

**ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEETING**

www.rocklake.org

**Minutes for August 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall**

1) Call to Order – 6:35 p.m.

Members present: Mike Neesemann, Cynthia Chmell, Jim Kerler, Tom Krejcie, Danny Durow, John Thode

Absent: Jim Colegrove, Bruce Ward, Susan Trier

Guest: Doug Mulay, Tim Esser, Don Pieronek, Patricia Cicero

2) Good News Minute – Participants shared recent good news.

3) Motion to accept the agenda - John made a motion to approve the agenda, Mike seconded, it was passed unanimously.

4) Secretary’s Report

Motion to approve 7/17/23 minutes was made by John, seconded by Cynthia, and unanimously approved. Mike discussed a request by Susan that we make drafts of the Board meeting minutes available to interested parties before they are formally approved at the next Board meeting. Interested parties would include the City Council, JRLC, Jefferson Land & Water, amongst others. See Appendix 1 for suggested wording of the letter and addresses. Some reservations were expressed regarding releasing unapproved minutes and questions regarding interest in receiving them. Tom made a motion to begin the process by providing the Board with a suggested cover letter and list of addressees. Mike seconded it and it was approved 6-1 with Jim K dissenting.

5) Treasurer’s Report.

Tom said there had been some adjustments but now the BLM includes our CDs in the statements. Also, the DNR Miljala grant process has been completed with their acceptance of the money we returned for the cancelled second phase. John requested some clarification which Tom provided. Motion to accept the July treasurer’s report was made by Mike, seconded by Cynthia, and unanimously approved.

6) Public Comment. A. Guests. After the meeting, Don Pieronek gave a presentation on the lake’s water levels including detailed data collection including from the City as well as personal measurements. His conclusion was that the only explanation for the pattern of the water level was a malfunctioning dam, perhaps something as “simple” as the computer’s internal calendar having somehow being reset, leading to inappropriate flow management.

7) Other Reports.

A. JRLC. No representative present, but they apparently have decided to present the City Council 3 options for approaching lake levels and will have an open meeting on 8/31 at 1715 at City Hall to discuss them.

B. Land & Water Conservation Department. Jefferson Co. Land & Water Conservation Director Patricia Cicero said they are having issues with their dissolved oxygen meter, which the RLIA purchased for the County. The cable and sensors are apparently fine, but the meter itself is becoming increasingly unreliable, and she requested we consider replacing the meter. Mike made a motion to allocate up to \$1000 to purchase a new dissolved oxygen meter.

She then discussed the importance of measuring flow, e.g., currently we measure the phosphorous concentration in Rock Lake feeder streams and Rock Creek. But without knowing the flow, the actual amount of phosphorous load cannot be calculated. Ideally one would multiply the phosphorous concentration by the flow, giving the actual loading of the lake. She outlined the various flow meters available and John made a motion to allocate up to \$2250 to purchase a flow meter with a 4-7 foot measuring wand. Mike seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The County will look into placing depth gauges at each of the inflow points to facilitate measurements.

8) New Business.

A. RLIA Mission Statement. After considerable discussion, John made a motion to approve the following as our mission statement: “We will collaborate, educate, and build community engagement to protect and improve Rock Lake and its watershed for today and tomorrow. “ Mike seconded it and it was passed unanimously.

B. Ideas for surface water grant this year (preliminary applications due 9/15 and final in November). Cynthia reported on the progress made on lakeshore native vegetation percentages relative to the Lake Management Plan goals. Since 2017, there have been only seven projects installed using the Healthy Lakes grants, despite RLIA promoting them through a boat tour, plant sale, etc. Susan learned of the Fox/Wolf River alliance using such grants for educational purposes to promote shoreline improvement projects. We propose using the educational grant to host a workshop for potential participants (perhaps in conjunction with the new City Zoning Inspector); coordinate site visits by a professional designer (identified as the biggest obstacle by potential participants); and provide support through the process. Cynthia made a motion to submit a preliminary grant application and explore this possibility. John seconded and it was passed unanimously.

C. Discuss/Approve RLIA letter of recommendation to City Parks and Facility Director on budget priorities. A motion was made and seconded to approve the letter (see Appendix 2), incorporating Ms. Cicero’s suggestions. It passed unanimously.

D. Review Boat Tour with City Plan Commission Building Inspector, and other staff. John reported that it had been planned for 8/31 but had to be rescheduled to either 9/6 or 9/13 due to unexpected scheduling conflicts.

9) Old Business.

A. Annual Meeting Logistics. Assignments for the various duties were finalized.

B. Board Member Candidate Committee. No one had contacted Mike and he announced he would not be running again. Thus we have 4 vacancies. He reminded the Board that the Bylaws specify the Board have 4 officers and *up to* 6 at large Directors, i.e., not that a total of 10 are required. Tom and Jim K have contacted several interested candidates.

C. Stewardship Award Gift. Cynthia has arranged for a very nice print to be ready and Hope Oostdik will do the presentation.

D. Legendary Learning – Dragonflies. 8/30. Jim reviewed the arrangements and a discussion ensued regarding a slide projector, with all agreeing that it never seems to work well due to a combination of ambient light and wind. The dragonfly presentation consists of a PowerPoint presentation of 21 slides and it was felt having them printed and distributed would be more reliable than trying to use the slide projector. Jefferson County will be approached to see if they can print them, but as a fall back, Mike made a motion to allocate up to \$50 to have 30 copies printed. Tom seconded it and it passed unanimously.

10. Agenda items for the next meeting(s).

TBD

11. Next scheduled meetings.

Regular: 9/18/23. City Hall

Annual: 8/26/23 Korth Park

Special Board election of officers: 9/6, 9/7, or 9/8.

12. Adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 8:25 P. M.

APPENDIX 1 RLIA Minute Distribution:

Hello All,

In the interest of reaching people more quickly, attached are the minutes from the xxxxxx meeting, unapproved. The next meeting is xxxx.

We send our minutes to: the City Council; Town Board; the JRLC; the City's Park Board; the City's Plan Commission; the City's Public Works Board; City Manager; City Parks and Facility Director; City Director of Public Works; as well as the Town and City Clerk.

If you do not wish to receive these, let me know. Also, if you can think of others that should be included, please let me know. If you have trouble opening the attachment, let me know.

Respectfully,

Xxxxxx

Distribution List:

Town Board:

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trishfullerton@charter.net

patstevens@gmail.com

kalehner@envcompsys.com

City Council:

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cbishop@ci.lake-mills.wi.us

sfields@ci.lake-mills.wi.us

gwaters@ci.lake-mills.wi.us

mquednow@ci.lake-mills.wi.us

mquest@ci.lake-mills.wi.us

City Parks Board:

tsprecher@ci.lake-mills.wi.us He doesn't use that one or it's not working. Use his personal one:
twoflyers1@frontier.com

There's no email for McCrea Baker

City Plan Commission:

shomann@ci.lake-mills.wi.us

homanex@gmail.com

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rgrady@ci.lake-mills.wi.us

City Public Works Board:

gpolacheck@ci.lake-mills.wi.us

mschmoeger@ci.lake-mills.wi.us

mpickhard@ci.lake-mills.wi.us

City Manager:

ddaily@ci.lake-mills.wi.us

City Parks and Facility Director:

parks@ci.lake-mills.wi.us

Director of Public Works:

Paul Hermanson is retiring. I'm assuming they will man his email til he gets a replacement.

p.hermanson@ci.lake-mills.wi.us

APPENDIX 2 LETTER TO FACILITIES & GROUNDS DIRECTOR

Date:

RLIA Input to the Facilities & Grounds Budget 2024

To: Eric Schreiner, Grounds & Facilities Director

Cc: Drake Daily, City Manager,
Zach Nagel, Water Resource Management Specialist, LWCD

Dear Eric,

As you bring your budget requests forward to other city staff and ultimately the City Council, the Rock Lake Improvement Association (RLIA) strongly recommends that you prioritize remediation of on-going shoreland erosion on City properties for the 2024 Operating Budget.

The first project is repairing slumping banks on Bartel's Beach. This issue was identified in the Rock Lake Shorelands & Shallows Survey conducted by the Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD). LWCD informed the City of the situation in February, 2023. Slumping banks are caused by undercutting or erosion occurring from below due to such things as ice push and wave action, resulting in the episodic loss of large chunks of soil. It's important to address the existing erosion as well as any additional damage that may occur with this winter season. As you know, the LWCD can provide technical input including any design work as well as cost-sharing for shoreline erosion control at 50% of the total costs.

The second project is repairing the shoreland damage at Tyrannena Park. This project would involve stabilizing the banks with riprap, re-grading the banks and construction of a berm to mitigate stormwater runoff. The final phase of the project would focus on the establishment of native vegetation to further control stormwater and provide greater infiltration, lessening overland flow. Funding opportunities include the Knowles Nelson Foundation and cost-sharing with DATCP. It is currently unknown whether these funding sources would be able to work in conjunction with one another. Another thought was to include a volunteer group for the installation of the native planting to cut down on costs. We understand that this project is envisioned in stages.

While we certainly support all phases of the project, we encourage you to implement the most immediate aspect of the project in this upcoming year. The LWCD and the Department of Agriculture worked with you to provide a design for a water and sediment control basin, underground outlet, shoreline rock riprap, and planting. This design is for the erosion and runoff happening downslope from the parking area on the southeast side of the park. The engineer who provided the construction plan estimated that the project would cost approximately \$8,228 with LWCD covering \$4,859.60 and the City of Lake Mills covering \$3,368.40.

If there's anything that we can do to assist you in these efforts, please do not hesitate to ask.

Respectfully,

The RLIA Board

Cynthia Chmell

Danny Durrow

James Kerler

Tom Krejcie

Mike Nesemann

John Thode

Susan Trier