



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
June 15, 2019
9:00 A.M. at Oakland Town Hall**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Jimmy DeGidio called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Board members present: Michael Sabella, Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Craig Kempel, Mike Doman, Keith Kolb, and Walt Christensen. Also present: Beth Gehred, Lake Manager. In audience Dave DeGidio, Roger Rude, Deb and Rick Kutz, Tom Harvey, Mark McNally, and Justin Schultz.

II. Public Comment

Tom Harvey, of the Shore Place Homeowners Association, asked that the agenda be modified so that the Cost Share agenda item be placed at the top. The Chair assured him that it could. In addition, a paddle board had blown into Shore Place's beach, and is still awaiting an owner to claim it. Also Cambridge Village President Mark McNally thanked the District for participating in its Memorial Day parade and expressed desire for the Lake District and Village to work together on-going. Justin Schultz mentioned that the District look into the Marsh Master Mower, a semi-amphibious largescale mower that can work in wetlands.

III. Approve Minutes of May 18, 2019 meeting

Gómez-Ibáñez got confirmation that the minutes ought to reflect what we thought was true at the time, even if we have since discovered something we were mistaken about. The Chair said they should reflect what we thought at the time. **Sabella moved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Board on May 18, 2019, Second by Christensen. Motion carried.**

IV. Treasurer's Report

Sabella distributed to the Board copies of his treasurer's report for month of May, 2019. Receipts were \$391. Disbursements were \$7828. Sabella walked through checks written. The checking account balance is at \$145,302 with petty cash contributing another \$200. The district is current for all payroll tax and pension fund spending.

Gómez-Ibáñez moved to approve the treasurer's report and enter it into record. Motion seconded by Kempel. Motion carried.

V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Gehred walked through a written report that had previously been given to the Board. Her activities had been categorized into three main focus areas: Land/Water Management, Education and Outreach, and Administrative. She reported progress developing an approach to satisfy the Lake Planning Grant deliverables to the DNR. She is gathering up a team to help that have a range of expertise. She's also been meeting with a land conservancy and other parties to explore a land acquisition to increase the wetland and prairie buffer around the inlet creek. Creek

monitoring and lake monitoring are on schedule, though reporting into the statewide databases is behind.

Correspondence – Chair read thank you note from the Village of Cambridge for our participation in the Memorial Day parade.

a. Project Manager’s Report

Sabai was excused due to a family medical emergency. He had sent an email saying that he and the company he works for have reached out to the DNR to get early feedback on their interest in funding the creek re-meandering work. His agency has two projects ahead of this one and it’s Sabai’s belief that the Lake Ripley project will get more serious consideration in August.

VI. Old Business

a. Discussion and possible action for signage to thank donors to the District.

DeGidio suggested that after seeing the bids for signs thanking donors, he felt that a sign was no longer the best vehicle for a lasting, but flexible, symbol of appreciation. He made the case that inscribed bricks or pavers may serve better. Sabella suggested a large field stone with an engraved bronze plate, to be placed at the Preserve entrance, would be appealing. **Kolb moved Lake Manager and Chair work together to carry out this new vision unless costs exceed \$500. In that case, bring it back to July’s meeting for approval. Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Motion carried.**

b. Discussion and possible action for office technology upgrade.

Gehred summed up the options received from Badgerland Technology.

Kolb moved Lake Manager purchase office computer, screens and necessary accessories at a cost not to exceed \$1700, with cost to be split between the year 2019 and 2020 budget. Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Motion carried.

c. Discussion and possible action on applying for a Rapid Response Grant to control phragmites.

Report - Gehred summarized the process of applying for a Rapid Response Grant with the DNR for phragmites control. The Chair asked that she have a check box list of progress getting the permit and control going to show at the next Board meeting.

d. Discussion and possible action on Shore Place Cost Share Project

Tom Harvey of Shore Place reported for the Shore Place Homeowners Association that 90 small new native plants at a cost of \$192 will be added to the shoreline project’s selection of cultivars that the contractor had used that were not to spec. Shore Place had negotiated a price reduction to \$13,400 with the contractor that more than made up for the cost of the new plants. Gómez-Ibáñez will work with Shore Place to properly transplant them when they arrive, which is due to be within the week. It was agreed that the treasurer will cut a check upon receipt of the paid invoice, as previously approved by the Board.

Christensen moved that we amend the agenda so that section VII immediately precedes VI item e. Seconded by Sabella. Motion carried.

VII. New Business

a. Discussion and possible action to establish a committee to study the creation of a 501c3 for Lake Ripley.

Kolb laid out his reasoning for the establishment of an offshoot organization with a focus to identify needs and properties for the good of the Lake District. It would be an on-going group to work in partnership with the District and would work as a land trust to help us protect the Lake. His thought was that if we create it, we can have lasting influence over the charter and structure of the organization. Sabella added that we could also have a sitting member on the Board. There are details to work out. Christensen raised the question that we may wish to bring up our exploration at the Annual meeting, in order to get the authorization from the District members to move forward with the idea. Sabella suggested that if we choose to consult with legal counsel about this we'd want to use Bill O'Connor who specializes in this. Kolb offered to lead a committee to explore the idea further. Kolb asked that the Board Chair and Lake Manager be on the committee. **Kolb moved and Christensen seconded to establish a committee to explore whether it would be appropriate to create or partner with a 501c3 and to study the creation of an endowment fund. Motion carried.**

- b. Discussion and possible action to establish a committee to study the creation of an endowment fund for Lake Ripley.
Kolb gave the opinion that this was part of the same effort as VII a. and there was general agreement that the two could be explored by the newly established committee.
- c. Discussion and possible action on boat launch invasive species education program.
DeGidio gave background that the District did not receive a Clean Boats Clean Water grant this year, yet the need for on-site boater education remained. He gave the opinion that it was worth the District finding \$1500 within its budget for a part-time educator for the busiest times at the landing. Kempel raised concerns about additional costs of materials for handing out. Gehred allayed those fears saying that Jefferson County Land and Water had already dropped supplies off for us. Doman asked if we had a trained CBCW person ready to step into the hours. Gehred explained that Richard Moen was willing and able to do this. Sabella said there were two budget lines (general lake management and miscellaneous) that had yet to be fully spent that allowed for most of the cost to be absorbed without dipping into reserves. Doman asked if he could be trained to do this work at some point, too. Lake Manager agreed to work with him.
Doman moved that we approve up to \$1500 to pay for an educator to be at the landing for the 2019 season with Lake Manager to run. Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Carried.

Christensen moved to enter closed session for agenda items VI e Seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Roll call vote to enter closed session at 10:18 am.

The meeting re-opened at 11:30 AM.

Adjournment

Kolb moved to adjourn. Second by Sabella. Meeting adjourned at 11:32 AM

Next meeting: July 20, 2019, 9 AM at the Oakland Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,