Lake Ripley Management District Meeting Minutes October 19, 2013

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District Board of Directors met at the Oakland Town Hall on October 19, 2013. Molinaro, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present during roll call: Dennis McCarthy, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Gene Kapsner, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, John Molinaro and Mike Sabella. Walt Christensen was absent. Also in attendance: Paul Dearlove (LRMD Lake Manager), Kent Brown, Rick Kutz, Debbie Kutz, 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 07-20-13 meeting minutes without additions or corrections. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 6-0.

IV. Election of Board Officers

Molinaro explained that, by statute, the election of board officers was to occur at the first opportunity following the Annual Meeting. Sabella moved to nominate Molinaro for chair. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Seeing no other nominations, motion carried unanimously. Kapsner moved to nominate Sabella for Treasurer. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Seeing no other nominations, motion carried unanimously. Molinaro moved to nominate Jacobsen-Brown for Secretary. Motion seconded by Sabella. Seeing no other nominations, motion carried unanimously.

V. Treasurer's Report

Sabella distributed and reviewed the financial statements for the nine-month period ending September 30, 2013. Handouts included: Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity (Income Tax Basis); Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the three- and nine-month periods ending September 30, 2013; Actual-to-Budget and Budget-Remaining report; General Ledger; and Transaction Listing. As of September 30th, the District had total assets of \$150,356.34, total liabilities of \$1,737.37 in accrued payroll taxes and pension, and total equity of \$148,618.97. Equity consisted of \$87,170.47 in restricted funds, a fund balance of \$55,591.49, and \$5,857.01 in revenue over expenses. It was noted that the \$11,519 in "over budget" weed harvesting expenses were related to extraordinary repairs. Most of those costs will qualify to be covered by restricted capital funds. Also noted was the 2012 Annual Meeting authorization to use \$17,500 of unrestricted funds as other income. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into the record. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 6-0*.

VI. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove reported on his activities since the last regular board meeting. Handouts included an activity summary, recent phone logs, a draft geocaching policy, and various programmatic reports. Detailed summary information was provided on weed harvesting, lake/stream monitoring and the Clean Boats-Clean Waters program. Other updates related to: Lake District Preserve activities; design and permitting work for the Willerup shoreline restoration; completion of Keith Kolb's cost-share-compliance requirements; a UW-Whitewater partnership to create an interactive watershed map; and general outreach efforts (Ripples newsletter, press releases, etc.). He also reported that the Landowner Incentives Committee would be reconvening on 10/21 to do pilot-implementation planning.

VII. Old Business

There was no old business.

VIII. New Business

A. November 9th Volunteer Action Day at the Lake District Preserve

Dearlove announced plans for completing a woodland trail loop at the Preserve on November 9th. The path-clearing work will once again be conducted in partnership with the Friends of Glacial Heritage Area and UW-Whitewater. Assistance from Cambridge High School is also being sought. Molinaro received confirmation that an ATV will be

available for volunteer use, pointing out that the current trail out to the woodlot was just short of a mile long. The planned trail loop would add close to another half mile to the total length. The stated purpose of the trail is to not only provide hiking access to visitors, but also to facilitate ongoing woodland management activities. Gomez-Ibanez was thanked for helping to organize the event, and board members were invited to participate as volunteers.

B. Proposal to use \$4,000 Jacobsen-Brown Fund donation for treefall (fish reef) installations and/or activities related to landowner incentive pilot

Proposals for using a recent \$4,000 Jacobsen-Brown Fund donation were reviewed and discussed. Options included: 1) paying for treefall installations at the Willerup and/or Hoard-Curtis Scout Camps as fish-habitat demonstrations, and 2) increasing the budget for project awards through the landowner incentive pilot. Sabella requested and received confirmation from the donors (Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown) that both proposals satisfied the purpose of the donation. Additional discussion centered on permitting requirements. Hearing no objections, Molinaro requested that Dearlove bring specific plans back for Board approval.

C. Proposal to reapply for a Wisconsin DNR "Clean Boats-Clean Waters" grant to pay for continued invasive species education and watercraft inspections

Dearlove asked for the Board's consideration in reapplying for a grant in the neighborhood of \$2,500-3,000. The money would be used to pay for a part-time program coordinator who could staff the boat landing, as well as any needed supplies. Hours would be focused mostly on weekends when boat-launch traffic is heaviest. It was anticipated that volunteer time and other in-kind contributions would be sufficient to cover the 25% local match requirement. Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve pursuing a Clean Boats-Clean Waters grant for 2014. Motion seconded by Sabella. Motion carried 6-0.

IX. Correspondence/Announcements

- 7/31 letter to Donna Haugom, Jefferson County Emergency Management, confirming board acceptance of the FEMA property transfer (N4214 Sleepy Hollow Rd.). Molinaro said the actual transfer was still pending, and that he would continue to follow through with Ms. Haugom.
- 8/30 email from Tom Lorden expressing concerns about floating plant debris, and supporting improved harvesting equipment and bigger no-wake areas.
- 8/31 letter from Greg and Mary Shafer opposing any prescribed burning within the Preserve behind their home. Dearlove said he had a brief conversation with Mary who indicated that Greg would stop by to discuss his specific concerns. Molinaro pointed out that burning is identified as a necessary management tool for maintaining good prairie conditions in the Preserve. He added that all prescribed burns are conducted in a safe manner by a team of experienced professionals. He offered to work with the Shafers to try to minimize any concerns or discomfort they may have with burning, but stressed that the District had a responsibility to apply best practices in managing the property. Dearlove offered that there may be opportunity to use methods other than burning to control invasive species in the woods directly behind their house. However, consultations with experts suggest a lack of cost-effective alternatives for managing the prairie areas.
- 9/4 Preserve trapping application received from Travis Olson. It was the only permit request received by the 9/10 application deadline. The permit will be considered valid once the \$50 fee is received.
- 9/30 email to Keith Kolb confirming completion of requisite cost-share compliance work. Dearlove confirmed that a final site inspection had been performed, and that all Board requirements had been met.
- 10/1 harvesting report submitted to Wisconsin DNR as per the District's permit requirements.

Χ.	Adjournment
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Jacobsen-Brown moved for adjournment at 10:10 a.m. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 6-0.

Next meeting: November 16, 2013 (9:	00 a.m. at Oaklar	nd Town Hall	D)	
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Respectfully Submitted,				
Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary	Date			
Recorder: PDD				