



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
June 20, 2020
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 9:00 A.M. Board members present in addition to DeGidio: Debbie Kutz, Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Keith Kolb, Doug Maurer, Craig Kempel, and Walt Christensen. Also present: Beth Gehred, Lake Manager, Tim Lorden, Tom Lorden, Pete Vershaw, and Jon Tilp (in-person), Also present via teleconference: Lianna Spencer, Lake Researcher

II. Public Comment

Tom Lorden spoke to the condition of the plant and algal growth near his pier and felt it had never been worse. He also said that the buoys protecting the north side of Milwaukee Bay were inadequate, and gave a historical account of buoy placement that was better. Wondered if the harvester could pick up weeds that were raked up on the pier.

Tim Lorden spoke that when he worked as a weed harvester, that would have been possible.

Pete Vershaw expressed dissatisfaction with the buoys, which, in his view, were misplaced, and wondered what the District mission was. Felt the website was hard to navigate.

Chair DeGidio delivered a statement reiterating the District's commitment to inclusivity and equality and justice for all.

III. Approve Minutes of May 16, 2020 meeting

Kolb moved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Board on May 16, 2020. Second by Gómez-Ibáñez. Passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz distributed to the Board copies of the Treasurer's Report ending May 31, 2020. As of that date checking account balance was \$214,253.65. Income for the month was \$58,522.41 consisting of \$18,750 advance on LPL Grant from DNR, \$3919.63 close-out payment from DNR EDR grant, plant sale deposit of \$755.20, personal property aid of \$75.07, and an Enbridge Grant of \$35,000. Interest earned \$22.51. Operational expenses for the District amounted to \$4613.29. In response to questions Kutz said that there is \$59,500 total for land acquisition grants, and that the workman's comprehensive insurance payment had increased \$20. The liability insurance decreased from the budgeted amount of \$6500 to \$6076.

Christensen moved to accept the May 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, Kempel reports lake levels low, more algae growth likely due to high temps and excess phosphorus, remind people to keep lawn fertilizers from the lake using buffer strips, native grasses, or not applying them to their lawns. In response to a number of pier complaints Gehred created a pier packet that contains the DNR, County, and Town rules and contact info for all. Buoy complaints are being addressed – one is missing and District will request the Town

order a replacement that we can install to the proper GPS coordinates. Carp management opinions and research being conducted to determine if placing any type of Spring barrier on the outlet is useful or cost-effective. Research indicates that more than 90 lbs of carp biomass per acre of lake is the tipping point for carp to cause ecological disruption. Monitoring the level of carp biomass in Ripley will be a recommendation for the comprehensive plan. Spencer and Gehred kayak of the inlet resulted in finding areas where the banks are steep, and soil exposed due to shading in areas. Mostly invasive vegetation. Treefall in some places. Navigable for all points from Hwy 18 – Preserve Central, and then from Co Rd A put-in to lake. A center section has yet to be explored.

VI. New Business

a. Lake Management Plan Update

Gehred said that progress is being made on all surveys that are written in as deliverables in the LPL173220 grant. Spencer has taken the lead on rewrites of Chps 5 and 6.

b. Inlet Water Quality Report

Board was updated with the results of 2020's inlet water quality data so far collected. Osmon identifying some puzzling, and problem areas in the inlet where phosphorus numbers exceed impairment levels. More monitoring results will follow in upcoming Board meetings.

c. Discussion of 2021 Board budget item requests

Kutz said that the 2021 budget committee will be meeting and taking the suggestions from the Board and lake manager in time to bring a draft 2021 budget in front of the Board in the July meeting. If accepted, it would be presented to the District voters at the August 2020 Budget hearing and Annual meeting. Kolb advocated for an approach to the budget that does not use our reserve to fund current operations. Chair appointed Kolb to the budget committee along with Kutz, Gehred and himself.

d. Discussion and Possible Action on Board meeting attendance

Kolb brought language sanctioned by Roberts Rules of Order (RRO) that could be adopted that would support a District By-Laws change to allow remote attendance of Board meetings by Board members. Kolb pointed out that because our By-Laws directs that we follow RRO we need to be sure they align with any changes to our meetings. Discussion ensued as to the merits and challenges of allowing commissioners to remotely attend Board meetings. DeGidio said a change would be that stipend should no longer be linked to attendance. Concerns centered around potential costs, Board members may not be as effective, or as accountable to residents' concerns if they are not there in person, and, poor internet in the Town Hall may cause technical problems. Merits were flexibility, increased options for recruiting new Board members, and the track record that it has worked during the pandemic better than expected.

Kolb moved that an action provision will be added to the next annual meeting agenda stating Board meetings shall be held at a central location, but Board members who are not present in person shall have the right to participate by telephone, and/or other available communication devices, including video, subject to any limitations established in rules adopted by the Board to govern such participation. Motion seconded by Christensen.

Gómez-Ibáñez made an amendment that this would be brought to the July 2020 meeting to further clarify the rules around this change before it is brought to the annual meeting. DeGidio second.

**Amendment passed 4-3 with ayes being DeGidio, Gómez-Ibáñez. Kempel, Maurer
Second vote taken on Kolb motion as amended was unanimous.**

- e. Discussion and Possible Action on town road vacation

DeGidio updated the Board on the Town of Oakland's new Policy on road vacations, one of which borders our Preserve property off of Ripley Road. Board asked that they be updated with the Town policies around process.

Gómez-Ibáñez moved to pursue road vacation policy for Marsh Lane with the Town of Oakland. Motion seconded by Maurer. Motion carried.

- f. Discussion and Possible Action for a boat slip for the District

DeGidio update the Board on progress of finding a slip to keep the District's boat.

Kolb moved that the District should seek to obtain a boat slip at the Lake Ripley Marina not to exceed \$1000, with money to be taken from the miscellaneous budget line. Second by Maurer. Passed

- g. Discussion and Possible Action on an Electronics communication usage and retention policy

Kolb made the motion that we adopt the Electronics Communication policy as written except striking point 2. DeGidio seconded.

Discussion brought up potential difficulties enacting this policy.

Kolb postponed this item to the next meeting. Christensen seconded. Motion passed.

- h. Update on June 28 Public Outreach meeting

Lake Manager spoke to the purpose, agenda and goals of the June 28 Public Outreach meeting.

VII. Old Business

- a. Update on phragmites management

Approval came from landowner for our treatment to proceed. An herbicide was applied. Next step is to monitor its effectiveness.

- b. Discussion and Possible Action - Critical Habitat Area Designation

No report

- c. Update on website research

No progress.

- d. Land acquisition committee update [Meeting entered Closed Session as per SS Wis Statute 19.85 (1) (e) negotiating the purchasing of public properties.]

A roll call vote was held after a **Gomez-Ibanez motion, seconded by Kolb, to enter in to closed session for the purposes of items VII. d. and e. on the agenda.** All ayes. Closed session began at 11:28 am.

- e. Lake Manager Evaluation [Meeting continued in Closed session as per SS Wis Statute 19.85 (1)(c) to consider staff-related employment and compensation.]

- f. Discussion and Possible Action on items in closed session

Kutz made a motion to agree with what was presented in closed session, Kolb seconded. Passed.

Kolb made a motion to pay for Limited Site Investigation Phase II. Not to exceed \$10,000. Gomez-Ibanez seconded. Passed.

Adjournment

Maurer **moved to adjourn. Second by Kolb.** Meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Next meeting: July 18, 2020, with start time of 9 am, at the Oakland Town Hall. If there are modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic response they will be outlined with the official noticing of the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Beth Gehred

Date June 20, 2020

APPROVED