



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
December 21, 2019
9:00 A.M. at Oakland Town Hall
N4450 County Road A, Cambridge WI 53523**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Jimmy DeGidio, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. Board members present: Deb Kutz, Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Keith Kolb, Craig Kempel, Doug Maurer, and Walt Christensen. Also present: Beth Gehred, Lake Manager. In audience: Dave DeGidio, Rick Kutz

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approve Minutes of November 16, 2019 regular meeting

Kutz moved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Board on Nov 16, 2019, Second by Christensen. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz distributed to the Board copies of the Treasurer's Report ending November 30, 2019. As of that date checking account balance was \$109,257. Income included \$122.59 in interest. Distributions were \$9672.52. \$2870 was for phragmites control which may be covered by a DNR grant. She drew attention to this month's payroll tax payments for federal and state on the Lake Manager, who is the only staffperson in November. Chair asked about petty cash and how it works. Kutz explained the procedure has been historically that the \$200 is given from Lake Management account to the Lake Manager for use of small things that may be needed for operations. When it gets low the Manager hands in the accounting and the funds get replenished. In 2019 the \$200 was replenished once when Gehred came on board in April.

Kolb made a request that the 2021 budget be crafted based on District need instead of having mill rate and property valuation dictate the money we have to work with. The Chair explained the history of how our budgets have been built in the past and his willingness to work with the treasurer and the Budget Committee to do things differently for 2021. Kolb/DeGidio agreed a new approach would mean we are less likely to use District reserve funds or cut programs. Christensen expressed support for the change in approach.

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

V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence –

Gehred highlighted activities as outlined in her written Lake Manager's Report. Most notable were discovering an open Early Detection/Rapid Response Grant for phragmites control that needed to be closed in order to make a second request for a 5-year control in time for 12/31 deadline; closing out a Healthy Lakes grant from 2017 to reimburse a cost share; closing out the 2018 Large-Scale Planning Grant in order to open a new one that is more suitable to the new approach to the Plan Update; writing an Enbridge Community Grant; following up with a diesel spill reclamation on the inlet creek at Hwy 18, burning the Phragmites piles on Island Road, and getting firebreaks cut into the Preserve in preparation of a Winter/Spring controlled burn. Gehred spoke to her intention to apply to Watershed Specialist Certification online training offered through University of Minnesota and to get scuba certified.

New Business

- a. Lake Management Plan Update
Gehred summarized the work advancing the Plan Update. Survey data entry has slowed due to our volunteer having other commitments; a new strategy is being deployed to try for another Large-Scale Planning Grant that will bring increased opportunities for public input, research into lake and inlet creek water quality and habitat on which to base our management recommendations, and the use of volunteer and paid experts for focus areas in the development of the plan. We will know if our grant is successful in early Feb, 2020.
- b. Discussion and Possible Action on Policy for provision of employee field safety clothing
It was determined that the draft policy would have a fiscal impact, and therefore could not go into affect until placed in the budget cycle. **Kolb moved to refer the Employee Dress & Footwear Benefit Policy to the Employee Benefits Committee ahead of the 2021 Budget Committee for review. Maurer seconded. Motion passed.**
- c. Discussion and possible action on organizational membership dues for Rock River Coalition, Wisconsin Lakes, and North American Lake Management Society
Maurer asked Gehred if she felt there were value to the District in continuing our membership in these organizations. Gehred gave examples for each group's assistance in 2019. **Kolb moved/Christensen seconded that the District pay all dues to continue membership in 2020. Motion carried.**
- d. Discussion and possible action of draft job postings for District summer field technician and grant-funded LTE researcher
Discussion that we should add a minimum of hours of between 350 – 420 hours to the Researcher job description and to add the phrase of "with oversight by the Chair" after ". . .supervision of the District's Lake Manager. . ." Take out the clothing benefit until reviewed by Committee. Hiring process will be under control of the Board Chair, and once hired, these hires will report to the Lake Manager. **Christensen moved to accept the job postings with the changes as discussed, Kolb seconded. Motion carried.**

Old Business

- a. Update on Legislative Action Alerts
Gehred handed out information and gave status updates about Wetlands Hydrology Legislative Reference Bureau Bill 2019 about revamping the DNR's procedures to add a hydrological review of wetlands mitigation projects, Senate Bill 169 (referring to new stipulations around Wetlands Mitigation Banks), Senate Bill 335 (clarifying procedures for Lake District and Lake Association elections procedures), and Senate Bill 559 (increasing for Lake Districts/Association the amount from \$2500 to \$10,000 before the State-mandated bidding procedures must go into effect. Board members and citizens were invited to contact their legislators with comments on these. Kempel suggested that we strengthen our relationships with our local legislators and invite Nass/Horlacher to our meetings or special events. Lake Manager agreed to take action on that.
- b. Discussion and possible action on land purchase
Christensen moved to enter closed session for agenda item VII b. in accordance with Wis Statute 19.85 (1) (e) negotiating the purchasing of public properties. Seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Roll call vote to enter closed session at 10:20am. Carried unanimously.

The meeting re-opened at 10:53 am.

- c. Discussion and possible action on closed session items.
No action taken.

Adjournment

Maurer moved to adjourn. Second by Kempel. Meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.

Next meeting: January 18, 2020 with start time of 9 am, at the Oakland Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary

Date Dec 21, 2019 Recorder: Beth Gehred

DRAFT