

**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting Minutes  
October 17, 2009**

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

The Lake Ripley Management District Board met at the Oakland Town Hall on October 17, 2009. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, John Molinaro, Walt Christensen, Mike Sabella and Gene Kapsner. Dennis McCarthy and Jane Jacobsen-Brown were absent. Also present: Paul Dearlove (Lake Manager), Debra Kutz, Richard Kutz, Jennifer Johnson, and Cambridge 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 the 09-26-09 Board meeting and public hearing were previously distributed for review. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 5-0.*

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Sabella distributed and reviewed the financial reports for the third-quarter period ending September 30, 2009. Handouts included a Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity (Balance Sheet), Statement of Revenues and Expenses, Actual-to-Budget/Budget Remaining report, and third-quarter General Ledger and Transaction Listing. The Balance Sheet showed zero liabilities and total current assets of \$134,594.71, with \$200.00 in petty cash and the remainder in checking. Total equity of \$134,594.71 was allocated as follows: \$14,714.00 in restricted funds, a general fund balance of \$20,393.49, and net income of \$99,487.22.

The Statement of Revenues and Expenses showed \$114,235.74 in revenues received during the three months ended September 30<sup>th</sup>, which consisted primarily of \$38,909.44 in property tax revenue and a \$75,000 federal grant refund for Preserve property acquisition. There was \$12,447.85 in direct costs for the same three-month period, including \$3,027.85 for landowner cost sharing and \$9,420.00 in lake planning grant expenses. Total operating expenses for the three-month period was \$25,444.08, consisting of \$3,105.00 for insurance, \$3,314.45 for weed harvesting, and \$19,024.63 for operations. Total other expenses were \$4,691.23, including \$3,479.08 from capital reserve/land acquisition, \$285.00 for the Lake District Preserve, and \$927.15 for information and education. Net operating profits for the three- and nine-month periods ending September 30<sup>th</sup> were \$71,652.58 and \$99,487.22, respectively.

The Actual-to-Budget/Budget Remaining report showed that actual revenues exceeded budgeted revenues for the nine-month period by \$87,961.24. This was due to the receipt of multiple grants (including a \$75,000 federal grant), private donations, a farm-lease payment, interest income and other miscellaneous income. There were no significant variances between actual and budgeted operating expenses. For the nine months ending September 30<sup>th</sup>, there was an actual operating profit of \$108,261.86 and a net profit of \$99,487.22. Sabella concluded his report by reviewing how to interpret the activity in each account through the General Ledger, and how to identify the details of each individual disbursement through the Transaction Listing. *Christensen moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 5-0.*

**V. Lake Manager's Report**

Dearlove distributed handouts that included his project-activity summary report, phone logs, and other related materials. Lake-management-planning activities included presenting the plan at the September 26<sup>th</sup> public hearing, incorporating the latest fishery and water quality data, and running computer models to evaluate phosphorus loading and to set realistic load-reduction and lake-response goals. As mentioned at the hearing, public comments would be accepted through October. He said he expected to finalize the plan for printing within the next couple months.

As far as the Lake District Preserve, it was reported that a public dedication event would be taking place immediately following the Board meeting. A new welcome sign had been installed in time for the event thanks to help from Molinaro, McCarthy, and Ty Rohloff of Awesome Landscaping. Next steps included working with the neighboring landowner to install a grassed swale for erosion control, putting in a new information kiosk, and formalizing a grant agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to plant another 26 acres to prairie next fall. He

said that another mowing of the 4.5-acre prairie restoration may also be needed next year. A preliminary proposal and cost estimate from Schmeeckle Reserve for a new information kiosk was distributed. Discussion on the proposal was postponed until a later agenda item.

Landowner cost-sharing activities included the approval of project plans and the signing of legal contracts for the Fischer/Schabowski lakeshore restoration. He noted that contract-signing deadlines were due to expire for two other projects which were the subject of later agenda items. Near-term plans included the development of DNR permit applications and contractor bidding specifications for the Fischer and Thompson shoreline projects. Amended permit and grant applications would also need to be put together for the Hoard-Curtis Scout Camp project.

Other activities consisted of moving the weed-harvesting equipment back to the town hall so everything could be cleaned and winterized. An end-of-season harvesting report would be made available by the November meeting. Dearlove concluded by distributing and briefly reviewing the preliminary results of a recent boating questionnaire. *Christensen moved to accept the Lake Manager's report and was seconded by Kapsner. Motion carried 5-0.*

## **VI. Old Business**

### **A. Contract-signing status for Fischer shore restoration located at W9353 Bluff Ln. and W9346 Ripley Rd.**

Dearlove notified the Board that he had received signed cost-share contracts associated with both project sites. The signed contracts were received prior to the deadline, and have since been submitted for deed recording. Consequently, Board consideration of a deadline extension would not be necessary.

### **B. Contract-signing status for Johnson lakeshore restoration located at N4290 Alpine Village Ln.**

Dearlove noted that the prospective cost-share participant, Jennifer Johnson, was in attendance to request an extension on her contract-signing deadline that was set to expire today. The request was based on recent distractions related to major property renovations that were occurring at the project site. Molinaro asked if Johnson would be able to sign a contract by the first of the year. Johnson responded affirmatively. *Christensen moved to extend the contract-signing deadline until January 1, 2010. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. In discussion, Sabella received clarification from Molinaro that the project would lose its current approval status and need to be fully re-evaluated if a contract is not signed by the new deadline. Molinaro then received clarification from Johnson that she would no longer engage in boat-removal activities across the property once the plantings are done, and that she intended to plant along the entire shore. Motion carried 5-0.*

### **C. Discussion and possible action on resolution approving lake-management plan**

A draft resolution calling for the formal approval of the lake-management plan was disseminated for Board consideration. Dearlove requested that the Board vote to adopt the resolution either today or at the November meeting. That way he would have time to print and distribute the document before the grant period ends. He estimated a need for at least 20 copies of the document. He also pointed out that the major findings, conclusions and recommendations of the plan had been shared with the Board and made available for public review and comment.

Sabella said he preferred to wait until he had a chance to review the final product before voting on the resolution. There was also interest in waiting until the full Board was present before approving the plan. Dearlove advocated for waiting until the November meeting in case any last-minute public comments were submitted by the end of the month. As far as providing a "final" product in its entirety, Dearlove felt it could prove particularly challenging since the document was quite extensive and currently numbered over 300 pages, much of which was background information. After some discussion, the consensus was that all critical components of the plan had already been presented and reviewed in their draft form. Molinaro said he would seek approval of the adoption resolution at the next meeting.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Discussion and possible action on Lake District Preserve improvements**

After considerable brainstorming on potential Preserve improvements, implementation strategies and available funding, the following near-term priorities were recommended: 1) seek expert opinions on optimal weed-control strategy for newly-planted prairie areas; 2) obtain additional bids for a new information kiosk to be purchased before the end of the year; 3) consider the possible future purchase of a John Deere Gator or similar utility vehicle; 4) solicit the assistance of the state forester to develop a woodland management plan; 5) map out the location of any proposed trail extensions for future bidding purposes; 6) decide where and how to recognize major donors; 7) come

up with a strategy for removing invasive willow stands; 8) explore how seed harvesting can be used to raise money for the Preserve; and 9) try to get the Friends of the Preserve more involved with these and other Preserve-related activities. As far as available funding, there was an estimated \$1,400 remaining in this year's Preserve budget. There was also about \$4,000 in expected farm-rental income that was being deposited in the capital reserve account.

**B. Set future meeting dates**

Future Board meeting dates were scheduled as follows: 11/21/2009, 01/09/2010, 03/20/2010, 04/17/2010, and 05/15/2010. There will be no meetings in December or February. All meetings will start at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall.

**C. Upcoming lakes conferences and conventions**

Molinaro announced the dates of two upcoming lakes conferences, and encouraged Board members to consider attending. They included a Southeast Wisconsin Lakes Conference in Pewaukee on February 13, 2010, and the Wisconsin Lakes Convention in Green Bay on March 30-April 1, 2010. The regional conference is being co-hosted by the Lake District. He said both events offered excellent networking and continuing-education opportunities.

**VIII. Correspondence**

A 10/01/09 e-mail was received from Al Byla of the Wisconsin DNR indicating that the Town of Oakland would not need a permit to repair shoreline riprap at the public boat landing. Kapsner added that new signage was going to be installed at the boat launch in the near future.

**IX. Adjournment**

*Sabella moved for adjournment at 10:40 a.m. Motion seconded by Kapsner. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned.* Next meeting will be January 9, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD