



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
July 20, 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, and Walt Christensen. Keith Kolb excused. Also present: Beth Gehred, Lake Manager. In audience Dave DeGidio, Roger Rude, Deb and Rick Kutz, Tom Harvey, Mark and Mary Heynis, Diane Kledzik, Jim and Jan Papa, Gina Cullen, Jim Lorden, Shane Hacloney.

II. Public Comment

Tom Harvey, project manager, and Gina Cullen, president, of the Shore Place Homeowners Association, expressed their appreciation to the District, especially Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, for assistance with their shoreline restoration project and presented the district with an inscribed decorative painted paddle as a symbol of their gratitude.

III. Approve Minutes of June 15, 2019 meeting

Christensen moved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Board on June 15, 2019, Second by Kempel. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Sabella distributed to the Board copies of his treasurer's report for month of June, 2019. Receipts were \$204. Disbursements were \$19661. Sabella walked through checks written. Some of the less common checks were \$2490 to ERC for woody vegetative removal on the Preserve, \$1400 retroactive Pension payment for current staff, and the District's obligation of \$6452 for the Shore Place cost share. The cash balance is \$125,846 earning 2% interest, along with petty cash. The district is current for all payroll tax and pension fund spending. Sabella also reviewed the end of second quarter accounts, offering guidance on ways to access balances of individual accounts. No change on restricted funds since first quarter - \$40,362, and fund balance is about \$85,000 for a strong cash position. Gehred asked if we could set up a separate line item for each grant as we get them, instead of one single one. Sabella said it was possible.

Gómez-Ibáñez moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into record. Motion seconded by Doman. Motion carried. Christensen/Doman moved to accept disbursements. Carried.

V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Gehred walked through a written report that had previously been given to the Board. She reported the launch of the weed harvester and its budget being on track with good results on the lake; inlet creek monitoring, including flow, having been done – which is necessary for the Planning Grant compliance,; Lake monitoring using Citizen Lake Monitoring protocols led by Kempel in July though missed in June. District boat trailer painted, boat registered properly, and launched using

the District outboard motor for a weed check on the lake. CBCW program underway. Budget committee met, audit agenda sent out for next week's meeting, and everything on track for the annual meeting and budget hearing.

Correspondence – Wisconsin Waterfowl Association having a fundraiser in Beaver Dam on Aug 26 and all invited to take the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan Update on-line survey, with encouragement to fill it in and advocate for the health of the county lakes.

VI. New Business

a. Subscription and enrollments

Lake Manager was given the go-ahead to subscribe to the Cambridge News and to take out an annual membership in NASECA Wisconsin, a professional organization.

b. Lake Management Plan Update - survey

Report - The Chair stated the desire of the District to get the input of its members to help set the course for the Lake Improvement Plan Ten Year Update. Gómez-Ibáñez and Gehred walked through changes made to the survey, and highlighted new sections. Members of the audience were invited to give input and request a survey after the meeting for further input. Two financial questions were submitted by Kolb and it was decided the survey subcommittee should make a decision about whether to include them.

c. Discussion and possible action on prior service liability for the pension plan.

Sabella explained that the District has been carrying an approximately \$7500 loan at 7% interest with the Wisconsin Retirement System for monies the District owed for one of its first Lake Managers. Minimum payments have been made at a rate of approximately \$400/year such that the District is current, but not paying down the debt. DeGidio spoke to paying the debt in full now from our unrestricted fund. **Gómez-Ibáñez/Kempel moved to pay in full the service liability for the Wisconsin Retirement System. Carried.**

d. Discussion and possible action on proposed 2020 budget

Sabella presented the proposed 2020 budget that will need to be approved by the electorate at the annual meeting. He outlined the care taken to go through the budget line item by line item to assign best estimates for both July 1- Dec 31, 2019 and all of 2020. Great effort was made to keep the mill rate at the exact amount it had been last year \$51.20 per \$100,000 valuation. Kempel asked about the Board's earlier agreement to work a part-time summer person into the budget and the Chair said that it was decided to defer that to the 2021 budget and instead retain funds for an intern as in the past. Discussion around that item, and the use of the land acquisition fund money for 2019 being transferred from its account to instead cover unanticipated expense in 2019; and the 2020 land acquisition fund being reduced to \$3120. The board directed the budget subcommittee to meet again to put the assistant back into the budget and submit it for review before the annual Budget hearing. No action.

VII. Old Business

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

After investigating an engraved plaque on a stone as a thank you to donors of the 42-acre parcel, we also investigated the cost of a metal sign in line with an earlier effort to thank donors. There is less cost associated with the metal sign and also more chance to give background info on the importance of the purchase. The Board directed the subcommittee to now move forward with the metal sign.

- b. Discussion and possible action on applying for a grant to control invasive phragmites. Board direction was to have cost share committee take a look at the stand and bring it back to the next meeting in September to see if a five-year management treatment scores high enough for the District to pay half of some of the expense. For 2019 treatment, the District is to act to get bids to see what we can do before this year's crop seeds and gets any stronger. Negotiating with the landowner for costs incurred. **Christensen made a motion for a cost not to exceed \$5000 to manage the Phragmites if necessary for 2019 only. Kempel seconded. Carried.**
- c. Discussion and possible action of Cost Share funds transfer. DeGidio gave background that the Cost Share fund for new projects is zeroed out, but the repair fund still has money in its budget. There has not been demand for the repair budget and the Majestic Pines Island Multi-Ecosystem Restoration Project, a 3-year plan, is in need of funding for seed. **Gómez-Ibáñez moved/Doman second that we transfer \$1075 from the prior year's cost share fund to the new cost share fund. Carried.**
- d. Discussion and possible action on Cost Share Projects DeGidio gave background that the Majestic Pines project plan was thorough and scored higher than any other cost share plan we've evaluated. Three bids were brought in for native seed with the low bid coming at \$2150. Majestic Pines members spoke to the 250 volunteer hours that they've already invested, their hopes for the plan, and that the seed they need will enhance the hydrology and habitat on the island. A letter of support was read. Seed sharing of the plants once they mature is also offered. **Christensen moved/Gómez-Ibáñez second to fund the Majestic Pines Cost Share project for \$1075. Carried.**
- e. Closure on Project Manager position and performance
- f. Discussion and possible action on land purchase
Christensen moved to enter closed session for agenda items VI e and f. Seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Roll call vote to enter closed session at 11:18 am.

The meeting re-opened at 12:07 PM.

- g. Discussion and possible action on closed session items.
Gómez-Ibáñez moved/Kempel second to approve the application for a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant for August 1, 2019. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Christensen moved to adjourn. Second by Doman. Meeting adjourned at 12:09 PM.

Next meeting: Aug 17, 2019, immediately following Budget Hearing and Annual meeting, with start time of 9 AM at the Oakland Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary

Date July 20, 2019

Recorder: Beth Gehred

Approved 9/21/19 by Lake Ripley Management District Board