

ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

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Minutes for April 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Via ZOOM

1) Call to Order – 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Jim Colegrove, Mike Neemann, Nathan Pyles, Susan Trier, Bruce Ward, Jim Kerler, John Thode, Candace Diaz, Tom Krejcie

Absent: John Crump

Guests: Marisa, Ulman, Susan Neemann, Ron Remos, Jackie Schenk, Kathleen Kunz, Wendy Catalani-Davis, Keith Clark, Jean Schreni, Don Pieronek, Nancy Michaud, Cathy McGeorge

2) **Good News Minute** – Participants shared recent good news although Tom K pointed out that ice had damaged the supports of the bike trail RR bridge requiring the DNR to put up signs forbidding vehicular traffic.

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

4) **Secretary's Report** – Motion to approve 3/21/22 minutes (recorded by Nathan) made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

5) Treasure's Report-

- Motion to approve March, 2022 financial report made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

- Audit Committee update. Jim, Tom K, and Mike completed an audit of the financial records for last year and found them accurate.

- RLIA sent out 1,750 membership "flyers" by [Every Door Direct Mailing \(EDDM\)](#) in March. The EDDM focused on three mail routes in Lake Mills encompassing residents around the entire circumference of Rock Lake. This may have missed residents in the eastern part of the City/Town. Last year EDDM was used to send out over 5,000 flyers which thus far has produced about 80 membership renewals from the flyer (also including members going on-line). Jim Colegrove stated that most renewals or new memberships occur in the second quarter of the year, although returns this year are historically slow. In 2021 we had 160 paid members. To try and improve membership numbers, we had Leader Printing send out 60 first-class letters to the members in our database for which we have out-of-town addresses. Leader Printing also sent out about 90 additional first-class letters to those with Lake Mills addresses who had paid dues in 2019, 2020, or 2021, but had not yet renewed their 2022 membership. This group includes 56 "new" members from 2021. This mailing may have some duplicates with the EDDM. Tom Krejcie is concerned that the flyer, sent via EDDM delivery, may have been mistaken for an unsolicited advertisement and thus went directly into recycling.

6) Public Comment(s)/Correspondence –

A. Guests. No comments. It was great to have so many, likely due to Marisa's presentation.

B. Mail. Jim said mail was limited to some mass mailings, the bank statement, and latest edition of [Lake Tides](#).

C. Email. John C. Deferred.

D. Facebook. Susan referred to Karen Etter Hale's FB posting on avian flu

7) **Other Reports** A. County Representative Marisa Ulman. Marisa gave an excellent presentation on the latest Rock Lake Shoreland Survey. These are done every 5 years and she highlighted the changes between 2015-6 and 2021-2. The report divides the shore into 3 zones: *riparian* (35 feet in from ordinary high water mark [HWM]), *bank* (a transition zone immediately between HWM and the water), and *littoral* (from HWM 35

feet out into the lake). The survey catalogues the entire shore photographically and notes percentages of vegetation (divided into canopy, shrubs, and herbaceous) and various manmade changes including houses, boathouses, piers, lifts, firepits, watercraft, and buoys. She pointed out there is some inevitable subjectivity in the counting which the recent low water levels can affect, e.g., more boats in the water than on hoists, more anchoring buoys, etc. Although acknowledging the water levels were very low (9th lowest in 130 years of records), she did not feel this led to significant alterations in the counts, save for those mentioned above. She felt things were generally stable or improved (less lawn area, increased shrubs/herbaceous cover) though with some deterioration (increased impervious area and a jump in fire pits). Fire pits can be a significant source of phosphorous pollution if the ashes are dumped in the lake. An executive summary will be posted on the RLIA website along with the slides she used in her presentation.

She also briefly reviewed the need for applicants for the Clean Boats/Clean Water Program watercraft inspectors. Applications can be found on the [town website](#).

B. JRLC (Susan). In regard to the SNWZ, during the March Town Board meeting the Board requested that JRLC provide: recreational survey data from RLIA's lake management plan process, a proposed timeline if a public hearing were to be held in July, and proposed ordinance language. These materials were promptly sent to the Board. During the JRLC's April committee meeting, JRLC voted unanimously to provide a condition report (which is required by the DNR whenever there are requested changes to state law) to the Town Board well in advance of the Town Board's April meeting.

C. Miljala Channel DNR grant update (Susan, Marisa, others). RFPs were put out to several engineering firms which have either not responded or declined to participate citing time and financial constraints. The DNR has indicated a willingness to extend the period for our surface grant and the Miljala Tributary Restoration Project committee will be re-contacting the initial engineering firms as well as some additional ones. John T has already sent an RFP to [Inter-Fluve](#) and [Resource Engineering Associates](#).

8. Old Business.

A) Annual Garlic Mustard Pull 4/22-5/1 (Bruce). The promotional flyer went out with the most recent city utility bills. Due to CoVid, the event will remain decentralized, limited to the provision of a dumpster at Bartels, already in place. People who have reliably volunteered in the past will be contacted directly and Susan T will put an informational notice in the Leader. Volunteers will be encouraged to pick up garbage as well, though most sections of the Glacier/Drumlin Bike trail have already been well attended to.

B) Supporting the County's land acquisition initiative (Nathan). Before addressing this, Nathan and Marisa said the field day for the Jefferson County Soil Builders was a success, drawing 40-50 people including folks from Jefferson County and the UW Extension.

The county and [Groundswell Conservancy](#) are working to acquire 42 acres on Marsh Lake, off County A. This is an important property because Marsh Lake provides filtering for Rock Lake. Despite a concerted push by the County, they are about \$45,000 short of the \$185,000 needed to acquire it. Nathan made a motion for RLIA to write a letter to the Town Board supporting this acquisition. The discussion involved various means of publicity (emails, FaceBook, the Leader) as well as potential additional sources of funding, e.g., a round-up campaign at

the Lake Mills Market. There was support for a direct contribution from the RLIA but Jim said he had to research that because as a non-profit, we are prohibited from using our money to benefit a specific individual, i.e., the parcel's seller. He will research this and it will be discussed at the May meeting. The motion to write a letter of support was passed unanimously.

C. Consideration of obtaining D&O insurance (Mike). There has been interest in this given the likelihood of our getting a grant to address Miljala Channel issues. We have a general liability policy to protect us from suits such as injuries suffered whilst participating in an RLIA sponsored activity. The D&O policy would protect the Board from suits such as those possibly brought by landowners who felt their property values were adversely impacted by decisions made on the Miljala project. Mike said the agent estimated such a policy would be in the \$500/yr range. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed for Mike to contact the agent and obtain such a policy with a ceiling of \$600.

D. Summer Family Events at Korth. Deferred to May.

9. New Business.

A. Wisconsin Lake Convention review. Due to time constraints, Susan was only able to offer a few highlights of what she felt was an extremely useful convention.

10. Adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 8:05 P. M.

Next Board meeting: Monday 5/16/22 at 6:30 P.M. (Zoom).