

RLAA 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2017

The Rice Lake Area Association (RLAA) held their annual members meeting on Tuesday, May 2nd from 6:30-9:30 pm at the Cambria Suites motel in Maple Grove. The meeting was well attended by almost 50 residents, representing about 15% of our total potential members from our database and again one of the largest turnouts in recent history. A free pizza buffet was held from 6:30-7:00 for those who paid their 2017 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), Patty Anderson (Maple Grove Parks & Rec), Jordan Wein (Carp Solutions) and Rich Brasch (Three Rivers Park District) were also present. Rick also reviewed the associations Mission Statement.

A review of the 2016 Financials and the 2017 Budget was also led by board member/treasurer Rick Stulac. 2016 Financial Objectives included:

- Increase annual dues participation (up 2% vs. previous year)
- Increase City funding for lake projects via the Lake Improvements Project (LIP) program.

In the Treasurer's Report, Rick noted that 2016 saw a positive impact on our Savings fund, putting RLAA at \$23,000 total cash in the bank. The number of paying members was up to 46 households (an increase of 1 vs. 2015).

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

A Dues Payment question was raised if the names of those who did pay their dues could be posted on the RLAA website, so others may be encouraged to do the same. It was decided by a show of hands that people had no issues with having their last names posted on our website showing that they paid dues. This will be done after these meeting minutes are posted to our website.

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

- Review current Rice Lake surface water regulations
- 'Year in Review' look at 2016
- Impacts on Water Quality
- Drawdown review
- 2016 Project Review
- 2017 Project Plans
- **Surface Water Regulations**
 - No wake zones in creek and within 100 feet of shoreline or other water craft
 - No wake speed maximum is 5 mph
 - Speed limits
 - Daytime 40 mph
 - Nighttime 15 mph
 - See <http://www.maplegrovern.gov/about/lakes-and-water-quality/rice-lake/> for details
- **2016 Year in Review**
 - No need for drawdown in 2015-2016; winter aeration not done either.
 - Winter 2015-2016 weather was below average for precipitation/temperature, resulting in good conditions for naturally treating Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP)
 - Water levels above normal for most of the open water season
 - Very little CLP was observed in 2016
 - Water quality during the outdoor boating season was observed to be better than recent years without any major algae blooms for the 2nd season in a row

- Summer/Fall 2016 – Fishing very poor the entire season. Visiting fishermen numbers were again down significantly.
- Winter 2016-2017 was again mild and lower than average precipitation
- Spring 2017 water level has been slightly above average, even with reduced winter precipitation
- **Impacts on Water Quality**
 - Bad Weeds vs. Good Weeds
 - Reviewed Curlyleaf Pondweed (bad) vs. Coontail (good)
 - Curlyleaf Pondweed has shown little growth last year and early this season.
 - Coontail has still been heavy growth on Elm Creek entry on west side of I-94.
 - Nutrient levels
 - 75% coming in from rest of watershed; 25% internal to Rice Lake (per Elm Creek TMDL)
 - Bad fish vs. Good fish
 - Rough fish (bad) consist mostly of Common Carp and Bullhead.
 - Game fish (good) population is low, but restocking efforts in 2015 hope to help swing the pendulum to a healthy fish population. More restocking to be done in 2017.
 - Do we want a lake dominated by algae or by native plants?
 - Being a shallow lake, we have the dilemma of either being a lake full of nutrients/algae or one full of native aquatic weeds.
 - One positive about a lake full of native aquatic weeds is that the water quality/clarity should improve, along with the gamefish population. Weeds can always be controlled by cutting if necessary.
- **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
 - At least 10 residents took advantage of their exposed shoreline to work on erosion control projects.
 - 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
 - 2014-2015
 - Drawdown Q & A
 - Was the 2014-2015 drawdown considered successful?
 - Yes, the last drawdown was considered a success since it did knock down the Curlyleaf Pondweed growth and gave residents the opportunity to work on shoreline erosion.
 - Will another drawdown be conducted in 2017-2018?
 - No, not at this point. As long as the benefit (reduced CLP growth) continues, there is no need to draw down again. (DNR only allows drawdowns for control of non-native aquatic plant growth; cannot do a drawdown to control algae.)

- **2016 Project Review**
 - Channel Dredging project postponed without full homeowner support
 - RLAA will continue to pursue this project in 2017-2018
 - Possibly utilize a Boaters Fund to help offset the project cost for dissenting homeowner?

- **2017 Planned Projects**
 - Fish stocking of native game fish
 - Some crappie, bluegill and largemouth bass have already been installed this spring
 - Continue to update the RLAA website
 - Reminded membership that we have a Facebook page for RLAA contributions
 - Please utilize it and if you'd like to help design pages, let us know!
 - Consider Dredge Channel by Boat Launch (Winter 2017-2018)
 - 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.
 - A good conversation resulted with the homeowner who does not approve of the project and others at the meeting. A focus group has been organized to discuss the issue and possible solutions in the upcoming weeks and to revisit the situation in 2017-2018.
 - 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 (details coming later via e-mail)
 - Submit the completed form to George Schneider via e-mail (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
 - Consider Carp Removal in Winter 2017-2018 (if necessary)
 - Possibly in a joint project with Fish Lake

- **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

Park & Recreation update for Rice Lake by Patty Anderson (Administrative Supervisor/Maple Grove Park & Rec)

- Presentation to discuss the history of the Rice Lake Trail system.
 - Pavement strategies
 - Sealcoat every 5-7 years
 - Repave every 20-30 years
 - Vegetation Management
 - Annual – Trim trees which are near the trail
 - 4-5 years – clean cut dead trees and trim back fast growing shrubs
 - Currently no plans for Public Access on Rice Lake (other than existing carry-on spots)
 - Use the 'YourGov' on-line system to report anything related to City of Maple Grove concerns
 - For more details on key staff contacts, see the flyer located on our website at:
 - Questions raised by audience
 - How to discourage speeding bikers around the trail?

- City is trying to address this issue and will follow up on it again
- If we see someone dumping along the trail, who do we report it to?
 - Use the YourGov system if you can. Otherwise you can contact the respective individuals with the Park & Rec organization (see flyer referenced above)

Elm Creek Watershed TMDL Project and Impacts on Rice Lake Update by Rich Brasch (Three Rivers Parks District)

- Presentation to review the current TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load of nutrients) project and how the study will impact Rice Lake with future projects.
 - Rich, who has presented to RLAA in the past, gave an overview of the study and how some recent projects have contributed to some improvement in the local watershed, including Rice Lake.
 - Completed projects
 - Tower Hill drive (Hamel) run-off enhancement
 - Elm Creek Restoration project (by Wayzata HS in Plymouth)
 - Future projects
 - Upper Elm Creek Stabilization project (Plymouth)
 - Continue management of Curlyleaf Pondweed
 - Rough Fish control
 - High efficiency street sweeping (Maple Grove)
 - Urban BMP retro-fit projects where water drains into Rice Lake/Elm Creek
 - Land use transition in upper watershed (30% development expected by 2030)
 - TMDL Project Plan: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/elm-creek-watershed-management-organization-watershed-wide-tmdl-and-protection-and>
 -

Joint Carp Removal Project by Jordan Wein (Carp Solutions)

- Background: Carp Solutions has worked with several area watershed districts to identify carp problems and assist in their removal. Several of the staff have worked directly with the University of Minnesota invasive species expert, Dr. Peter Sorenson.
- Objective: Measure and determine if Carp are in fact a nuisance on both Fish and Rice Lakes.
 - Come up with an action plan to combat Carp
 - Phase 1 – Track carp
 - Phase 2 – Remove carp
 - Request support and financial assistance from these entities:
 - Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission (ECWMC)
 - City of Maple Grove
 - Three Rivers Parks District
 - Rice Lake Area Association (RLAA)
 - Fish Lake Area Residents Association (FLARA)
 - *As of May 15, 2017 this project has been delayed until next year due to other project priorities on Fish Lake.*

Committee Update

Jeremy Coenen 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.

- **RLAA Facebook page**

- Share your knowledge and experiences/concerns about Rice Lake on our own Facebook page. Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/RiceLakeMG/>.

Board Member Elections

- Term was up for 2 current Board Members:
 - Luke Johnson
 - Mark Ellingson
- Both volunteered to serve another 3-year term ending in 2020.

Rice Lake Trivia Contest

Scott & Joy Roeglin hosted the 4th annual Rice Lake Trivia Contest. Members present at the meeting took part by scoring their own results. The winner was Linda Hibbard with 9 out of 10 correct; Jean won a \$10 gift certificate from a local retailer. (visit the RLAA website for the questions/answers at:)

Scott & Joy also conducted the drawings for 9 more \$10 gift certificates from local retailers. Winners were:

- Don Waletzko
- Michelle Cortez
- Kim Miller
- Jeff Swanson
- Lyn Billings
- Anne Seward
- Sue Drag
- Wade Quale
- Pete Raatikka

Open Forum questions

Slalom Course – Use and reason for current location

- Concern: Several residents asked if the course could be relocated to the south of the peninsula where it is at now. Primary reason is for some who use it during the day when boaters are parked along that shoreline enjoying an area out of the wind.
- Response: Course spokesperson Shane Mason stated the course is in the current location for a similar reason (out of the wind where skiers like calm water). He also stated that the core skiers use the course in early morning, when water may be calmer.
- Action Item: Dave Wiring indicated he will discuss this with others on the lake and see if they can come to an agreeable solution where everyone can enjoy the area.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.