

**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 2009**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The Lake District Board met at the Oakland Town Hall on May 16, 2009. Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Mike Sabella, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, John Molinaro, Gene Kapsner, Walt Christensen and Dennis McCarthy. Also present were Paul Dearlove (Lake Manager), Mac Hannon (Wisconsin DNR), Dave DeGidio, Kent Brown, and Cable TV 98.

**II. Public Comment**

There were no public comments concerning issues not already on the agenda.

**III. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting**

Draft minutes from last month's meeting were previously distributed for Board review. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the 04-18-09 minutes as presented. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 7-0.*

**IV. Presentation of \$1,000 Check from the Natural Resources Foundation's C.D. Besadny Grant Program by Barb Roeber**

Molinaro noted that the grant award had been received, and that Ms. Roeber was unable to attend the meeting due to a death in the family.

**V. Treasurer's Report**

Sabella distributed and reviewed his Treasurer's report for the one-month period ending April 30, 2009. Total receipts for the period amounted to \$5,543.33. Receipts consisted of \$51.24 in interest, a \$2,000.00 grant from Pheasants Forever, a property tax settlement of \$1,524.59, 50% farm rental income of \$1,957.50, and a \$10.00 rain garden workshop registration. Total disbursements for the period were \$7,368.94. Individual disbursements were detailed on an attached transaction listing. Disbursements mostly consisted of payroll, insurance, restoration-related costs for the Preserve, and general office-related expenses. Asset balances included \$200.00 in petty cash and \$120,647.11 in checking. Other items noted were the May receipts of a \$1,000.00 grant from Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation, and a \$10.00 rain garden workshop fee. Molinaro questioned whether and how the District could be affected by increased tax delinquencies, and agreed to contact the county treasurer to find out. Sabella noted that about \$70,000 of our 2009 tax levy came during the first three months of the year. He anticipated the remaining amount would come later in the summer or early fall. *McCarthy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented into the official record. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 7-0.*

**VI. Lake Manager's Report**

Dearlove reported on his activities since the last meeting. A summary spreadsheet was distributed documenting the status of several active cost-share efforts. Recent progress included the signing of cost-share contracts for the Hoiby and Thompson projects, the development of an approved construction plan for the Fischer project, and the start of work at the Sylvan Mounds 1<sup>st</sup> Addition project. In addition, both a Lake Protection Grant and a riprap permit application were submitted for the Hoard-Curtis Scout Camp restoration. Partial copies of the grant application were distributed detailing the proposed scope of work and projected costs.

Dearlove said he was getting close to finishing the aquatic plant section of the lake management plan. This next section is to be distributed for Board review in advance of the June meeting.

As for the Lake District Preserve, work was about to begin on the 4.5-acre prairie restoration west of CTH A. The grassed waterway will be installed on the east side of CTH A after the crops are removed this fall. In the interim, the eroded gully was smoothed out and will soon be planted to corn. Dearlove agreed to contact the tenant farmer to see if hay bales can be used as a temporary erosion-control measure. It was also reported that most of the tires had been removed from the woodlot. The prior owner has been asked to remove the remainder of the tire debris before the fields are planted. Molinaro added that there was still a lot of work that eventually needed to be done as far as improving the woods and controlling invasive species. Kapsner thought it was worth talking to the local judge about possibly getting community-service volunteers to help out. In terms of grants, Dearlove said he was working

on completing the necessary environmental and historic-preservation reviews that are required before the \$75,000 NAWCA funds are disbursed. Late next month was probably the earliest the money could be received. Other Preserve-related activities include updating the signage at the entrance prior to the 7/18 dedication event.

In other announcements, Dearlove said that registration was still open for the 6/20 rain garden workshop. He added that he was planning to send out another E-Bulletin reminder, and would be publishing a press release in the Cambridge News. Sabella asked about the possibility of getting discounted rain barrels that we could help distribute to residents. Following discussion on the topic, Dearlove agreed to look into potential partnership arrangements with Sustain Dane and other vendors. Christensen said he might have a local supplier who he would contact.

## **VII. Old Business**

### **A. Water Guard Program update by Mac Hannon, DNR Deputy Warden**

Mr. Hannon updated the Board on the efforts of the Water Guard Program, now in its second year, to control the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Hannon summarized the status of current invasive-species threats, applicable state rules aimed at controlling their spread, and the DNR's education and enforcement efforts that were underway. He said his primary responsibilities are to visit public boat landings and enforce the new AIS laws within his multi-county region. These responsibilities were presently restricted by budget constraints. He said he also helps install educational signage. Hannon then fielded questions from the Board.

### **B. Review and possible approval of contractor bids and cost-share amount for the Hoiby project located at N4376 Friedel Ave.**

Molinaro recommended that the agenda item be postponed to the next meeting. He explained that the landowners had not yet obtained the required contractor bids.

### **C. Review and possible approval of contractor bids and cost-share amount for the Gunnelson project located at N4116 Milwaukee Ln.**

Three contractor bids were distributed that were previously submitted by the landowner for Board consideration. Mr. Gunnelson was not in attendance to comment on the bids. Proposals were from Dutch Designs (\$6,383.00), LJ Reas Environmental Consulting (\$3,983.25), and Tallgrass Restoration (\$4,610.00). Dearlove summarized the scope of work and estimated costs outlined in the proposals, and pointed out the nature of any methodological or cost differences. He said it was his opinion that all three proposals represented responsible bids. Considerable Board discussion ensued regarding bidding standards, namely those related to required planting densities. Afterwards, Molinaro asked Dearlove to talk with some landscapers and come to the next meeting with any proposals.

*Molinaro moved to authorize 50% cost sharing based on the LJ Reas bid for \$3,983.25. He further moved that a lower planting density of one plant per every two square feet be allowed if deemed appropriate and advisable by the contractor. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. During discussion, Christensen received confirmation that the landowner could still choose to go with one of the other two responsible bidders, but only as long as the landowner covered any difference in cost. Sabella challenged the District's process for determining a responsible planting density. After considerable debate relating to District-imposed bidding standards, motion was approved 4-3, with Sabella, Kapsner and McCarthy dissenting.*

### **D. Review and possible approval of contractor bids and cost-share amount for the DeGidio project located at N4396 Whispering Pines Ln.**

Two contractor bids were distributed that were previously submitted by the landowner for Board consideration. Mr. DeGidio was in attendance to answer any related questions. Dearlove reviewed the bids that were received from LJ Reas Environmental (\$2,990.00) and Tallgrass Restoration (\$7,600.00), and noted that numerous attempts were made by the landowner to obtain a third bid. DeGidio clarified that he had MJ Landscapes and Oak Village come out to the site to take measurements, but neither contractor submitted a bid by the deadline. He said he also failed to get phone calls returned from Earth and Water Works, McKay Nurseries and Bill McKinley. However, he said he liked the LJ Reas proposal and preferred to work with her. Dearlove then pointed out some of the possible reasons for the significance cost difference between the two bids. These included Tallgrass's high plant quantity and its \$675 in ineligible maintenance costs. However, he noted the LJ Reas bid would still be considerable lower even after accounting for these inconsistencies.

