



RTLIA ANNUAL MEETING

President's Report
September 17, 2022

Welcome to Round Lake Trade Improvement Association (RTLIA). The purpose of the association is to preserve and protect Round Lake, Big Trade Lake, Little Trade Lake, Trade River, and its surroundings. Enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety, and aesthetic values of RTLIA, as a public recreational facility for today and for future generations while respecting the interests of property owners and the public while providing the opportunity for fellowship among Association members.

As most of you know, there has been a lot of changes within the RTLIA, to include one of our lakes splitting off - Long Trade Lake. The past board did no favors for us. Since taking on Office we have made significant progress, however there is a lot that we need to accomplish that we are looking for help from our members.

June 18th, 2022

Attended meeting at Trade Lake Town Hall for RTLIA, at the time past officers from Long Trade had announced the split, they had become a non-profit 501C3 lake association. Long Trade Officers suggested other members to step up so to protect the future of RTLIA. They also announced that the transfer of the Stewardship Donation was approved in the amount of \$20k, they felt it was justified due to the amount of volunteer work Long Trade vs. any of the other lakes. They were very passionate about the lack of commitment on the other three (3) lakes. On May 9th, Past Officers of RTLIA, held a special meeting which consisted of majority of Long Trade Lake Board Members, Jesse Rees, Lake Rep of Little Trade and Richard Tober, Lake Rep Big Trade were the only two present. Members of RTLIA were not notified of this meeting which is in violation of our bylaws. During this time, I started the campaign for the election of the officers for the annual meeting.



Campaign began: Denise Schreifels, Jesse Rees, Rick Painter

With the help from Denise, the two of us worked together to obtain as many contacts for all property owners as they would not provide this. Rick Painter guided and assisted us as the main goal was to move the association over. Once we have a newly appointed board we can make changes to the bylaws, update job descriptions, processes, etc. On or around June 30th, Jesse had let me know that he convinced the past officers of Long Trade to let us appoint officers so that we can finish the work of the grants due this coming September. July 9th, we had a newly appointed board.

Transition from Past Officers to newly appointed Officers

July 13, 2022: Removal of Roger and Scott from bank account. Greg Younker and Toni Denardo signers

Board started meeting weekly, at times twice a week to work off agenda

Treasurer

Greg Younker will provide details on the financials and the audit. He has also been working with Dave Blumer regarding the grants and volunteer hours.

Audit of Books & Letter to Long Trade Lake Association

Committee was appointed to handle the audit of our books: Terry Schwartz, Jim Dooher & Jesse Rees

August 23rd, 2022: Audit was presented to the Board

September 6th, 2022, Open Letter to the Board of Directors of Long Trade Lake Association (LTLA) was emailed to each Board Member: Roger Breault, Scott Hanson, Toni Wilburn, and Nicole Monson and sent certified mail, demanding reimbursement of funds, advising they need to follow the guidelines of the DNR requirements and RTLIA by recording volunteer hours daily.

September 10th, 2022, received email from Scott Hanson advising us that the letter will be addressed at the LTLA Annual Meeting set for today, September 17th, 2022.

RTLIA response: Extended the date to Sunday, September 18th, 2022, 10am. Three officers to meet at Trade Lake Town Hall expecting reimbursement to include previous invoices paid to LEAPS. If payment is not received, further action will be taken immediately.

September 14th, 2022, Dissolved Oxygen Testing Equipment (value over \$2k). Roger Breault has in his possession. Sent email expecting the return of the equipment. Equipment to be returned immediately and expect equipment to be returned at the time we meet on Sunday, September 18th, 2022, 10am.



LEAPS

July 26, 2022, Met with Dave Blumer with LEAPS.

In attendance: Rick Painter, Greg Younker, Reid McFarlane & Toni Denardo
Zoom: Mary Jo Gentry, Janelle Moe & Terry Schwartz

Discussed the Aquatic Management Plan, how volunteer hours work and what is needed to submit the grant. Current outstanding grant is the fish sticks grant, we need to complete the remainder of this grant. Dave will provide an update and review of the AMP, volunteer hour input regarding grant, and a quick explanation of a lake district.

July 27th, 2022, received all documentations from Dave regarding the five (5) year plan, survey and the timeline for implementation. Posted on website and FB for all to review.

Bylaws & Job Descriptions

August 23, 2022, started looking at different lake associations, WI Lakes Association, and model bylaws from Stevens Point. We agreed as a board to appoint a committee to make the changes that align with other associations and WI Lakes Associations.

Job Descriptions: Officers need to align in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order that lays out specific duties of what is needed to run a 501C3. Currently Lake Reps do not hold a job description that needs to be clearly defined.

Website Overhaul

Mary Jo, Janelle Moe & Jesse Rees

They have been working on updating the website – this is continuous project. We are looking for members that have experience in creating new websites we would welcome your help.

Social Media & Communications

Focusing on social media strategy for more community involvement. We will provide information regarding RTLIA on FB and RTLIA website.

We are looking to make sure we have all contact information for all property owners so that we can continue to keep communications open, updates on lakes and planning upcoming events. Please make sure you include your home mailing address. When providing your email address, please let us know if you want this visible to members of RTLIA.



501C3 vs. 501C4 & Insurance

RTLIA is a 501C4, being a 501C4 we cannot accept donations. The Board made a motion to become a 501C3 so that we can do additional fundraising and accept donations. RTLIA will be able to present to anyone donating a 501C3 tax exempt form. We are currently in process of making this change.

Non-Profit Organizations need Liability Insurance as well as Officers Insurance to protect against injury and lawsuits. In planning the annual meeting, we learned that our insurance was lapsed the month of June 2022. To hold a meeting at Trade Lake Town Hall they need a copy of our Certif. of Liability. We were forced to move it to Zoom. It was then brought to our attention that the current Roberts Rules of Order required us to follow Zoom procedures. T-Dawgs stepped up, allowed us to have the meeting here and provided us with a sponsorship of \$125 for the room rental. Thank you, T-Dawgs! We are in the process of obtaining three (3) bids on insurance.

Lake District

Reid McFarlane from Little Trade has led this initiative in the last year, Larry Ghimenti from Round Lake previously. Thank you, Reid and Larry, for all of your time and commitment.

Terry Schwartz will start leading this initiative. Terry will provide more information and part of the agenda. We are forming a committee, please see Terry if you would like to join.

Eric Olson with WI Lakes Association will be holding Zoom meetings in October and will be joining us for an in-person meeting in the spring.

Digitizing Communications

The transition has been painful. We have boxes of files. We are making every effort in moving everything to Google Docs so that it will be a seamless transition for the next group of Officers.

Elections

In our final hour of preparing for RTLIA's Annual Meeting it was noticed that the VP seat was up for elections. We felt as a Board this was not feasible, the VP Seat will remain vacant.

IN CLOSING

I want to thank each one of our Board of Directors for the countless hours, dedication and time taking on the transition of RTLIA. We had no idea what we were getting into and owe it to everyone sitting here at this table.

Moving forward we are pleading for your help. If we want the future of RTLIA to continue we need your help and support. Whether you have one hour a week/month, want to join the board, committees, help create bylaws and job descriptions, overhaul the website, fundraising, help clean the lakes. Whatever it may be. We all own properties on our lakes, which is your investment. You will learn today how "sick" some of our lakes are. If we don't start addressing Little Trade, there are two bays that will be no longer. Big Trade and Round has "some" issues that we can beat this if we all start working together as a community, we can have clean waters again.

