

# ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

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

Minutes for October 17, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Zoom

## 1) Call to Order – 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Mike Neesemann, Susan Trier, Bruce Ward, Jim Kerler, John Thode, Jim Colegrove, Danny Durow, Cynthia Chmell

Absent: Candace Diaz, Tom Krejcie

Guests: Keith Clark, Jean Schoeni, Wendy Catalani-Davies

## 2) Good News Minute – Participants shared good tidings.

## 3) Motion to accept the agenda. Made and seconded.

## 4) Secretary’s Report (Mike)

- Motion to approve 9/19/22 minutes of board meeting made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

## 5) Treasurer’s Report

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

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

A. Guests. Keith Clark said he is researching a program called “milfoil Mondays” on Sunset Lake to determine whether the program could work here in Rock Lake. He and Jean Schoeni will go to Portage County to participate so they can see the program first-hand when it restarts in spring.

B. Mail. Jim reported the flyer regarding preventing leaves from entering gutters had gone out with the latest utility bills. Several people said they received their LM Power and Light bills electronically and thus didn’t see it. It is unclear whether we can distribute an electronic copy.

C. Email/Facebook. Susan said it’s been quiet. She would like to post the video of the release of the 14 spiny softshell turtle hatchlings, but is trying to remove the audio part.

## 7) Other Reports:

A) County representative: Deferred.

B) JRLC: Wendy Catalani-Davies, Chair of the JRLC, reported:

i They would like the City to be more involved with their planning and thus have been in touch with City Council President Greg Waters. A planning meeting is set at the town hall at 7 p.m., on 10/18. RLIA members are invited.

ii The Town Board would like language in any new Aquatic Invasive Species monitoring program to specify exactly who is responsible. Wendy is working with the Marisa and the DNR on that.

iii The Town Board reminded the JRLC that any changes in their charter need to be in accordance with town ordinances. Wendy is meeting with the city attorney on this.

iv They are working to get the water patrol request on the Town Board agenda for next month.

C) Miljala Tributary Restoration Project. On 10/24 at 6:30 pm, the REA engineering consulting firm will present their findings from phase one of the grant as well as the next steps would be were the project to be completed. Pertinent county personnel will be there and invitations have been proffered to landowners, the JRLC, the Town Board, and RLIA members. A discussion ensued re how the RLIA could update the Town Board on this, e.g., whether through a formal agenda spot or during the time set aside for public input.

#### D) DNR

The DNR contacted RLIA to inform them of two new issues on Rock Lake. The first is that a number of Korth Bay riparian owners would like to remove aquatic plants near their property. The DNR will encourage those owners to work with RLIA on a permit to hand pull Eurasian milfoil. Note that Korth Bay is a designated sensitive area so any aquatic plant management will require a permit. The next issue is that several Miljala Channel riparian owners inquired about using an aquatic thruster to push plants and sediment away from their property. The DNR informed the residents that the legal maximum that can be moved is < 2 cubic yards. In addition, movement of sediment towards Rock Lake could release nutrients into the lake and would not be advised. The DNR would need to bring in the DNR Water regulation folks to enforce action against the aqua thrusters.

### **8. Old Business.**

A) Update on survey for full membership. Jim Colegrove and Danny looked into how to extend the survey handed out at the annual meeting (26-28 respondents) to the entire membership. They felt that mailing the survey would be expensive, time consuming, and of questionable efficacy. Using Survey Monkey for an emailed survey would be more economical and efficient. For \$99, we would be allowed to send out a survey to up to 1,000 respondents, with unlimited questions, the ability to rank order them, and access to analytics. The other option, a full year's subscription for \$60/month (12 mos minimum) was felt to be excessive. A motion was made and seconded to allocate up to \$150 to purchase a single survey subscription. It passed unanimously. Jim Colegrove will make sure we can use the analytics beyond one month and will send the board the suggested 8 questions, designed to mirror as closely as possible those on the paper survey distributed at the annual meeting.

B) Discussion of RLIA advocacy. Deferred.

C) Discussion of coverage of important municipal committees. Deferred.

### **9. New Business.**

A) Discussion of CD strategy and investment options. Deferred.

B) Discuss Board Member Recruitment. No one contacted Mike in response to the all-member email appeal for volunteers for the board. Several board members spoke in favor of contacting Speth Tyler of American Family Insurance. Jim Colegrove will contact him.

C) Discuss letter of support for increasing salaries of CBCW inspectors and water patrol officers. The county applies for supporting program grants to help maximize the hours inspectors can work under CBCW grants obtained by both the Town and City. The Town had been administering both grants but this year the City will administer their own. CBCW inspectors have been paid \$12/hour for some time and Jefferson County Land & Water would like to see that increased to \$15. A discussion ensued covering several topics, e.g., how much of a

raise is indicated, should RLIA offer to subsidize the raise, what are comparable rates in nearby lakes, etc. Susan will write a letter to the Town and City, supporting a raise. She will also contact the County for specifics regarding total number of hours targeted, timing of grant, etc.

Water patrol officers are difficult to come by, with low pay cited as one reason. The Town of Lake Mills had been paying \$18/hour for many years, raised it to \$20/hour in 2020, and then to \$25/hour in 2022. According to the WDNR Recreation Warden for southeastern Wisconsin, there is a lot of competition for officers and many are being paid in upper the 20's to low 30s per hour. The Town participates in a state grant that pays 70% of an officer's salary and 60-65% of the patrol's consumables (gas etc.) Besides the pay, officers prefer to work full-time and get benefits, i.e., work overtime as municipal police officers rather than under a water patrol rubric. Additionally, special certification is required for water patrolling and few officers want to spend the time and money to get certified. Compounding the problem has been significant turnover in the local law enforcement community where the Town's recently hired chief of police became the acting City chief of police, leaving the Town's law enforcement leadership situation unclear. Susan will talk to the involved officers and gather more information regarding what would constitute more equitable pay.

**10. Propose agenda items for November.** The Board decided to dedicate most of the November meeting to a discussion on what kind of advocacy the RLIA should engage in. Given several scheduling issues, the next meeting will be a ZOOM meeting on 11/7 at 6:30 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Nesemann, Secretary