

ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

www.rocklake.org

UNAPPROVED Minutes for Annual Meeting

August 18, 2018 at 10:00 A/M.

Korth Park

1) **Call to Order** – 10:06 A.M.

2) **Introduction of Board Members** – Board members present: Jim Colegrove, Wes Dawson, Alex Mulligan, Mike Nesemann, Stan Smoniewski, Susan Trier. (30-35 members were present)

3) **Approval of agenda** – Moved & passed unanimously.

4) **Secretary's Report** (Mike Nesemann) – The minutes of the 2017 Annual meeting were read and reviewed. Motion made to accept the minutes as presented, seconded & passed unanimously

5) **Treasurer's Report** (Jim Colegrove) The following reports were passed out, current banking summary (7/1/18 – 7/31/18), last year's banking summary (1/1/2017 – 12/31/17), RLIA account balances as of 7/31/18 (\$34,485.55) and balances as of 12/31/17 (\$26,004.48) followed by a discussion of revenues and expenditures. Jim pointed out that the fiscal year reviewed is actually the previous year, i.e., 2017 because our annual meeting is held in August. He also pointed out that although the banking summary for 2017 showed a negative \$5,307.81, our overall balance was and remains strongly positive and we are doing well. Some highlights included \$8,400 from the round up at the Lake Mills Market, and \$200 from Culvers for the volunteers serving a night there. An internal audit was held by two Board members (Mike and Stan) and no irregularities were found. Jim encouraged people to sign up for Amazon Smile, whereby a percentage of the purchase amount is directed to our account. He also advised the association that we are looking at laddering CDs. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report and passed unanimously.

6. **President's Report:** (Wes Dawson). Wes thanked all the volunteers and said we had a very successful year. The biggest project was the [Lake Management Plan](#) (link to website) , which was a huge endeavor involving 5 areas of concern, each with specific goals and committees to work on them. Copies of the Executive Summary were handed out. See Committee reports for specifics. He also cited the successful establishment of 2 fish sticks.

7. Guest Speakers

Patricia Cicero, Jefferson County Land and Water.

a) **Erosion Control:** Outlined how she offers advice on erosion control, calling in Department of Agriculture experts when warranted, and can also help coordinate access to a cost sharing program.

b) Clean Water/Clean Boats: She continues to work to get and maintain grants, e.g., we have 3 boat inspectors who work 200 hrs at the township and 200 hrs at city boat launches.

c) Water Quality Testing: With Steve Oostdik, she does lake testing for temperature, dissolved O₂, phosphorous, and chlorophyll at the deepest point (60 ft) of the lake. She also manages a volunteer stream monitoring program throughout the county.

d) Beach Sampling: She works with the City and county (with JRLC) for weekly E. coli counts, ensuring accuracy of testing. Sandy Beach West had an advisory (8/1) and a closing recommendation (8/8) and seems to be the most affected beach. Go to the RLIA or [Wisconsin Beach Health Website](#) for more info and explanations.

e) Sea gulls. A question was posed about sea gulls and what to do about them. They seem to have become more of a nuisance since the Johnson Creek landfill was established. Patricia has been trying to get in touch with them re some measures they could take to discourage gulls.

Ryan Walters, Township Boat Patrol

Ryan pointed out that all the Town police are part time and that the boat patrolmen have generally been relatively new and have looked at the position as an entry into full time positions elsewhere. They have a boat and a PWC and have logged in 376 hours so far this summer, trying to cover the weekend. They performed 59 compliance checks resulting in 17 citations and 8 written warnings. They plan to continue patrolling till early October when the city pulls the piers in.

Q&As

a) No spotter required for ski boats if boat has a mirror. This is now allowed by law. Town Chair Hope Oostdik pointed out that it was a law sponsored by the former Assemblyman Adam Jarchow and rapidly pushed through the Assembly and Senate with minimal debate or input. The audience seemed to agree it's a bad idea and a clear threat to safety given the speed and number of boats on the lake. Members were encouraged to contact their state Senator and Assemblymen to repeal this law. The Town could institute a regulation requiring a spotter but can only legally do so if at least 40 hours of lake police patrol is provided. This is not possible given current budget realities.

b) Several people opined re which times saw the most violations, but in general the discussion focused on PWC and skiing after hours. Ryan said they will try and patrol more during those times.

c) Loud Boat. Acoustic testing of the obnoxiously loud boat people complained about last year was not able to be done, but that boat apparently has not been heard this summer.

d) Equipment. Ryan was asked if there were any equipment that they would like to have and mentioned a Mobile Data Computer (MDC) which would allow officers to check registration and issue citations/warnings in real time.

Stan Smoniewski, Joint Rock Lake Committee

a) New ice ordinance (details will be on town website) regulating snowmobile speed and requiring them to stay 150 feet from lakeshore.

b) Lake Management Plan. Major provisions oriented toward education of riparian owners and PWCs.

c) Pier ordinance. To be updated to be in compliance with state law.

d) Creekwood Chicken Farm. Although legitimate concerns remain re odors, significant impact on lake water quality is not anticipated.

e) **Mill Pond dredging.** Seems to be on hold.

f) **PIE association.** A larger than allowed pier was put in and apparently they are now applying to the state for, in effect, an exception.

8. Lake Management Plan

a) **Background. (P. Cicero)** The last plan was done in 2006, so RLIA applied for and received a grant for a new one. A survey of lake users was mailed out, 2 community meetings held specifically for public input, and many smaller working group meetings took place. An Executive Summary was handed out at the meeting and the full document is available on the webpage. Measurable goals were set for decreasing phosphorous and increasing natural shoreline habitat. Also goals were set for agriculture, street maintenance (e.g, snow management and leaves), and public education.

b) **Increase natural shoreline to 39% by 2023 and 50% by 2028. (Stan).** He noted that 1 pound of phosphate translates into 500 pounds of lake vegetation, thus the critical importance of shoreline buffers to prevent runoff, as well as providing habitat and controlling erosion. Current estimate of shoreline natural habitat is only 25%. Equally important is to avoid use of fertilizers and pesticides in the buffer zone, which should extend 35 ft away from the shore.

c) **Water quality goal of reducing phosphorous by 20% by 2028.**

i) **Leaf and grass clipping initiative (Jim Colegrove).** RLIA worked with the BSA to place drain markers on the 65 sewer gratings that drain directly into the lake. Jim worked with the city and a water quality organization on a leaf free streets campaign to keep leaves on the tree-lawn or terrace between the street and the sidewalk and prevent them from going into the gutter or on the street. Note the City's equipment works better with leaves that are not wet or crushed, i.e., not put in the gutter. This message was distributed via direct mailings and ads in the paper. This is harder to accomplish in the township given logistics and a lack of equipment. Chair Hope Oostdik also said that there are ongoing problems with a pond drainage and sediment from construction sites.

d) **Promote "healthy soil" practices (Scott Schultz).** Scott is a 3rd generation farmer from Dodge County who gave an excellent and informative talk on the "Healthy Soils" initiative in the Oconomowoc watershed. Initially the concern was that there was serious agricultural run off into the lake, but that proved untrue. So the organization that had gathered the money looked into this healthy soil initiative and offered cost sharing to farmers to implement the practices. He described the evolution in his farming practice to include "frost seeding," fall planting, "no till" soil preps, and planting clover as a cover crop amongst his other crops. This has saved him money as he can harvest the clover, needs to add less nitrogen fertilizer, and the ground absorbs a lot more water which means less run off and also more water in the ground for the crops during the typical August droughts. He recommended looking at a "[rain simulator](#)" of cover crops vs tilled, normal planting. They have educational field days (highly recommended free lunch to boost attendance) during which they show off other cover crops like the "tillage radish" which grows roots down 4 feet! Besides opening the soil for deeper aeration and water absorption (a boon when planted in low lying areas that otherwise flood) they encourage the growth of earthworm populations. We will be working with the new UW Extension person to see if we can't introduce these practices here in Jefferson County.

9. Public Comments:

- A question was raised about the new, large concrete sea wall on the north end of the lake. Patricia pointed out that a retaining wall had already been there so they are grandfathered out of the 75 foot setback from the lake.

- Several people raised concerns re erosion from the many construction sites on the lake. Patricia recommended people who notice such things contact the city or town building inspector to be sure the ordinances are being followed.

10. Nominating Committee presentation of candidates put forward by the Board. The Board put forward the incumbents Susan Trier and Lianna Spencer. Susan spoke to her interest in increasing educational outreach, addressing invasive aquatic plants, and increasing the agricultural practices presented by our guest speaker. Stan read Lianna's written statement wherein she reaffirmed her commitment to preserving and improving the health of Rock Lake. A motion to accept the candidacy of Susan and Lianna was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

11. Open floor for other board candidates. Ralph DePasquale, Bonnie Nolan, and Candace Diaz expressed their desire to be considered as candidates. A motion to accept their candidacies was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

12. Candidate presentations. Ralph, Bonnie, and Candace each described their attachment to Rock Lake and their desire to help the RLIA move forward with its varied projects.

13. Election of new Board. The above 5 candidates were presented to the members and, as there were 5 openings, a vote was held by show of hands and they were elected unanimously. The new board members and their terms of office are:
Susan Trier, Ralph DePasquale, and Lianna Spencer – 3 years.
Bonnie Nolan – 2 years
Candace Diaz – 1 year.

14. Presentation of the 2018 Stewardship Award. Susan Trier presented the 2018 Stewardship Award to Paul Enger, the Chairman of the St. Paul Evangelical Church Outreach Board.

15. Next annual meeting 8/17/2019.

16. Next Board meeting 8/20/18.

17. Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed at noon.