

**AN OPEN LETTER TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
LONG TRADE LAKE ASSOCIATION (501C3)**

September 7, 2022

Dear Board of Directors,

I am writing on the behalf of myself, members, and Officers of Round Trade Lakes Improvement Association serving Big Trade, Little Trade and Round Lakes (RTLIA). At the request of the members of RTLIA, the Board of Directors conducted research on the complaints the Board has received, including the issues and complaints outlined herein.

Assessment of Steward Donation from Round Trade Lake Improvement Association (RTLIA)

A request was made by the Round Trade Lake Improvement Association (hereinafter referred to RTLIA) general membership that the current RTLIA President appoint a committee, as defined in Article VIII, Section 1 of the RTLIA By-laws, to investigate a Steward Donation to the Long Trade Lake Association (hereinafter referred to LTLA) unanimously approved by the RTLIA board at the May 9, 2022, RTLIA board meeting (Zoom recording, RTLIA May Board Meeting.mp4).

It is the assertion of the RTLIA general membership that the previous RTLIA board of directors acted in bad faith and neglected their duty to act in the interest of the general membership by approving this motion for a donation. The RTLIA general membership contends that the then acting President of the RTLIA board of directors misled the other board members, misrepresented facts, and **neglected to present documentation to back up claims used** to persuade the board members to act in a way that benefited them and their newly formed LTLA organization, all in violation of Wisconsin Legislature 19.59, Section 1a.

Our research contained the following:

- 1) The RTLIA general membership contends that the RTLIA board exceeded their authority on May 9, 2022, allowing a \$20,000 donation. You were Officers for RTLIA that had obligations to the members during this time.
- 2) **The RTLIA contends that a decision of this magnitude must be presented to the general membership for approval by majority vote. This vote should have been presented to the general membership as described in Article IV of the RTLIA By-laws. It is a blatant violation of the RTLIA By-laws that general membership was not invited to this meeting.**
- 3) It should be noted that representatives from the other lakes did request this information at the June meeting but were not provided access. This information is not owned by the board... it is the property of the general membership. The board is elected to represent the interest of the general membership. It is a violation of the By-laws that any member the association be denied this information.
- 4) The RTLIA general membership has requested the May 9th, 2022, board vote be deemed NULL and VOID due to violation of the RTLIA By-laws.
- 5) LEAPS: LTLA is part of the current grant that supports clean lakes for 2023. Effective immediately, all volunteer hours must be entered daily for the volunteer hours to be valid. If this is not followed in accordance with the rules of the DNR, the volunteer hours will be void. Per Dave Blumer, 203 volunteer hours, which is equivalent to \$2,436 is owed by LTLA.
- 6) To date, RTLIA has paid \$197.62 to Dave Blumer for Long Trade responsibilities with a final balance due through December 2022 of \$668.41, totaling a reimbursement of \$866.03 due to the RTLIA. In addition, Matt Berg from Endangered Resource Services (ERS) will provide RTLIA with a final invoice upon completion of the survey. Your current liability is \$2,500, which is subject to change, is taken directly from the grant budget submitted to the DNR.

- 7) An independent committee was appointed to assess the proportional value of RTLIA funds-based lake participation fairly and openly for the most recent 6-year financial history. Table 1 and 2 show the results of that analysis.

Table 1

5 Year Totals					
	Big Trade	Little Trade	Round	Long Trade	Totals
Number of Paid Dues	295	135	242	202	874
Dues Revenue	\$11,800	\$5,400	\$9,680	\$8,080	\$34,960
Number of Donations	143	54	108	78	383
Donations Revenue	\$7,525	\$2,208	\$5,751	\$2,397	\$17,881
Percent Participation	38%	41%	42%	47%	42%
Total Contributions	\$19,325	\$7,608	\$15,431	\$10,477	\$52,841
Percent of Contributions	37%	14%	29%	20%	100%

Table 2

	Big	Little	Round	Long	Total Hours All Lakes
On Lake Hours	1087	899	679	1014	3679
Off Lake Hours	756	318	0	271	1344
Hours with No Lake Designation	139	78	27	28	271
Total Hours Per Lake	1982	1294	705	1312	5294
Percent of Volunteer Hours	37%	24%	13%	25%	100%

The Officers of RTLIA are willing to work with Long Trade Association, expect reimbursement to include the payment from LEAPS, no later than end of business day on Monday, September 12th, 2022. In addition, LTLA will follow the guidelines of the DNR requirements and RTLIA by recording volunteer hours daily.

Failure to provide reimbursement will force RTLIA to take further actions as required to recover the funds.

I sincerely thank you for your attention to these matters and your services as Board Members of RTLIA. I and the entire Officers of RTLIA look forward to hearing from the board of Long Trade Lake Association. Feel free to reach out to me directly for resolution and how we can work together moving forward in a better direction in supporting members of both Long Trade Association, RTLIA, as well as WI Lakes Associations, and the community of Burnett County.

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni Denardo
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RTLIA President