

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2013**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District Board of Directors met at the Oakland Town Hall on April 20, 2013. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Mike Sabella, Gene Kapsner, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, John Molinaro, Dennis McCarthy and Walt Christensen. Also in attendance: Paul Dearlove (LRMD Lake Manager), Perry Oates, Debra Kutz, Rick Kutz, Kent Brown, Dennis Vollmer (NRCS), and Leah Garrison of 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 last meeting were reviewed. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the 03-16-13 meeting minutes without additions or corrections. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 7-0.*

IV. Guest Speaker: Dennis Vollmer, Natural Resources Conservation Service, to provide input and answer questions about conservation farming programs

Dennis Vollmer, District Conservationist for NRCS, presented information and answered questions pertaining to four farm programs that offer landowner incentives to adopt conservation practices. The purpose of the presentation was to inform the Board of existing programs that could be utilized as part of a new landowner-incentives pilot. They included: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP); and Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Each program was summarized as far as targeted practices, monetary incentives, contract requirements, and general level of participation. Vollmer said that awareness of the programs was primarily by word of mouth in the farming community. He felt that education was the key to increasing participation, and recommended combining general promotion with direct landowner contacts. He offered to provide any landowner-participation information he could legally share to assist with that endeavor.

V. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the treasurer's report were distributed for the first quarter ending March 31, 2013. The report consisted of a Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity; Statement of Revenues and Expenses; Actual-to-Budget/Budget-Remaining comparison; General Ledger; and Transaction Listing. The balance sheet showed current assets of \$200.00 in petty cash and \$183,573.35 in the bank checking account. Accrued pension expenses of \$1,521.37 were the only liabilities. Equity consisted of \$87,170.47 in restricted funds, a fund balance of \$55,591.49, and revenue over expenses of \$39,490.02. Most of the expenses incurred over the three-month period were for Preserve Restoration and Development (forestry mowing) and staff payroll. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into the record. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 7-0.*

VI. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove summarized Lake District activities since the last meeting. Handouts included his lake manager report and office phone logs. Highlights included:

- Plans for inlet monitoring with UW-Extension funding to cover the cost of phosphorus testing
- Publicity, volunteer recruitment, and May 14th training seminar for 'Clean Boats, Clean Waters' initiative
- Ripples newsletter written and at printer
- Wisconsin Lakes Convention poster presentation on Lake Ripley fishery research
- May 18th seminar on sustainable landscaping and shoreline enhancement
- May 5th volunteer cleanup at the Lake District Preserve; partners such as the Friends of Glacial Heritage Area, UW-Whitewater, and Awesome Landscaping will assist with various projects
- New bluebird nesting boxes built and installed by Gomez-Ibanez and Cambridge Elementary students
- \$2,500 Cambridge Foundation grant awarded to support invasive species control at the Preserve

- Cost-share committee evaluation completed for the Willerup Bible Camp restoration; additional inquiries received about the availability of cost sharing for ice-damaged shorelines near the outlet
- Harvester paddlewheel motors repaired; preparations for upcoming season
- Participation in a “Watershed Network Gathering” hosted by Dane County’s Office of Lakes and Watersheds
- Recognition of IT-consulting assistance from Gerry Kokkonen of Jefferson County LWCD
- Legal counsel sought on questions related to budgeting, fund transfers and use of non-lapsable accounts

VII. Old Business

- **Report on feasibility and use/ownership restrictions related to possible transfer of FEMA-owned shoreline property to the District**

Molinaro reported that Jefferson County Parks has determined that it can transfer the floodplain property (N4214 Sleepy Hollow Rd.) to the District. If approved by the Board, all FEMA rules and use restrictions would have to be retained. He promised to bring those details to the next meeting so a vote could be taken on whether to proceed.

VIII. New Business

A. Discussion and possible action on Cost-Share Committee’s evaluation and funding recommendations for the proposed Willerup Bible Camp restoration

Molinaro summarized the findings and recommendations of the committee with regards to the Willerup Camp restoration. It was explained that each of the three project phases had been scored separately, and each ranked high enough (11 out of 20 points) to be recommended for cost sharing. This led to discussion on estimated project costs and the current lack of available funding. Perry Oates spoke on behalf of the Camp, reporting that a \$2,500 grant was received from the Cambridge Foundation to help support the effort. He added that Camp officials are trying to raise additional funds, but that they are a long way from where they need to be. His focus right now was to cobble together enough money to be able to move forward on the first project phase. That phase would include repairing the most degraded 130 feet of shoreline next to Ripley Park, and separating the eroding sand beach from the lake. *Jacobsen-Brown moved to approve the project for 50% cost sharing (based on funding availability), and with the District’s share to be determined once the requisite bids are received. Motion seconded by McCarthy. In discussion, Sabella sought clarification on total project costs, implementation sequencing, and the priority status of this particular project. It was confirmed that the total estimated cost of all three phases over a three-year period was \$45,950. Motion carried 7-0.*

B. Discussion and possible action on legal counsel relating to the development and presentation of the 2014 budget and funding of a new landowner-incentive pilot

Dearlove briefly summarized the outcome of a recent consultation meeting with Attorney Bill O’Connor. The purpose was to ensure that the District follows all statutory requirements related to budgeting and financial reporting. Legal clarifications and recommendations were received on the topics of fund transfers, treatment of non-lapsable accounts, and presentation of the budget. Consequently, it was advised that minor adjustments be made to the current budget format and fund-transfer procedures. *McCarthy moved to have O’Connor prepare an authorizing resolution and sample budget format that can be formally adopted at the Annual Meeting. Motion seconded by Sabella. Motion carried 7-0.*

C. Discussion and possible action on membership in Wisconsin Lakes

Molinaro expressed concerns about what he perceived as a lack of value the District was getting for its \$350 annual membership in Wisconsin Lakes. He pointed to ineffective leadership, and was particularly displeased with what appeared to be a singular focus on aquatic invasive species to the exclusion of other pressing issues. This led to considerable discussion on the services currently provided, and the implications of withdrawing membership. Jacobsen-Brown and Sabella argued for retaining membership given the lack of an alternative for maintaining a voice in statewide policy matters. They favored taking any concerns directly to the current Wisconsin Lakes leadership. Molinaro said he already shared his concerns with current leadership, but offered to invite a representative to a future Board meeting to allow for additional dialogue. Discussion ended with no action taken to withhold membership dues.

VIII. Correspondence/Announcements

- Emails on multiple dates were exchanged with Travis Schroeder and Martye Griffin of Wisconsin DNR and two Lake Ripley pier owners regarding interpretation and enforcement of the new pier rules.

- Press releases and an e-bulletin were distributed announcing the May 5th cleanup at the Preserve (9:00 a.m.); the “Clean Boats, Clean Waters” volunteer training on May 14th (6:30-8:30 p.m.); and the May 18th sustainable landscaping seminar (10:30-12:30).

IX. Adjournment

McCarthy moved for adjournment at 11:25 a.m. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 7-0.

Next meeting: May 18, 2013 (9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD