

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2009**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District Board met at the Oakland Town Hall on September 26, 2009. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Gene Kapsner, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, John Molinaro, Walt Christensen, Dennis McCarthy and Jane Jacobsen-Brown. Mike Sabella was absent. Also present: Paul Dearlove (Lake Manager), Debra Kutz, Kent Brown, Bill Ratzberg (harvester operator), and Cambridge Cable TV 98.

II. Public Comment

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

III. Board Nomination and Election of Officers

McCarthy moved to re-elect Molinaro as Board Chair. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 6-0.

Molinaro moved to re-elect Sabella as Board Treasurer. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 6-0.

Molinaro moved to re-elect Jacobsen-Brown as Board Secretary. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 6-0.

IV. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting

Draft minutes from the 07-18-09 meeting were previously distributed for Board review. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 6-0.*

V. Treasurer's Report

In anticipation of his absence, Sabella had prepared a Treasurer's Report for the two-month period ending August 31, 2009. The summary report showed total receipts of \$147,197.22. Receipts consisted of \$131.61 in interest income, \$147.25 in copying fees for an open records request, a \$75,000 federal land-acquisition grant, \$38,909.44 from real estate taxes, and a transfer of excess grant funds of \$33,008.92 to reimburse monies advanced for the property purchase. Total disbursements were \$106,912.33. Individual disbursements were described in the transaction listing, and included the above-mentioned funds transfer and a \$41,991.08 payoff of a bank loan plus interest. Disbursements further included \$9,420.00 for a grant-funded paleoecology study, as well as expenses related to staff wages, landowner cost sharing, insurance, professional membership dues, and various office-related expenditures. Asset balances at the end of the period included \$200.00 in petty cash and \$145,240.46 in the checking account. Board acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was tabled until the next meeting.

VI. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove distributed handouts that included his activity report, phone logs, and other informational materials. He noted that since the Annual Meeting, most of his time has been spent working on the lake-management plan and in preparing for the upcoming public hearing. He reported that the comprehensive plan was about 90% complete, and would be finished before the end of the year when the grant ends. He then distributed copies of the paleoecology report recently completed by DNR. Sediment-core findings showed that significant water quality improvements were being made as a result of Priority Lake Project activities that started in the early 1990s.

With regard to the Lake District Preserve expansion, federal grant monies were used to pay off the outstanding bank loan and accrued interest. A new welcome sign was also completed and ready for installation. McCarthy was thanked for his help in bringing the sign back from Stevens Point. To celebrate the recent land acquisition, 77 invitations to the 10/17 dedication event were mailed to our donors and grant providers. Plans are to meet at the Town Hall at 11:00 for a short presentation and orientation, followed by walking and hayride tours at the Preserve if weather permits. It was also noted that the 4.5-acre restored prairie was recently mowed as a weed-control measure. Finally, Dearlove asked the Board to consider a trapping application he received. It was the only application received by the 9/10 filing deadline. *Kapsner moved to approve Wayne Lundberg's application pending receipt of the \$50 required trapping fee. Motion was seconded by McCarthy. As a point of discussion, Christensen said he*

had personal objections to trapping and received confirmation from the Chair that he could abstain from voting. Motion carried 3-0, with Christensen, Jacobsen-Brown and Gomez-Ibanez abstaining.

Outreach activities since the last meeting included printing and distributing the Ripples newsletter, publishing three articles in the Cambridge News, and disseminating two Lake Ripley E-Bulletins. As far as landowner cost sharing, the Gunnelson lakeshore restoration and DeGidio rain garden projects were both completed. Also, cost-share contracts were signed for the Thompson and Dovgin lakeshore restorations. Dearlove and Ratzberg then gave a brief weed-harvesting report. Plans were to move the equipment back to the town hall on 10/5 so it can be winterized and stored. Ratzberg advocated for cutting a hole in the dump box of the truck to improve visibility. He also suggested sanding and painting the bed of the dump truck to keep the weeds from sticking. The Board did not raise any objections to the requests, and Kapsner offered Jeff Scheel's services in getting a hole cut out of the dump box. Dearlove next reminded volunteers to submit completed boating questionnaires at their earliest convenience. He also announced that the Southern Wisconsin Lakes Conference was postponed until 2/13, and alerted the Board that spiny water fleas were the latest invasive species to be discovered in the Madison lakes.

VII. Old Business

A. Status of necessary approvals and signed contract for proposed lakeshore restoration at N4294 Alpine Village Ln. (Jim Dovgin)

Dearlove reported that a cost-share contract had been signed by the association and mailed for deed recording. He indicated that Dovgin no longer intended to expand his condo building, meaning that the shoreland buffer would not need to meet additional zoning standards. He added that it was also brought to his attention that Jefferson County was not likely to be contributing its own cost sharing toward the project as a result of missed deadlines. Dearlove did not feel that further Board action was warranted at this time. Dovgin would now have one year to produce an acceptable plan and implement the project according to District standards and specifications.

B. DNR permit and grant application status related to proposed lakeshore restoration at Hoard-Curtis Scout Camp

Dearlove informed the Board that the Hoard-Curtis project did not score high enough to be awarded a DNR Lake Protection Grant. However, he said the plan was to resubmit the application for the next grant cycle and hope for a better outcome (May 1st deadline). Meanwhile, he said he was still working to convince DNR permit officials to approve the installation of riprap along the entire shoreline. If riprap is not allowed, then an entirely different strategy would need to be devised as an erosion-control measure. Dearlove said he did not think plants alone would suffice as an effective, long-term preventative action in this particular case.

VIII. New Business

Kapsner announced plans by the Town of Oakland to improve the signage at the public boat landing. He said other repairs were also being considered, including adding some more rock to reinforce a shoreline area that is eroding.

IX. Correspondence

- 7/19/09 open records request from Greg and Mary Shafer for all documentation related to the recent Lake District Preserve acquisition.
- 7/22/09 response letter and expense accounting relating to the Shafer open records request.
- 8/13/09 e-mail and attached photographs from Patricia Finn advocating for increasing the cost-shared shoreland buffer zone on the south end of the Alpine Village property.

X. Closed Session [as per Wis. Stat. §19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation, and performance evaluations of employed personnel]

Molinaro asked for a motion to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing wages for the weed-harvesting operators. *Christensen moved to enter into closed session. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote at 10:00 a.m.*

XI. Return to Open Session

Kapsner moved to return to open session at 10:20 a.m. Motion seconded by Molinaro. Motion carried 6-0.

Jacobsen-Brown moved to increase the mechanical wage rate offered to our weed-harvesting operators from \$15/hour to \$18/hour, and to amend the Operations Plan accordingly. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 6-0.

XII. Adjournment

McCarthy moved for adjournment at 10:25 a.m. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: October 17, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall (followed by a Lake District Preserve dedication event at 11:00 a.m.)

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD