

# ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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

Minutes for August 20, 2018, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.,

City of Lake Mills City Hall, 200 Water Street, Lake Mills, WI 53551

- 1) **Call to Order** – 6:30 p.m.
  - a) Members present: Jim Colegrove, Wes Dawson, Mike Nesemann, Nathan Pyles\*, Stan Smoniewski, Lianna Spencer\*, Susan Trier, Bonnie Nolan, Ralph DePasquale, Candace Diaz\* (\*Absent) Guest: Patricia Cicero
- 2) **Motion to accept the agenda** as modified made by Jim, seconded, and unanimously approved.
- 3) **Good News Minute** – meeting participants shared recent good news
- 4) **Secretary’s Report** – Motion to approve July 2018 minutes made by Jim, seconded, and unanimously approved.
- 5) **Treasure’s Report** –
  - a) July financial statements had been distributed by Jim. Motion made by Mike to accept, seconded, and unanimously approved
  - b) Checks made out to Susan to reimburse expenses of annual Stewardship Award and to the Leader to pay for publication of thank you to Lake Mills Market for allowing us to participate in the round-up.
  - c) Jim noted we need a new signer for our account at the Bank of LM. This requires getting Alex Mulligan’s name off the record and showing the Bank a copy of the minutes designating the new signer, the VP. A discussion was held re whether to have at least 3 signers plus a standard check out form for those leaving the Board including reminding signers to go to the bank to have their name removed.
- 6) **Public Comment(s)/Correspondence** –
  - a) Wes was contacted re determining if anyone interested in volunteering for the Angler Education Program, which has DNR grants to increase the number of fishermen in Wisconsin.
  - b) Wes was also contacted by Tim Campbell re the feasibility of starting a Lake Management District which would presumably guarantee steady funding and personnel to undertake lake management tasks. Tim would work on establishing it but cannot lead it. He also raised the issue of our investing some of our money in a Community Foundation, which makes investments. Jim pointed out that those investments are not guaranteed, and we cannot put membership money in anything that is not guaranteed.
  - c) Several donations were received in the name of John Chworowsky. Susan suggested that sending personal, handwritten thank you notes to donors and members would be a good idea. Given the number of members, it was the general feeling that we couldn’t write to every new or re-upping member, but perhaps to donors such as in this case. This will be considered at the September meeting.
- 7) **Committee Reports**

- a) **Water Quality** – Nathan absent. Jim said had been trying to contact Paul Hermanson of the city Public Works Department re including a flyer into the mailings of utility bills with info on proper leaf and grass disposal. That seemed to work very well last year. Mike volunteered to visit Paul to discuss.
  - b) **Membership and Lake Recreation** – Alex has left the board so a new chair is needed.
  - c) **Public Outreach** Susan/Stan
    - Susan said several people at the annual meeting raised the issue of an apparent increase in floating weeds and some had expressed enthusiasm for using chemicals (for which they had received advertisements) or physically removing them. She also said many felt boaters were increasing their speed in “Korth Bay” because of fear of fouling their propellers. Patricia encouraged anyone with such concerns to contact her and noted that chemical use is strictly regulated and that physical harvesting doesn’t affect algae and may inadvertently destroy beneficial native plants. Bonnie recommended we put something on our website re this issue.
    - Mike said several people had asked him why we couldn’t limit the number of boats using the lake. It was pointed out that Wisconsin law prohibits such limits on public water, although limiting launch sites and parking places is allowed.
- 8) **Other Report** –
- a) **County representative** – Patricia.  
Nothing to add to Saturday’s discussion at the annual meeting.
  - b) **JRLC** – Stan  
Brought up the new state law allowing ski boats to do without a spotter if they have a mirror. This is uniformly felt to be a bad idea, but for the town to require it they would have to be able to provide lake police patrols at least 40 hours/week. On the annual lake boat tour Wes’ impression was that rather than *increasing* the amount of natural shoreline, it is decreasing, e.g., more trees cut down, more walls, less natural vegetation, etc.
- 9) **Old Business**
- a) Update on letter to farmers in watershed. Nathan. Tabled
  - b) Discussion of water sampling needs. Patricia will update next meeting.
  - c) Lake Info-graph update. Susan. Tabled.
  - d) Fall Festival (10/7). Discussion re type of table and set up. Primary issue will be proper leaf disposal. Agreed we will ask for 1 board member and one volunteer to man the table, 2 hour shifts.
  - e) Purchase of CDs. Jim pointed out we are getting negligible interest on our checking and savings account and we could get about 2% if we did short term CD laddering, e.g., 12- 14 mo. CDs. Mike made a motion authorizing Jim to invest \$2,500 in a CD to start this off (with an eye to eventually having \$10,000 invested in the whole ladder) in the shortest term CD consistent with a reasonable return. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
  - f) Publicity for Lake Plan. Hold
  - g) New logo. Hold
  - h) New promotional material. Hold
  - i) Date for capacity building/strategic planning. A discussion was held whether to have such a meeting apart from our regular meetings or held in conjunction with them. Given our procedures, we cannot have a special board meeting without specific membership authorization, so it will be held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Wes will send out a questionnaire/survey to the Board as a first step.

- j) Small Lake Grant application. The question of applying for a small lake grant was discussed, the deadline to apply is February. The discussion focused largely on the issue of the Miljala Channel, which has been a persistent source of runoff into the lake. Members pointed out that the channel was running dark brown after the latest rain. We had paid for a study from the UW some years ago and they made several specific recommendations. The DNR would have authorized a grant (up to \$200,000) to implement the recommendations but qualifying for said grant required the unanimous agreement of channel property owners allowing us access to their property to put the recommendations into effect. This was not possible in the past, but Wes will revisit the issue with the people concerned. Also, Ralph volunteered that he had a drone with a camera and it was felt obtaining footage (perhaps best when it rains after a period of no rain) of the pollution coming down that channel would be of value.
- k) In-lake clean up. Hold pending identification of a pontoon boat owner willing to help.

#### **10) New Business**

- a) Election of officers for 2018-2019.
    - President. Wes was nominated by Jim, seconded, and unanimously approved.
    - VP. Susan was nominated by Mike, seconded, and unanimously approved.
    - Secretary. Mike was nominated by Jim, seconded, and unanimously approved.
    - Treasurer. Jim was nominated by Mike, seconded, and unanimously approved.
  - b) Sending thankyou's to riparian owners who meet the criteria for natural shoreline habitat. Hold.
  - c) Ask the City and Town to sweep streets more than once as recommended by the DNR. This will be researched and revisited.
  - d) Do we change Annual Meeting date for 2019 to avoid conflict with Aquatic Invasive Species snapshot (AIS) day? Patricia said she had sponsored AIS in 2017 but despite a fair amount of time and effort, only succeeded in getting one volunteer so she did not volunteer for 2018 and is unsure for 2019. After a discussion, Jim made a motion to change the date for the 2019 annual meeting from Saturday 8/17/19, to Saturday 8/24/19 at 0900. The 17<sup>th</sup> will be the backup (two dates are required when requesting reservations for Korth Park). The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- 11) **Adjourn** – Mike made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded, and passed at 8:23 p.m.
- 12) **Next Meeting:** Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., Lake Mills City Hall