

# RLAA 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

## May 5, 2015

The Rice Lake Area Association (RLAA) held their annual members meeting on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-9:00 pm at the Cambria Suites motel in Maple Grove. The meeting was attended by 21 different households, representing about 20% of our e-mail database. A free pizza buffet was held from 6:30-7:00 for those who paid their 2015 membership dues to the association.

The meeting formally started at approximately 7:05 pm as board member Rick Stulac introduced himself, than asked the other board members and the audience to give a brief introduction. Guests Mark Lahtinen (Maple Grove City Engineering) and James Johnson (Consultant from Freshwater Scientific Services) were also present. Rick also reviewed the associations Mission Statement.

A review of the 2014 Financials and the 2015 Budget was also led by board member/treasurer Rick Stulac. 2014 Financial Objectives included:

- Increase annual dues participation (up by 3%)
- Increase City funding for lake projects (over 50% of the \$9,000 total project cost for 2014-15 will be City-funded)

In the Treasurer's Report, Rick noted that 2014 was the first year in a long time where RLAA had to dip into the Savings Account to pay bills for projects. At this time the Savings balance is under \$11,000 (down from \$17,000). The number of paying members was down to 37 households.

There were no questions from the audience regarding the Financials or the Budget.

**Board Member George Schneider gave the General Lake Update which consists of 5 parts:**

- 'Year in Review' look at 2014
- Impacts on Water Quality
- Drawdown update
- 2014 Project Review
- 2015 Project Plans
- **2014 Year in Review**
  - Winter 2013-2014 was a long and hard one with above average snow and late ice-out. This led to a winterkill on the lake, the first observed since 2008.
  - Spring was cooler and wetter with high water levels.
  - Spring 2014 introduced a winterkill of many fish, both rough and game fish.
  - Late Spring 2014 saw heavier than normal Curlyleaf Pondweed. With this increase in growth plus the winterkill, discussions about a potential 2014-2015 drawdown began.
  - Summer/Fall – Fishing was very poor with visiting fishermen numbers down significantly.
  - Fall 2014 the first drawdown since 2004-2005 was conducted.
  - Winter 2014-2015 was below average snowfall and slightly colder than normal, which should result in a good killing of Curlyleaf Pondweed seeds.
  - Spring 2015 has been much drier than normal, increasing the amount of time it will take to refill the lake.
- **Impacts on Water Quality**
  - Bad Weeds vs. Good Weeds
  - Nutrient levels
  - Bad fish vs. Good fish
  - Do we want a lake dominated by algae or by native plants?

- **Drawdown update**
  - Review of why we do a drawdown
  - Benefits vs. Negative impacts review
    - Benefits
      - Minimum cost (\$250 DNR permit)
      - Public works labor to open/close the dam gate
      - Not harmful to good aquatic plants or fish (when winter aerated)
      - Opportunity to clean up and improve shoreline
    - Negative impacts
      - Loss of ice coverage surface area
      - Lake refill is based on watershed precipitation level
    - Drawdown history
      - 1998-1999
      - 1999-2000
      - 2002-2003
      - 2004-2005
        - This was deemed to be the most effective drawdown in reducing CLP growth
  - Drawdown results so far in 2014-2015
    - Winter conditions appeared to be ideal (little snow; good frost depth).
    - Fish restocking began in April 2015 with intention to boost game fish numbers
  - Drawdown Q & A
- **2014 Project Review**
  - Channel Dredging project
    - Objective: To deepen the channel entering the lake from the Boat Ramp Bay, which has never been dredged out before and is getting shallower due to sediment contribution.
    - 100% approval of adjacent homeowners need to approve, but 1 has declined.
    - Next step is to revisit the situation in 2015-2016.
- **2015 Planned Projects**
  - Continue to update the RLAA website
  - Carp Removal in Winter 2015-2016 (if necessary)
  - Dredge Channel by Boat Launch (Winter 2015-2016)
  - Complete fish restocking effort
  - Encourage resident shoreline restoration projects via Maple Grove Lake Improvement Grant Program
    - Residents can get up to \$750 reimbursement from City of Maple Grove on valid projects
    - Copy request form from our website  
 ([http://ricelake.homestead.com/files/2015\\_Meetings/Maple\\_Grove\\_Lake\\_Improvement\\_Project\\_Grant\\_Application\\_Form\\_2015.docx](http://ricelake.homestead.com/files/2015_Meetings/Maple_Grove_Lake_Improvement_Project_Grant_Application_Form_2015.docx))
    - Submit the completed form to George Schneider via e-mail ([ricelakeassoc@comcast.net](mailto:ricelakeassoc@comcast.net))
  - Continue working with Elm Creek Watershed on Impaired Waters Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) project plan (in tandem with RLAA Lake Management plan)
  - Storm Drain monitoring with City Staff
  - Continue to increase our membership
- **Water Quality – What can you do to help?**
  - Manage your shoreline
  - Keep the street drains free of debris
  - Pick up litter along shoreline

- Don't use phosphorous in your lawn treatment
- Consider aerating your lawn on a regular basis

### **Rice Lake Consultant Update by James Johnson (Freshwater Scientific Services)**

- Presentation to inform membership of projects done over the recent years and the reason for those projects. Includes how to transition Rice Lake from an algae-dominated lake to a plant-dominated lake.
- James reviewed the projects he has worked on for Rice Lake during the recent past, including:
  - Carp Exclusion (2009) – this proved that without carp impacting the vegetation, Rice Lake could sustain its own native plant community.
  - Curlyleaf Pondweed/Native Vegetation studies (2012 and 2014) – this study is necessary in order to pursue DNR permit for lake-wide weed treatment. 2012 amounts were not very significant, but 2014 did demonstrate much higher counts of CLP all around the lake/creek. This was a requirement in order to get the 2014-2015 drawdown conducted.
  - Shoreline Erosion Assessment project (2014-2015) – conducted during the winter months of this past year's drawdown, properties were rated according to degree of impact from erosion factors (both natural and man-made).
    - At least 10 residents took advantage of the project results and had shoreline improvements done on their properties, including the City of Maple Grove along the park trail in the Tristan Bay neighborhood (NE side of the lake).

### **Committee Update**

Bill Kidder from RLAA Board gave an update of the current teams and the need to increase the numbers and involvement of these teams. Please sign up today to join one (or more) of these teams to help us get our lake back into shape.

- **Lake Management Team**
  - Fish Management sub-committee
- **Membership Team**
  - This team has not been active and we need to resurrect it.
  - As we (RLAA) engage in more projects, we will continue to require more funding and support for these projects. Increasing our membership and awareness of these projects is a vital part of this team's objectives.
  - Note: RLAA member Dave Wirig later volunteered to help get this group restarted. Thanks Dave!!
  - Ann Bick volunteered to help set up a Facebook page for members to access. Thank you Ann!!
- **RLAA Resource Team**
  - Do you have a certain skill or interest and would like to be on our list for projects which may be up your alley? Sign up for this team and we'll reach out to you as these projects become available.

### **Board Member Elections**

- Terms were up for 3 current Board Members:
  - Bill Kidder
  - Scott Roeglin
  - Rick Stulac
- Each volunteered to serve another 3 year term ending in 2018.
- 2 more RLAA members also volunteered to serve on the Board of Directors; each was later formally nominated and elected to the board:
  - Jeremy Coenen
  - Michael Thiede

### Rice Lake Trivia Contest

Scott & Joy Roeglin hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Rice Lake Trivia Contest. Members present at the meeting took part by scoring their own results. The winner was Wade Quale with a perfect score (all 11 correct)! Wade was awarded a gift certificate from a local retailer.

1. In what month of 2014, was there a large natural fish kill in Rice Lake? (April)
2. What are the moving black “clouds” in the creek and lake caused by? (Schools of baby bullheads)
3. What’s the name of the white birds that roost at night in the trees along the creek? (Egrets)
4. How many open board member positions are there? (9 out of a total of 15 allowed by our by-laws)
5. What types of fish are being stocked in Rice Lake this year? (Bluegill, crappie, largemouth bass and perch)
6. There are Bald Eagles, Osprey and King Fishers, among the many birds and water fowl that use Rice Lake every day.
  - a. True
  - b. False
7. How many “slow” buoys are there on the lake?
  - a. 2
  - b. 3
  - c. 4
8. Elm Creek, from the lake entrance by the fountain, all the way to the damn, is a no wake zone.
  - a. True
  - b. False
9. If you are boating on Rice Lake, a canoe has the right of way.
  - a. True
  - b. False
10. Can you name at least one of the races that go around or include Rice Lake every year? (Maple Grove Days Rice Lake Run; )
11. If you jog, walk or bike the path around Rice Lake, how far will you go?
  - a. Almost 3
  - b. Almost 4
  - c. Almost 5 miles?

Scott & Joy also conducted the drawings for 4 more gift certificates from local retailers. Winners were:

- Mark Ellingson
- Dave Wirig
- Eric Lind
- Anne Marie Seward

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.