



**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
July 18, 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, Dwight Osmon, Field Technician. Dave DeGidio, Tom Lorden, Steve Bieschke, Jason Hernandez, and other unidentified people.

**II. Public Comment**

Citizens spoke issuing concerns around the prevalence of lake weeds.

**III. Approve Minutes of June 20, 2020 meeting**

Kutz made two corrections to the minutes. **Christensen moved to accept as corrected/Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Motion carried.**

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Kutz distributed to the Board copies of the Treasurer's Report ending June 30, 2020. As of that date checking account balance was \$193,022.95. Income for the month was \$59.10 which was a late check from the plant sale. Operational expenses for the District amounted to \$23,052.86. A busy time for payroll as we have six seasonal employees working this month.

**Kolb moved to accept the May Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried.**

**V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence –**

Gehred highlighted activities as outlined in her written Lake Manager's Report A replacement buoy has been ordered. Bluegreen algae education has been posted over social media and is in upcoming Ripples. People are free to collect their own water samples. For *E.coli* counts on the Beach, people are directed to the Cambridge Activities Partners website. This is the only beach on Lake Ripley that is monitored by the Health Department. In response to audience urging, DeGidio said we'd come up with a process for letting people know when the beach is closed.

**VI. New Business**

**a. Lake Management Plan Update**

A public input session was held June 28 and all input was captured in service of the management plan. In addition, ten people requested to be mailed the information along with a written comment form to return. The invitation was offered to go over public survey data over a ZOOM-style meeting. Waiting to hear if anyone requests this option.

**b. Inlet Water Quality Report**

Osmon updated the results of 2020's inlet and lake water quality data so far collected. Osmon explained that the inlet is an impaired water body for Total Phosphorus. 90% of our samples this season come in beyond the desired 0.075 mg/l levels for P. He showed results that at low-flow conditions, we have lower total phosphorus (TP) counts and rainfall makes TP numbers rise, indicating that surface water runoff is a source of P to the lake. Total

Phosphorus measures both dissolved and particulate phosphorus. Dissolved is that which is picked up by rain hitting land, picking up P and running into the inlet; and particulate is phosphorus that comes from erosion of creekbanks, and from the creek bed itself. The measure for TP decreases slightly as the monitoring sites get nearer the lake, indicating that somewhere along the way the inlet is filtering some P – a good thing. We are going to now do low-cost in-house dissolved P testing starting with next monitoring. Why are suspended solids so high at preserve central? And if we fix what is going on at preserve central how will this impact the siltation rate and water quality of the lake. More monitoring results will follow in upcoming Board meetings.

c. Discussion and possible action of 2021 draft budget

Kutz reported that the 2021 budget committee met and took the Board suggestions to create a draft budget. The notable change to the budget was an increase in the capital reserve to \$25,000 from \$15,000 in the land acquisition category and an additional \$3000 in the Preserve maintenance budget. The overall budget in 2020 was \$159,404 and the 2021 budget is \$170,892. It will be presented to the District voters at the August 2020 Budget hearing and Annual meeting. Discussion and Possible Action on Board meeting attendance. Committee feels it is a responsible budget and recommends approval.

**Kolb moved to accept the proposed budget as presented. Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Motion passed.**

d. Discussion and Possible Action on weed harvesting

Kutz suggested that the weed harvester go out to skim and clean up the floating algae mats that make their way to shorelines. DeGidio recommended asking the weed harvesting crew to complete that action. Kolb suggested that the members of the board start the process of pushing back against the DNR to find the right balance for Lake Ripley as our plant population seems to be an ongoing struggle. DeGidio reminded everyone that the District has a permit that is permitted to create cutting lanes and to get rid of invasive species. He suggested asking the DNR to expand our cutting lanes to allow easier access to these areas, especially Milwaukee Bay. Gehred speaks of how the DNR can govern the public body of water because that is their job. She explained how the district focuses on our lake, managing the plants, plant growth and the type of plants that are growing. Invasives are being controlled by the native plants, which is a great thing. We are balancing our directive and the DNR's directive to maintain a healthy ecosystem, environmental concerns, and recreational concerns. She reminds riparians that it is imperative that they do their part for the lake, as well. Lorden suggests reminding riparians to use the navigational channels because it is important and can reduce 'prop chop'. Gómez-Ibáñez said the balance of a healthy lake and recreational activities can be achieved by protecting our native, healthy lake plants. Kolb suggested that the board should have more discretion in times like this when we have an abnormal winter and a hot summer that we can use our discretion to manage the weed level.

**DeGidio made a motion to put more emphasis of cutting plants in specific areas of the lake, such as the east bay area, that has been discussed in this meeting. Kolb seconded motion. Motion passed**

e. Discussion and Possible Action on carp monitoring

DeGidio discussed some of the monitoring ideas that the District can implement to keep carp from entering the lake's inlets and/or outlets.

**Kolb made a motion to pursue the research of creating a type of barrier for the carp at the culvert on Park Road that would prevent both juvenile and mature carp during their breeding period; the barrier should be constructed so it can be monitored for debris for the 2-3 week spawning period and then be removed after the spawning period is over. Look into cost estimate and permitting process. Mauer seconded. Motion passed.**

Christensen amended the motion to allow for the research of options for a barrier that is either physical, electric, or otherwise, that would be optimal for effect, cost, and usability. Research should be presented at December meeting.

**Christensen's amendment passed. Christensen made a motion to approve the research of carp with the amendment and Kolb seconded. Motion passed.**

f. Discussion and Possible Action on Ripples newsletter

Maurer was looking for approval to donate the printing and refreshed layout for the Ripples newsletter. The articles and photos are still the Lake Manager's job. The board would have to pay for first-class postage if using MG&E. Discussion about how the taxpayers would feel regarding the first-class postage; may only be necessary when we send out the budget during our annual meeting.

**Christensen made a motion to accept Maurer's offer to work with the Ripples articles. Kutz seconded. Motion passed.**

g. Discussion and Possible Action on recommendations for By-Laws changes

The board discussed the four main by-laws that the board had agreed needed changes.

**Christensen made a motion to approve the first by-law change from 'shall' to 'may', Kutz seconded. Motion passed.**

The second bylaw change suggested was regarding remote, electronic attendance by a board member and still collecting their stipend.

**DeGidio entertained the motion. Kolb made a motion to approve and Christensen seconded. Motion passed.**

Discussion around the third bylaw regarding the change of language regarding the quorum be four commissioners instead of three, because we have seven board members instead of five.

**Kolb made a motion to pass the changes, Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Motion passed.**

Discussion about the rules for electronic meetings ensued.

**Kolb made a motion to pass the changes regarding the "Rules for Electronic Meetings". Christensen seconded. Motion passed.**

Discussion about the bylaw regarding a tie. Agreed upon that the board would flip a coin or draw straws in the event of a tie.

**DeGidio made a motion to approve, seconded by Maurer. Motion passed.**

## **VII. Old Business**

a. Update on phragmites management

Staff from the district are no longer allowed on the Gebhart's land; the contractors are the only ones allowed on their land. The District has a conservation easement that allows us to enter the land where most of the phragmites is located. Gehred is working on producing a map for the Corp of Engineers giving the District a clear answer on where the easement falls.

- b. Discussion and Possible Action on Board meeting attendance  
**KK made a motion that the board approved the board meeting attendance as set forth in the proposed change to the bylaws regarding conducted meetings, Christensen seconded.**
- c. Discussion and Possible Action on an Electronics communication usage and retaliation policy  
Hesitation over whether the board members should have personal emails and cell phones as to not receive any District-related information to their personal email accounts. This was suggested by the District's legal team.

**Kolb made a motion to pass the policy as is, Maurer seconded. Motion passed.**

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

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.

- 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.**

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

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

Next meeting: August 15, 2020, with start time immediately after the close of the Budget Hearing, which begins at 9 am, at the Oakland Town Hall. The modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic response will be outlined with the official noticing of the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary  
Recorder: Beth Gehred

Date July 18, 2020