



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 17, 2020,
9AM at the Oakland Town Hall
N4450 County Road A, Cambridge, Wisconsin, 53523
Agenda**

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: Lianna Spencer, Interim Lake Manager, Dave DeGidio, Bob Rehm Jr, Bjorn Kaashagen

II. Public Comment – None

DeGidio noted that representatives from Pizza Ranch were already here and suggested we rearrange our agenda to let them speak first. All agreed. Bjorn Kaashagen and Bob Rehm explained that because of Covid-19 they have tried to be creative to keep their dining business alive. They consider public engagement to be central to their mission. They have had success in other local towns with fundraisers based on “town drops” where they deliver pre-ordered, prepaid pizza meals. For us, the location would be the Town Hall. Pizza Ranch employees would do the work. People would drive up and pick up their prepaid orders. For 30 orders we would receive 10% of the total profits. We would need to promote it well to achieve a successful fundraiser. Christensen wondered if there could be a frozen pizza option. Both men agreed we could. They were thanked for coming and explaining their proposal so thoroughly.

III. Approve Minutes of September 19, 2020 Board meeting

Without discussion needed, DeGidio entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

Kutz made a motion to approve the September 19, 2020 meeting minutes, Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer’s Report

Kutz discussed the September budget and expenditures. Receipts for September were \$23.33; disbursements were \$13,968.89. Kutz clarified with Kolb that he wished an outstanding check to become a donation. Some discussion ensued about where in our accounting system the unusual expense of \$1,067.25 for hydraulic fluid for the weed harvester should be put. Kutz had it in the weed harvesting account 561: fuel. It was decided to put it in account 562 (repairs, parts, and supplies) since it is actually a maintenance supply. Maurer wondered why there were so few operator wages in relation to the budget. One reason seems to be that only 10 loads were taken this season, and occasionally used a one-man crew instead of two. Maurer wondered if fewer harvester

hours was connected to the homeowner complaints in June and July. Spencer explained that plants don't stay put, and that the map of Eurasian watermilfoil and Curly-leaf pondweed that our permit is based on no longer accurately maps those invasives. However, the plant survey accomplished this summer resulted in an accurate map. Going forward, the new map should help us gain a permit that better reflects the current situation and will give homeowners some relief. Kutz concluded her report by explaining an accountant error that she corrected in the "budget remaining".

Kolb made a motion to accept the report with the changes, Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Motion passed.

V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Spencer explained the tasks she has been accomplishing since our last meeting. She presented her report using a new format that organized accomplished tasks by category (Administrative, cost-share, grants, lake management plan, prairie-preserve, weed harvest and miscellaneous). Following that she had created a list of priorities for the next month based on high, medium, and low priority. This made it very clear to see at a glance what she has completed and where she is headed in her work. Kolb would like to see us more aggressively work to contact homeowners with poor shorelines and convince them to take advantage of our cost-share program. Gómez-Ibáñez explained our winter Ripples is when we usually promote our cost-share program and the native plant sale. Discussion included using the photos from the shorelands survey, which include parcel ID numbers to identify the owner and address, for contact purposes. Maurer would like to see a more consistent format for the lake manager's report that would indicate where in the process every line action is, more like an Excel spreadsheet. His goal is to be able to see where the Board might be helpful in removing obstacles to success, as well as the resulting cumulative reports could be looked at end-of-year for evaluation purposes. DeGidio agreed that he and Spencer could work on that at their weekly meetings. Christensen updated the board on the Water Resources position with the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department. The good news is that money was put back in the budget; unfortunately, only half of the original amount was added. Lobbying efforts continue.

We phoned Dave Marshall so he could answer questions about the lake surface water grant to restore Banded Killifish to Lake Ripley. Marshall explained his familiarity with Lake Ripley. This would be his sixth project with Lake Ripley. DeGidio asked about the importance of reintroduction. Marshall explained that biodiversity is good for every lake. There has been a decline in small native non-game fish, but that our lake ecosystem now provides excellent habitat for these small species. Most of the costs would be funded by the grant, and there would be no cash cost to the District, only some of the lake manager's time. Christensen noted our part will be to keep doing the work to keep Lake Ripley healthy.

VI. New Business

a. Pizza Ranch fundraiser discussion and possible action

Kolb was of the opinion that this would be a lot of work for not much gain. Kutz thought it was not the best season to try this, with so many summer folks gone. Maurer thought with more time we could promote it better. Christensen reminded us that sometimes the benefit of a fundraiser is to promote our mission. Kolb asked that it be placed on our April agenda for consideration. All agreed.

b. Complaint flow chart

Much discussion ensued about the delicate problems associated with complaints and forwarding them to the proper enforcing agency, while maintaining good public relations. DeGidio clarified this complaint form is only for violations beyond the District's authority.

Christensen made a motion to adopt the flow chart as is, Maurer seconded. Motion passed.

c. Grant resolutions

Resolutions were needed to move two grants forward. Resolution 2020-1 was for the Banded Killifish grant.

DeGidio made a motion that we pass this resolution, Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Motion passed.

Resolution 2020-2 was for the Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant for the 2021 season. Kutz wanted us to understand that without volunteers this grant falls about \$200 short of covering our actual costs. Christensen said we could amend the grant to include \$200 more. General agreement.

DeGidio made a motion to pass resolution 2020-2 as amended. Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Motion passed.

d. Remote meeting attendance during Covid-19

Christensen expressed gratitude to be able to attend remotely for safety reasons. Zoom was discussed, even though now currently technologically impossible at Town Hall. DeGidio clarified that we can't do closed sessions with remote attendance. DeGidio suggested that we continue our remote attendance, by phone only, for the next six months, then revisit. General agreement.

DeGidio entertained a motion to allow remote meetings by phone during covid-19 and revisit it in 6 months. Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Motion passed.

Kolb asked if the lake manager can look into a Zoom account or WebEx. However, because of the available bandwidth within the Town Hall, a Zoom/WebEx meeting would not be possible at this time.

e. **Committee reporting**

Committee reporting was discussed. We have many active committees right now: land acquisition, hiring, human resources, and cost-share. We are following Thompson's advice and posting all meetings in the usual places, with just an email to the newspaper. Jimmy will keep us informed about minutes generated by the committees.

VII. Old Business

a. **Lake Manager job position update**

We have received 13 applications. The Hiring Committee will soon begin the task of reading the applications and choosing which applicants to interview. Kolb asked if there a plan as to when we will have a position. DeGidio said the goal is to have hired a lake manager by the end of the year.

b. **November meeting date**

We may have previously chosen November 14 (to avoid the gun deer hunt) but decided on December 5th, 2020 instead.

Kolb made the motion, seconded by Christensen. Motion passed.

VIII. Adjournment

DeGidio entertained a motion to adjourn. Christensen made the motion, Kolb seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:49a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: October 19, 2020