resign. Thus, there are a total of 5 open positions, three for 3-years terms, Stan's for one year, and Sharron's for 2 years. The emails announcing the annual meeting will also remind members that if they wish to run but will be unable to attend the annual meeting, they must notify the Board of their willingness to serve, preferably along with a brief statement of why and their qualifications and/or experience. They should email the nominating committee chair, Mike Neseemann. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to set forth the above slate of candidates. A short Board meeting will be held within 10 days of the August meeting to elect new officers and debrief the annual meeting.

## **8) Other Reports.**

A) County. The Town Board was advised of our offer, in light of significant pilferage, to mark and label the current AIS boat cleaning tools. They are taking that offer under advisement and postponing any action until they have implemented a donation policy. Apparently, the City's Park Department will be responsible for their AIS boat cleaning tools. Susan will send an email with the same offer to Eric Schreiner, Facilities and Grounds Director for the City of Lake Mills. She also recommended we obtain a plaque to affix to each station acknowledging the RLIA's donation of the six AIS cleaning stations: North, Ferry, Elm Point, Sandy Beach (2), and Millpond.

B. JRLC. Susan reported that the Town has forwarded the Waterfront Landowner Reference Guide to their lawyer for review. We will continue to post it on our website. Stan, citing the websites of similar organizations, recommended (through Susan) that we have a brief disclaimer on our home page along with a link that, when clicked upon, will open a more extensive disclaimer. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to do this.

## **9) Old Business.**

A) Bylaws Update Committee. An announcement of the presentation for a vote of the updated bylaws and the Board's endorsement thereof, will be on the website, as well as on the emails and postcards sent out announcing the annual meeting.

B). Liability insurance. Mike will request 3 quotes from his agent for liability insurance.

C). Annual Meeting, RLIA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plans. Officers were reminded that they need to present their reports at the Annual Meeting – and noted because the annual meeting is held in August, the Treasurer will review the 2020 fiscal year while the Secretary will summarize the minutes from the 2020 annual meeting. All committee chairs were asked to send their reports to Nathan (cc John C) for incorporation into the dashboard.

Assignments were made as follows:

Registering and directing attendees (Cory), Photo Board (Bruce and Ralph), MC and Stewardship Award (Susan), ordering food and arranging for delivery (John T and Ralph), setting up and serving if necessary (Cory).

A discussion ensued re the food and beverage arrangements, and a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to allocate up to \$500 for obtaining the following from the Lake Mills Market: a sheet cake with appropriate decoration, cookies, ice cream sandwiches, coffee, and spring water.

Several candidates for the 2021 Stewardship award were brought up and discussed. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed naming Margo Peters and Peter Jordan for the award, in recognition of their donation of land on the north shore to the Land Trust Network of Jefferson County. The motion further stipulated up to \$250 for an appropriate print.

**10) New Business**

Mission Statement. Deferred.

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

Next meeting will be at the annual meeting at Upper Korth Park Pavilion on 21 August, 10 AM to noon. The next Board Meeting will be 23 August at 6: 30 PM at City Hall. The agenda is the election of officers and review the annual meeting.