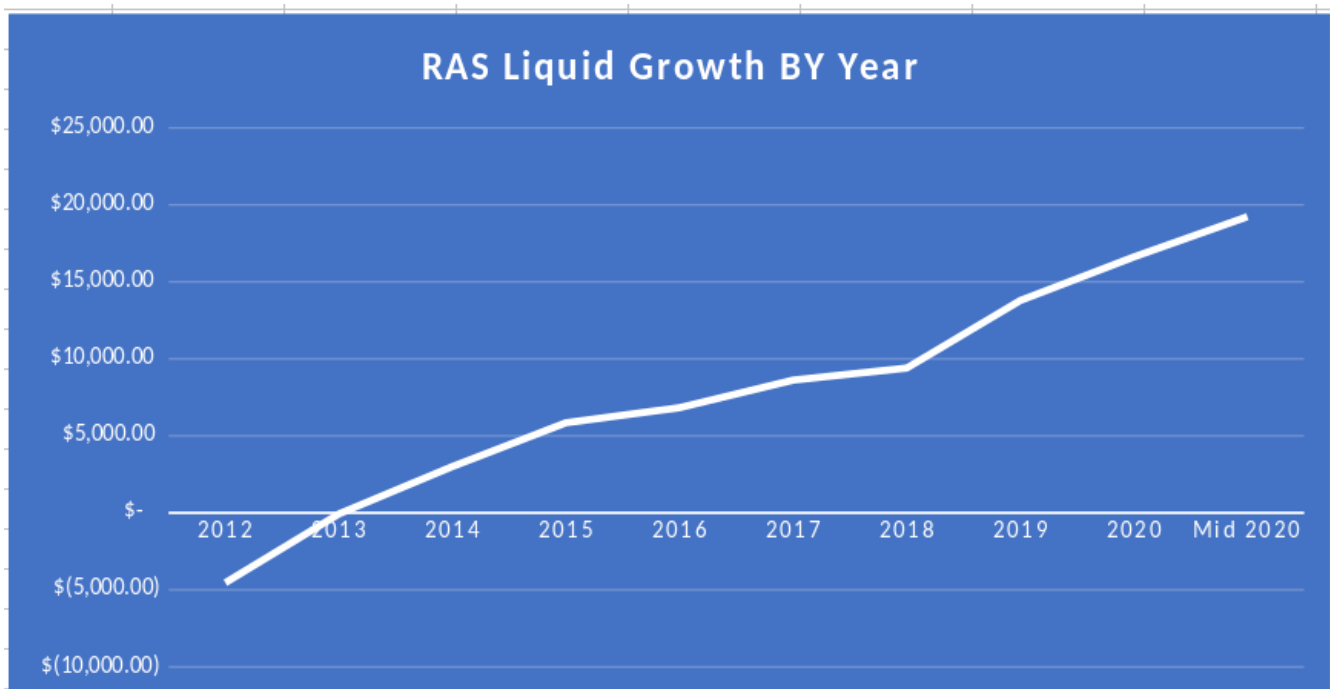


RAS Board Meeting, Thursday June 18.

Present: Thomas Narten (TN), Michael Maieli (M2), Jamye Carr (JC), Curtis Smith
Regrets: Neil Frank, Chris Smith, John Wisdom

Topic: meeting minutes. Jamye has been taking internal minutes. Good for the board to refresh our memories, but not polished enough for general public consumption. We need minutes with context for outside reader. A bit more polished. JC to continue to take notes, TN will do more polished minutes for public. Plan is to get recent minutes out first, get back to older ones when we can.

Topic: Board transparency. email from Maggie, Cary asking about minutes other board activities. Board previously approved workshop report. It is now published on web site, but was not advertised. Note was sent to Cary/Maggie about report. Cary raised question about what are overall RAS finances. Question is what should we publish publicly to address that. Chris put together a chart showing total assets for last 5 years. Simply looks at total RAS assets on first of year starting in 2012. Result is a straight line graph going up. All the way to mid 2020. See graph. Club has about \$19K in overall assets. Overall, the club is in great financial shape, and even through mid 2020, we are not "losing" money.



Curtis brings up current membership. We are at 162. Highest ever? (maybe.) That is good. M2 points out that names are not paying (NCSU faculty, or spouses), so the actual paid membership count is lower.

Curtis asks about existence of documentation of what Chris is doing in terms of finance reporting. So that when there is a transition to a new treasurer, are we in a good place? A: Chris is working this, Thomas has been reviewing and providing feedback. We are making progress. Q: can we get updates on how things are progressing on this going forward? yes, desire to track this.

Topic: Review of June 4 monthly meeting (zoom video conference). Jamye presented. M2 kept track of attendance. Meeting ran 2H20M, 29 persons on call at one point. Went well overall. Would have liked more attendance, but growing these will take time. Went longer and later than expected, but had good discussion afterwards. Length made editing recording of video down to shorter size challenging, JC ran into some problems. She also tried to upload to YouTube but had challenges there. She continues to work issue.

Topic: Review of May group order. RAS organized group buy from Jehmco (organized by Mark Domanowski), Brine Shrimp Direct (Thomas Narten), and Wet Spot (Chris Smith). Thomas/Chris/Mark spent more time on this than expected. Both processing order, distributing items and doing accounting afterwards. Details in spreadsheet. We get some discounts for group order, but we just deduct it from the shipping. Chris spent half the day at the Vet School parking lost distributing fish. Next time, window will be shortened. Thomas spent about 2 hours at the vet school parking lot.

Summary points:

Brineshrimp Direct: 7 participants, total cost 336.46, RAS covered \$57.36.

Jehmco: 9 participants, total cost 580.28, RAS covered \$16.16.

Wet Spot: 21 participants, total cost 2181.05, RAS covered \$212.

Observation: Shipping for Brine Shrimp Direct was relatively high. Due to frozen food, being shipped from west coast. May want to only get non-frozen foods from BSD in future.

JC asks why we used Chris's private PayPal account rather than RAS's? Answer: no fees. Note: everything going through club PayPal account has fee. Everything through website has transaction fee as well.

Curtis asks about timing for producing reports (e.g., for group buys). After an event. Can we set some expectations? 30/60/90 days? Maybe get a summary out quickly? Agreement that having targets would be good. Maybe 60/90 days? No formal decision.

Topic: Another group buy: Cristine Kastleman plant book. Self published, shipped from Germany. Neil Frank organized. Believe 10 books were shipped in batches of 2 books. (Neither Neil/Chris present to confirm.)

Topic: web site donations. Neil asked for this item, but not present to discuss. TN/Neil had discussed having way to make easy "donations" to RAS via the website. Purpose would be to make it easy for RAS members to give away "porch pickup" items if folks are willing to make a small donation to RAS. Could be used for BAP/HAP as well. Or just as a way to give away stuff while benefiting the club? Seems like a good idea? Yes. This is for porch pickup, RAS not directly involved in exchange of goods. Transaction would be entirely between donor and buyer (other than donation going to RAS via website).

Topic: BAP update. Thomas will transition BAP to Paul Parks. Need to catch up on back log. Will work with Paul on transition details.

Topic: HAP update. Not sure what the status of HAP is. Haven't seen activity in a while. But there are folk doing work (slowly) in background. TN to touch base with folk see if there is anything the board can do to help HAP.

Topic: Next virtual meeting July 2: Paul Parks speaking. Jamye working with Paul on zoom logistics. Discussion of logistics, format, etc.

Topic: helping community with aquatic issues: Wide ranging discussion about water quality discussion. And connecting people to resources. Like a file section on FB? An area where we could maybe have a group of people work on club resources. JC: need to not be condescending in our interactions and with newbies. Dunning-Kruger effect can also be a problem. Curtis: FB has mentoring facility. Discussion about possibly having introductory talks., e.g., beginner aquarium workshops

Topic: Insurance. Discussion about having treasurer be bonded. Provides additional protection. Not a new topic, been brought up before but board has not acted yet. Second topic was insurance generally. Board/club is currently insured, but individual board members (by name) are not. M2 has looked into it, estimates cost to be about (150/person). Not asking for a decision. Just a discussion at this point. TN: we need to review what we have, what we get for that coverage, and what the additional coverage would get us. And can we justify it from cost benefit perspective. Note: Frank Montillo set up the original insurance, at the time it was required for us to use the Fair Grounds for our workshop/auction.

Topic: inclusiveness. Jamye: Should club post statement on inclusiveness and post on web site? TN: I have a todo from previous board meeting to come up with draft statement for board to consideration. Found one I liked a couple weeks back that we can use as a base, will circulate proposal for next meeting.

Topic: Lance Hellem. Michael reports that Lance Hellem passed way. He comes to auctions. Will mention his passing in newsletter. Do we have a photo? Some people may recognize his face, but not have known his name.

Topic: bylaws revision. Bylaws are in need of some revisions. But one issue we have today is that revising bylaws require a face to face meeting. Same for our elections. Other organizations have same problem, now that no one is having face-to-face meetings anymore. In some organizations, online meetings don't count as official votes. M2 to ask other clubs what they are doing about voting formalities.

Topic: board committees. Short discussion of formal board committees. Our bylaws list a number of committees, but some don't (effectively) exist. This ties back into the bylaws revision topic. Going forward, we need to review our committees, decide which are active and still needed, better track their activities, etc.

Meeting adjourns after 1:40:06.