

Rock Lake Improvement Association

Executive Board Meeting

Minutes for 12/18/23 6:30 Zoom

Presentation on wake enhanced boats by John Richter began at 6:30 pm. Summary follows minutes.

1) Call to Order - Susan Trier called the meeting to order on Zoom at 7:20 pm.

Members present: Jim Kerler, Tom Krejcie, Danny Durow, Susan Trier, John Thode, Mary Ann Jackson, Doug Mulay and Cynthia Chmell

Absent: Lisa Kissing Kucek,

Guests: Colton Hutchinson, Jefferson Co. LWCD; Hope Oostdik

2) Good News Minute skipped

3) Motion to accept the agenda – Tom Krejcie made a motion to accept the modified agenda. John Thode seconded and it was unanimously approved.

4) Secretary's Report –Cynthia Chmell made a motion to accept the minutes from the November board meeting. Tom Krejcie seconded. The motion carried. Jim Kerler abstained as he had missed the meeting.

5) Treasurer's Report – Tom Krejcie reviewed bank account balances and expenses for the month. Total assets as of November 30, 2023 are \$41,403.13.

~Membership is at 212 and \$5000 in donations were received this year. Cynthia Chmell made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Second by Doug Mulay and motion carried.

6) Public Comments - Hope Oostdik introduced herself on behalf of the Rock Lake Management District Exploratory Group. They held one information session in November, primarily for City residents, as there had been little connection to them. Two more focus group sessions are planned for January and March. As they do not have a website or financial base, they propose adding informational links to the RLIA website. Further details on this request to be addressed later in the meeting.

7) Other Reports

A) JRLC did not meet this month.

B) LWCD: Colton Hutchinson: An anonymous donation of \$5000 for 5 years was received to

finance cover crops or harvestable buffers. He explained that harvestable buffers are installed streamside, much like a riparian buffer, with the intent to harvest as feed. The donation would cover the cost of seed and installation, not the harvest, as that is profit to the farmer. Susan Trier explained that this donation is targeted to farmers in the Rock Lake watershed and they do not have to be associated with the Jefferson County Soil Builders program.

~Jefferson County Planning and Zoning committee has shelved discussion on drafting ordinances for construction site erosion and sediment control, and post-construction stormwater management. Colton recommends interested parties should attend LWCD meetings to express support of such ordinances at the county level, as state and national ordinances are often not enforced, particularly in rural areas. He will email links to the proposed ordinances and a schedule of upcoming meetings.

~Colton checked the Phragmites growing in Marsh lake (in NW wetlands) and believes it to be a native population. DNR wetland specialist Matthew Puz will do DNA testing to confirm next year.

8) New Business

A) Danny Durow bylaws changes: Discussion followed with regards to the number of meetings board members are required to attend and whether it should be stated in the bylaws. Mary Ann Jackson commented that as a new board member she would have benefitted from a brief orientation where expectations were addressed. She will begin a draft of such prior to the next meeting.

B) Jim Kerler gave details on holding a rain barrel workshop for 25 City participants in spring. Rock River Coalition would lead the program at a cost of \$1700.00. There is \$1200.00 in grant money available, which requires a commitment to use in 2024. Potential partners include the City of LM Public Works department (to transport barrels and provide workshop space), Arts Alliance of Greater Lake Mills (for decorating barrels), and Wispak (barrel donation). Additional cost of \$1000 for diverters to come from RLIA and/or workshop fee. Discussion followed on whether there would be enough interest and participants willing to cover up to \$60. John Thode made a motion to spend \$1500 to get a \$1200 grant to hold the workshop. Seconded by Tom Krecjie. Motion carried.

C) Danny Durow discussed goals for 2024. He requested any further ideas be emailed to him to be added to the current document in the next few weeks. He will update the list and then request board members prioritize and indicate which they would like to act upon prior to the January meeting.

D) Research on projector and screen shows a minimum cost of \$1000. Tom Krecjie reported on the occasions borrowed equipment was used during the past year, and how the poor quality of the pictures affected the presentations. ~ Danny and Tom will present more details in January.

9) Old Business

A) Rock Lake Management District Exploratory Group Update: Susan Trier reported that Stan Smoniewski (RLIA website coordinator) suggested that Lake Management District (LMD) information links could be added under *Announcements* on the RLIA home page. The LMD page could then have further links to other lake districts, UW Extension, etc.

Discussion followed. Board members expressed concern that since RLIA has not stated a position on the proposed LMD, including these links could be perceived to be in support of one for Rock Lake. However, it was stated that education is part of the RLIA mission and the purpose of the website is to provide information on Rock Lake.

Hope Oostdik, spokesperson for the Rock Lake Lake Management District Exploratory Group commented that information gathered at focus meetings will determine (by June 2024), if there is enough support to proceed with the establishment of a LMD. She stated that any information posted by the group would be approved by the RLIA board or Stan Smoniewski.

John Thode made a motion to add a link for Rock Lake Management District Exploratory Group information to the RLIA website. Tom Krejcie seconded. The motion passed with Doug Mulay abstaining.

~Susan Trier asked board members about sharing personal email addresses with the Rock Lake Management District Exploratory Group. All present agreed. Susan will check with Lisa Kissing Kucek.

B) Danny Durow reported yard signs should be available soon.

10) Next meeting: 1/15/2024 (Zoom)

11) Meeting Adjourned 9:05 pm

John Richter, board member of Wisconsin Lakes and Last Wilderness Alliance, spoke on wake enhanced boats. He presented research from the University of Minnesota and Carroll University showing the detrimental effects to lakes from the large wakes created by these boats.

The boats use ballast tanks which draw water from the lake to increase the angle at which the boat rides to form a wake large enough to surf, without the need for a tow rope. Wave action has been shown to scour the bottom of the lake and disturb sediment depths of up to thirty feet.

Large waves close to shore have damaged shorelines and destroyed nesting sites of aquatic birds. Additionally, the angle that the boat rides on the surface can block the siteline of the driver and create unsafe situations for other vessels in the water. Further, the ballast tanks cannot be emptied completely, leaving the potential for the transport of invasive species between bodies of water.

The Wisconsin State Senate has proposed legislation to regulate wake enhanced boats which many agree will not have enough impact to prevent damage to lakes. Furthermore, it includes a provision to prohibit municipalities from passing local ordinances that exceed state limits.