



**Annual Meeting
Lake Ripley Management District
Oakland Town Hall
N4450 County Road A
Cambridge, Wisconsin 53523
August 18, 2018**

I. Call to Order

The Lake Ripley Management District Annual meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jimmy DeGidio, at 9:47 am at the Oakland Town Hall. The meeting was preceded by a 9:00 – 9:46 am budget hearing. Board members in attendance: Jimmy DeGidio, Michael Sabella, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Craig Kempel, Mike Doman, Keith Kolb, and Walt Christensen. Also in attendance: Andrew Sabai, Lake Manager, Marilyn Sabella, Jameil Breit, John Molinaro, Jon Tolp, Patricia C. Burdick, Debra Kutz, Richard Kutz, Maureen Casey, Delbert Whitney, Mary Walter, Ann Molinaro, Roger Rude, Jason Hernandez, Katherine Gould, Natasha Hernandez, Dave DeGidio, Mary Rapp, Richard Rapp, Bob Gould, Karen Hewitt, and Gary Zibell (Cambridge Cable TV 98).

II. Approval of 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

Roger Rude/Jason Hernandez moved to approve the 2017 Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting minutes. Motion passed.

III. Nomination of Board Candidate-one position

Georgia Gomez-Ibanez is a write-in candidate, running as an incumbent. The Chair asked for nominations from the floor. Jason Hernandez nominated himself. The Chair asked twice more. Roger Rude asked why each chose to run and if they were able to make most meetings. Both responded.

IV. Chairman's report

Critical Habitat Designation is almost complete. There is a new DNR representative that is now working with us to get this protection to happen.

A planning grant will be written to help fund the update of the Lake Ripley Improvement and Management Plan. The plan will be focused on updating the information that was written in 2009 with an emphasis on the ways we intend to slow sediment and phosphorus loading to the lake.

A question from the floor regarded the changes to the Wisconsin state laws that have weakened protections of wetlands. Chair responded that we have to obey the laws, and encouraged questioner to write their state legislator. A question came up as to why there had not been a shoreline survey before the annual meeting so that data would be included in the Chair's report. The response was that it was upcoming. A complaint came from the floor that he, as a lake district owner, did not receive his Ripples newsletter with the Annual Meeting notice. Same complainant worried about violations not being addressed by the District aggressively enough with the DNR. The Lake Manager gave information about rule changes that make some of these perceived violations now legal. Same complainant brought up problem of Ripley Road manholes, curbs and flow not engineered correctly so dirty runoff reaching the road and erosion controls on Hwy A not being enforced strongly enough. He wrapped up that the Board should be the last vestige of protection for the Lake, when the DNR is not enforcing violations. Kolb reminded the complainant that we are not an enforcement agency – we voice concerns to enforcement agencies and educate and advocate for good rules and practices.

V. Treasurer's report

Sabella explained that his role as Treasurer was to safeguard the financial assets of the District. He outlined his duties. He reported the financial condition of the District is very strong, with cash assets

around \$80,000. Unrestricted funds at the end of 2017 are \$58,000, with \$6000 being used to offset tax levy and lower it. Treasurer read into the record that WI §33.29 (2) “All governing Lake Districts are required to have an annual audit of the organization’s financial transactions prepared at the close of the year and presented at the Annual meeting. The Audit may be performed by an outside accounting firm or internal committee comprised of Lake District residents chosen by the Chair and approved by the Board.” Sabella explained that the Lake District uses the latter method and thanked the Audit Committee for its service. The Audit Committee minutes and report (both attached) were read into the record. The Audit Committee found no exceptions to the financial records as presented. **Roger Rude moved and Mary Rapp seconded to accept the minutes and findings of the Audit Committee. Motion passed.**

VI. Discussion and possible action on other Business that can be legally considered by the District

Roger Rude had three comments. One was about the Sensitive Shorelines (aka Critical Habitat Areas). He suggested that the Board should consider bringing together all land owners who have property that has significance to the health of the Lake to hear what their plans may be. The Lake is a public waterway and he is concerned about the outlet and its role in controlling water levels. His final comment was to promote people growing native plants or brush instead of having lawn to the Lake’s edge as there are far more benefits to the Lake provided by these longer-rooted plants than grass.

An unidentified woman stood up to ask permission to plant perennials around the Lake District sign on Lake Ripley Road and Park Road to beautify the corner. DeGidio said he’d bring it up to the Oakland Town Board as they own the right of way.

Sabai walked through an effort of naming the Lake Ripley’s inlet creek. The District could do this informally by simply choosing one and starting to collectively call it by its new name, or we could give it an official name by going through a more formal process. Suggested that people care more about something that has a name. Sabai mentioned that the authorities are no longer looking favorably on naming creeks after people and read the list of suggestions that have come in since the idea to name it was published in the Ripples newsletter. The Board would take people’s suggestions as advisory.

VII. Approval of budget and tax levy

Roger Rude moved to approve the budget and levy as presented. Hernandez seconded. All ayes except two nays. The budget and levy were approved as presented.

VIII. Tabulation of vote and election of Board Members

The Chair announced the outcome of the election. Incumbent Georgia Gomez-Ibanez received 21 votes. Challenger Jason Hernandez received 6 votes. Results of the vote to recommend naming the Creek – Dow Creek, Inlet Creek and Oakland Creek – 3 votes, LOIS – 0, Sedge Creek – 0 votes, Molinaro Creek – 9 votes. Ripley Creek – 8 votes.

IX. Presentation on Phosphorus Reduction in the inlet creek

The Lake Manager summarized his intent to focus his efforts in the upcoming year on reducing phosphorus in the inlet creek, which provides 70% of the lake’s water budget. His efforts will primarily be to intensify data collection for more accurate understanding of the dynamics of the phosphorus loading now taking place. He will then be designing a project for reducing the loading. Finally, he will be seeking funding for implementing the project.

X. Adjournment

Roger Rude moved to adjourn/Jon Tilp seconded. Motion passed. Meeting ended at 1:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



**Lake Ripley Management District
Budget Hearing Approved Minutes
August 18, 2018**

The Lake Ripley Management District budget hearing was called to order by Chair DeGidio at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall. Board members in attendance: Jimmy DeGidio, Michael Sabella, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Craig Kempel, Mike Doman, Keith Kolb, and Walt Christensen. Also, in attendance: Andrew Sabai, Lake Manager, Marilyn Sabella, Jameil Breit, John Molinaro, Jon Tolp, Patricia C. Burdick, Debra Kutz, Richard Kutz, Maureen Casey, Delbert Whitney, Mary Walter, Ann Molinaro, Roger Rude, Jason Hernandez, Katherine Gould, Natasha Hernandez, Dave DeGidio, Mary Rapp, Richard Rapp, Bob Gould, Karen Hewitt, and Gary Zibell (Cambridge Cable TV 98).

The District treasurer, Michael Sabella, gave the report. The proposed 2019 budget was distributed to those in attendance. The Budget Committee drafted the Budget in meeting on July 13, 2018. Committee members were DeGidio, Sabella and Sabai. The proposed budget was reviewed by the Board on July 21st. It was then published in the District newsletter, on the website and posted at Lake Ripley Inn, the Family Restaurant and the Town Hall.

Sabella provided a detailed explanation of how the budget was constructed and presented. He reviewed how the numbers were derived as an estimate through the end of the year due to the timing requirements of the Annual Meeting. He reviewed the 2018 and 2019 amounts for each line item on the budget. Sabella explained that the proposed budget used \$6,000 of unrestricted funds and carry over of \$22,891 to reach the capital and operating needs of approximately \$150,000 for the District.

John Molinaro asked two questions. The first was about the legal fees being put in unallocated funds. Sabella explained that the District was assuming it would not have carry-over for 2019, but if it did, that would be put into unallocated funds for the 2019 budget.

Molinaro's second question was about the nearly 10% increase to the salary of the Lake Manager and asked for justification when others in government are receiving nearer 3%. DeGidio explained that the Lake Manager accepted the position at a rate of salary that was on the lower end of the scale that the Board had approved when posting the position. Sabella spoke to the increase including a 3% cost of living increase.

Jason Hernandez followed with a comment that he felt that replacing the position of Lake Manager may cost more than the 9+% spent retaining this one. Then he asked a question about line item 691, Board stipends. Sabella outlined the history and logistics of how Board members are compensated. Five of seven Board members only are compensated \$50/meeting from the District. The Town of Oakland and Jefferson County compensate their appointed members (DeGidio/Christensen). The Board Chair and Treasurer receive an additional stipend of \$100 per month.

Roger Rude moved for adjournment, John Molinaro seconded. Motion passed for adjournment at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gomez-Ibañez, Secretary

Date

Approved 8/17/19 Recorder: AS/BG