

**Lake Ripley Management District  
Public Hearing Minutes  
September 26, 2009**

**I. Call to Order**

The Lake Ripley Management District convened a public hearing at the Oakland Town Hall on September 26, 2009. The hearing was organized to present updates to the District's comprehensive lake-management plan, and to accept public questions and comments on the Plan's draft findings and recommendations. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Board members present: Gene Kapsner, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, John Molinaro, Walt Christensen, Dennis McCarthy and Jane Jacobsen-Brown. Also present: Paul Dearlove (Lake Manager), Roger Rude, Chuck Seeley and Dottie Seeley.

**II. Presentation of Lake Management Plan Findings and Draft Recommendations**

Dearlove reviewed the purpose and format of the hearing, and distributed registration/comment forms to those in attendance. Handouts included results of public opinion surveys, the status of prior recommendations, a strategic planning outline of updated goals and management targets, and preliminary guidance for future action. He noted that major sections of the Plan were being posted to the Lake District's website, and that public comments would be accepted until October 31<sup>st</sup>. He then gave a PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: 1) reasons for planning; 2) past and present resource conditions; 3) current problem and threats; 4) management goals, objectives and tracking metrics; and 5) recommended actions. Following the presentation, the floor was opened to questions and comments.

**III. Public Questions and Comments**

Roger Rude asked why "boating" was not included in the opinion survey analysis. Dearlove explained that if boating was not mentioned in the narrative summary, it was because the activity was not among the top responses for the particular survey question. In cases where the most recent survey results marked a change from prior survey findings, that change was highlighted in the narrative. Dearlove added that the original survey questions and more detailed results summary would be included in the final planning document.

Dottie Seeley asked about the feasibility of instituting horsepower limits on boat engines. She complained about aggressive boating behaviors on the lake that contributed to what she felt were unsafe conditions. This led to general discussion about the lack of legal precedence for this type of regulation, and whether better enforcement of no-wake zoning rules might have the desired effect.

Jacobsen-Brown, referencing the management goals, felt one of the biggest challenges moving forward was how to better engage the public. She pointed to the poor attendance at the hearing as an example. Dearlove said he agreed, expressing his disappointment for the low turnout despite the fact that the hearing was widely publicized. He added that widespread community apathy or complacency was a concern since it could undermine long-term management efforts. Molinaro said he felt the public stays pretty informed through the Ripples newsletter, which was repeatedly cited in surveys as the preferred means of communication. He added that the lack of attendance may be a sign that people were generally content with the District's operations and direction.

**IV. Adjournment**

The public hearing was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD