

ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL Report
AUGUST 27, 2011

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Historical Review

Rock Lake is in the process of change. As an organization, we were incorporated on October 7, 1971 as a non-profit organization (meaning the organization does not pay taxes), and were designated with 501(c)3 status on May 24, 2004 (meaning dues and donations to it are tax-deductible for the donor).

We operate with our efforts tuned to the Rock Lake Improvement Association (RLIA) Mission Statement:

“ The mission of the RLIA is to promote and generate positive action on issues concerning the preservation, protection and improvement of Rock Lake.”

This report will outline the activities and accomplishments of the RLIA during the past year.

Major Emphasis

Our main efforts were devoted to both education and planning. Below are outlined several of our efforts to make our members aware of the various issues and information that are relevant to our lake. While we were active in planning and advocacy for the entire lake, special emphasis was devoted to the Miljala Shores area.

With the cooperation, teamwork, and hard labor of the board and volunteers and community staff we were able to show you the following results of a year's effort:

1. GRANTS - Received approval for three grants from the Wisconsin DNR to allow improvements to be planned and to receive needed tools.
2. INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP - Conducted a day workshop on Aquatic Plants and relevant DNR regulations. This April workshop was presented by state experts in their fields, and was planned and conducted by RLIA board members and Jefferson County Staff. The event was video-taped and is available for showing.
3. INFORMATION - We exhibited at Lake Mills events, such as the Fall festival and Town and Country Days where we informed the citizens about Lake Issues.
4. WEB PAGE - Revamped the www.rocklake.org web site.
5. Spoke at several County board committee meetings and City workgroups.
6. Joined Lake Mills Middle School staff for educational panel discussions, and coordinated a lake clean up and garlic pull with the High School program.

7. BY-LAWS REVISION Revised by-laws so board succession is more orderly.

8. Reviewed major goals of the organization on a routine basis and organized the goal document in a user-friendly format.

Through out the year, we were vigilant on issues that may affect Rock Lake, holding listening sessions, modifying the web page for receipt of input, and including a public comment session at each board meeting. On several occasions, we conferred with elected officials and regulatory staff regarding items that could effect the lake.

What is Next?

The RLIA is an advocacy organization and will look out for Rock Lake. We will engage in an 18 month study with our partners in the MARS consulting firm and with the University of Wisconsin – Madison. We will develop a plan that will identify options to solve several pollution and sediment problems in the Miljala Shores area. We plan to make citizens aware of the importance of various practices and monitor water quality.

If you are interested in volunteering for any phase of RLIA programs, please contact a board member. You may also send an email or letter to our organization at:

- E-mail: mail@rocklake.org
- US Mail: RLIA, P.O. Box 255, Lake Mills, WI 53551

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 2006 Lake Management Plan gave 47 goals and recommendations to help maintain and improve Rock Lake. Since that time the RLIA has made progress, or completed, a number of these items. We created an integrated tracking sheet to easily consolidate and document all of those accomplishments in one location. The tracking sheet also allows the group to not duplicate efforts and refocus on the priorities that still need work. The RLIA has been progressively reviewing and updating the sheet for each priority at each monthly meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Please see attached Treasurer's report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the August 21, 2010 RLIA Annual meeting have been on the www.rocklake.org website since September, 2010. You can find a copy of the 2010 Annual Report under the section 'Our Meetings'. The monthly minutes for RLIA are also found under this section.

GRANT COMMITTEE REPORT

After the current RLIA board was elected in August of 2010, the Grant Committee communicated with DNR regarding the two grant applications submitted by the previous board. The DNR stated that the two grants would not be funded because of inadequate number of points necessary for approval, but that the new board had time to make changes to try to obtain more points before the official decision.

Rather than letting the work on the grants go to waste, the board made a decision to rescue the grants and, with the assistance of Susan Graham, DNR Water Resources Management Specialist, refined the two grants to acquire sufficient points to qualify for funding of \$10,000 for each of them. Upon Grant Committee recommendation, the board then hired an interim consultant to assist in rescoping the grants, meet with affected property owners and to help prepare a Request for Proposal to send to interested engineering firms. Four firms were sent RFPs and three responded and upon recommendation of the Grant Committee, the board of directors hired Montgomery Associates of Cottage Grove. In the meantime the committee, in helping to restore confidence in the operation of RLIA, met during the winter and spring with state and county agencies as well as affected property owners, to update them on the progress of the grant applications.

These meetings included the following:

Ken Potter, University of Wisconsin-Madison Civil Engineering Professor resulting in grad student participation starting September 2011.

Jefferson County Parks Committee as well as the County Parks Director.

Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Department Committee including Director of the Department,

Multiple meetings with Patricia Cicero, Jefferson County Water Resources Management Specialist, on site and in the office.

Joint Rock Lake Committee to discuss status of grant's progress

June meeting with 19 channel and ditch property owners along with consultant

On March 2, 2011, members of the Grant Committee met with representatives of DNR in Madison to plan an Aquatic Plant Seminar for spring to acquaint the public with the condition of Rock Lake and to provide expert water research in terms that scientifically describe the extent of various species of aquatic plants in Rock Lake.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At the start of the 2010 RLIA Annual meeting there were 146 total memberships. A large number of people joined RLIA before and during the first portion of the meeting. Per information supplied

by Janet Jenrich, past RLIA President in September 2010, there were 124 Family, 75 Individual, and 4 Corporate memberships for a total of 203 memberships. As of July 30, 2011 there are: 120 Family, 46 Individual, and 4 Corporate memberships for a total of 170 memberships.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee was composed of Julie Clark, Jim Colegrove and Joe Harcarik. There are ten confirmed candidates nominated for the 2011-2012 RLIA Board: Johanna Chworowsky, Larry Clark, Jim Colegrove, Carl Glassford, Ken Hobbs, Scott Johnson, Andy Petraszak, Jeanne Scherer, Stan Smoniewski and Milt Strauss. An alternate candidate is Jim Shaw.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Publicity Committee of the Rock Lake Improvement Association (RLIA) has had a busy year promoting the mission and importance of Rock Lake in our community. Earlier this year, a new membership brochure was created and sent to residents of the entire Rock Lake watershed to inform them of the activities of the association and ask for their support. Articles published under the title of "Making Waves" appeared approximately monthly in the *Lake Mills Leader* covering current and interesting topics following the seasons. The RLIA display, staffed by volunteers, appeared at the Fall Festival of Color, Town and Country Days and includes a plan to have a display of historic lake scenes and activities at the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the founding of Lake Mills this coming Labor Day weekend.

The committee helped organize and promote an Aquatic Plant Seminar in April attended by over 65 lake advocates. An impressive line-up of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources researchers and Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department staff presented an outstanding program of lake information, including results of the 2010 Rock Lake aquatic plant survey. The program was captured on DVD and is available in the Lake Mills library for viewing.

A series of T-shirts depicting the historic boathouses known as "The Three Sisters" was designed this spring and has become a new and popular fundraiser for RLIA. The watercolor rendering was donated by Peggy Engsberg Furlin and assists in further promoting the association and its value to Rock Lake and its watershed.