



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 19, 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: Lianna Spencer, Interim Lake Manager, Jon Tilp, and Rick Kutz

II. Public Comment

III. Q&A Session with Thompson Legal

Discussion ensued regarding committees, sub-committees, and open meetings laws among other things. Thompson drafted a memo regarding open meetings requirements which she gave to all board members. Emphasized any committee would be subject to open meetings law in the same way board meetings are; they would need to be noticed at a publicly accessible location. She spoke of certain specific exceptions to the rule. Discussed closed sessions among different committees. Kolb asked for ad hoc gatherings to be explained. Thompson discussed the gray area around ad hoc gatherings. DeGidio asked about advisory committees and advice on how to document and provide materials from said meeting. Thompson said according to the Wisconsin statutes the requirement for meeting's minutes are the record of motions and votes; there is flexibility in what you must record in your minutes. Open meetings law does not distinguish between advisory committees or committees with any authority. Agendas and meeting minutes should be posted for every committee and advisory. Thompson recommended that we post agendas and minutes for every meeting and subcommittee meeting, to cover any gray area. The local paper must be informed that there is a meeting, but the meeting does not have to get published in the paper; an email will suffice. An emergency meeting only requires a two-hour notice. Kempel asked about the legality of not posting subcommittee agendas in the paper; Thompson suggested keeping email records. Kolb asked Thompson about her background. Thompson elaborated on her career; she has been practicing law for 9 years focusing on municipal law. She has worked with townships, sanitary districts, and other municipalities. She works with one other lake district, being Lake Koshkonong. Her one recommendation was to keep up to date on State Statute Chapter 33 as this is where our bylaws come from. She saw no other concerns.

IV. Approve Minutes of July 18, 2020 Board meeting

Kutz requested one change; \$59.10 was not from computer aid; it was a late check from the plant sale. Christensen requested that his amendment regarding the carp issue be added to the motion. Both changes were made to the minutes. DeGidio entertained a motion to approve the minutes presented with the changes.

Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the July 2020 minutes, Christensen seconded. Motion carried.

V. Approve Minutes of August 15, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Directors minutes

Kutz discussed how much detail these minutes had; if this much detail goes into these minutes, it is setting a precedent for the future that may be difficult to keep up with. She suggests changing the paragraph to say "The lake manager commented on her time at Lake Ripley and the people she worked with". Maurer agrees, the detail is unnecessary and inappropriate. Christensen mentioned how details may be important for the public to understand what has happened in previous meetings.

Kutz made a motion to approve the August 15 minutes with the discussed changes, Kolb seconded. Motion passes with 6 ayes, 1 nay.

VI. Approve Minutes of August 29, 2020 Board meeting minutes

Kolb made a motion to approve minutes as presented, Kutz seconded. Motion passes with 6 ayes, 1 nay.

After the vote had taken place, Maurer mentioned these minutes are missing elements and therefore he cannot approve them.

VII. Treasurer's Report

Kutz discussed the July budget and expenditures. The LRMD received \$3,000 from Alliant Energy grant. She spoke about check #4393 for rent, which was never found. Expenditures for July were \$23,845.38. No questions for July report. The statements of assets and liabilities was made by our accountant with whom Kutz is in contact with and the accountant put it together for July which was shared with the board. She wants to start doing the reports quarterly again for everyone's understanding. August had a restricted donation of \$500 and the District received the rest of the taxes due for 2020: \$35,406.70. Expenditures for August came to \$12,400.69. Kutz estimated the August to December expenditures and the amounts in the restricted funds to make sure there was enough money to cover the rest of our year's expenses. Kolb praised Kutz for her great work in her treasurer's role.

DeGidio entertained a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, Christensen seconded. Motion passed.

VIII. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Spencer talked about what she accomplished during the month of September. She attended many different meetings, revised meeting minutes, got up to date with the District's outstanding grants, and many other office responsibilities. Riparian issues are among the many office responsibilities, and she went to a few site visits to help homeowners with their issues. DeGidio mentioned working on a flowchart with Spencer regarding how complaints get dealt with at the District. (Kempel mentioned the strap needed to pull out the jane boat when the time comes.) Maurer requested a high-level priorities list from Spencer for the October meeting. Kolb asked about the extension for the 10-year plan and what reasons you give when filing for an extension. Kolb asked if that is something that needs board approval. Christensen asked about the call-in for board members and the public that was removed from the top of our previous agendas. DeGidio explained why it was taken off of the agenda. Christensen questioned whether the call-in line was for Covid-19 or remote electronic participation. Thompson discussed remote participation and gave advice on what our board can do. Christensen voiced his concerns about the risk of Covid-19 and mentioned that it would be nice to have this option to help eliminate any risks. Thompson elaborated on what she thought the board could do. Spencer talked about the banded killifish grant; restoring the banded killifish in Lake Ripley would be the first of its kind in Wisconsin. The District wouldn't have to spend any money out of our budget, our only donation would be the manager's time. Spencer asked the board if they wanted to move forward with the board. Kutz had a question regarding in-kind donations. Kempel asked if other people can volunteer to help with the project. Maurer supports the grant. Kutz thinks the donation from the guys proposing the grant is very generous. Kolb asked if the board usually asks the board's approval for grant. Christensen made a comment regarding adding a discretionary blurb on our agendas to allow for any agenda item to have a motion.

Kolb made a motion to move forward with banded killifish grant. Christensen seconded. Motion passed.

Spencer discussed the water resources position that is possibly being eliminated from the county's budget. Gómez-Ibáñez and Spencer drafted a letter for the board to approve and sign that is in support of the water resource position. Christensen explained the position, the value it holds, and what the county's 2021 budget is proposing. He believes that the board should be lobbying for this position and supports the letter.

DeGidio made a motion to sign the letter and send it to the committee. Maurer seconded. Motion passed.

Pete Petri-Rose, our CBCW representative, gave a presentation on how his experience went at the District's launch this summer. He spent 170 hours on the lake this summer at our two different public launches. He made contact with 400 groups of boaters, for a total of 632 individuals contacted. 221 groups of boaters had never been contacted by a CBCW representative before, while 179 had been contacted previously. If boaters were traveling from other lakes to Lake Ripley, the majority of them were coming from either Rock Lake, Rock River, Lake Waubesa, or Lake Mendota. Most folks were happy being contacted, only a few felt it was invasive. Pete said he had a lot of meaningful interactions with boaters. There were Covid-19 restrictions that made this season different from previous seasons. A few suggestions were made by the boaters that Pete relayed to the board. People suggested seeking funding from resort owners to get an additional public launch as the one we have becomes busy quickly with limited parking. Another suggestion was the District invest in a boat cleaning station, so boaters have the opportunity to properly clean off their vessel before heading to another lake. Christensen praised Pete for volunteering at the District. Kutz thanked him for his good work.

IX. New Business

a. Boat Cover Discussion and Possible Action

DeGidio discussed a possible boat cover for the Jane boat. He received a quote from Plahn Canvas out of Janesville for a cover, the cost came out to \$743.78. This cost would include the poles and the snaps that would have to be installed for the cover to attach. Kutz mentioned that our budget was for registration and cover and it was for \$200. She thought the cover would come from Farm and Fleet. DeGidio said it would have to be a fitted cover that has specific measurements for our boat. Gómez-Ibáñez recalls Kutz saying that covers were too much hassle. Kutz thought it would be easier to bail water out of the boat rather than attach a cover; there is more maintenance required with a cover. She doesn't think it is worth our money. Spencer suggested that she goes down and bails out the water. Kolb wants a commitment from someone to go down and maintain the boat, rather than a cover. Spencer committed to bailing water out of the boat while it is at the slip.

b. Pontoon Discussion and Possible Action

DeGidio mentioned a homeowner approached him and asked if the District would be interested in an old pontoon boat that he is willing to donate. Discussion about the purpose of the pontoon ensued. Spencer mentioned her ideas that she came up with for the pontoon, such as pontoon classroom, AIS education, water quality monitoring, boat surveys, and the pilot plant pick-up project. Maurer said he thought it would be a great thing to have, but he is concerned about storage. Kutz wants to know if the pontoon is a replacement for the Jane boat. She thinks the pontoon would be more versatile. Kolb asked how much repair work is needed to get pontoon running. He thinks we should get it into the marina and see how much work is needed. He agrees that the pontoon is more versatile. Kolb also suggested selling the Jane boat to cover the costs of repairs needed for the pontoon. Christensen asked what kinds of things usually go wrong with a pontoon. Kolb answered; the floor boards can rot out and the seats can become mildewed and cracked. DeGidio mentioned that he did inspect the pontoon and the floor was in good shape and he was told the motor ran two years prior. The seats will need replacement, but he suggests that the District buy some folding chairs. Christensen mentioned that if the pontoon ends up unusable, we can repurpose it for a project similar to the tern platform in the middle of the preserve. DeGidio has a trailer that he can use to haul the pontoon. Christensen asked if the current owner has any expectations as to what we do with the pontoon. Maurer stated that even if the District does move forward with spending money to check the engine, the engine alone would pay for the small cost of seeing if the motor runs. Other than trying to find a place to store the boat for the winter of 2020, Maurer thinks the pontoon is a good idea.

Kolb made a motion to accept the gift of the pontoon, Kempel seconded. Motion passed.

c. GGI- Cost-Share Project Outcomes

Gómez-Ibáñez explained that she and Dwight Osmon spent nearly two weeks on this project to visit and evaluate the condition of every cost-share property on the District's list. Gómez-Ibáñez thought this was a good experience and should be repeated about every five years. Follow-up letters were sent to all participants. There were 52 riprap projects and 29 shoreline buffer projects. Ice damage was the main problem for riprap. Mowing was the biggest problem for buffers. Kolb suggested that this fall or spring the District goes around and notes properties that would benefit from a cost-share and try to influence them to join the program. Gómez-Ibáñez suggested correlating the photos from the shoreline survey done this year with the cost-share program to identify which properties could benefit from the program. She also mentioned that that District always responds to requests by property owners for an on-site evaluation.

d. Update on the remote meeting policy from Annual Meeting

DeGidio clarified that the proposed remote meetings by-law change in the annual meeting did not pass, even though he announced during the annual meeting that it had passed with a vote of 9 to 8. He stated that the vote needed a two-thirds majority in order to be approved. He reiterated that the remote meetings by-law did not pass. Christensen apologized for bringing it earlier as he did not see that it was further down on the agenda.

X. Old Business

a. Discussion and possible action on Lake Manger job posting

Christensen noticed the wording could be changed to "District" instead of "County" in the equal opportunity clause.

Kolb made a motion to approve the lake manager job posting with the one change listed, Maurer seconded.

Gómez-Ibáñez requested that the board comes up with a due date that the candidates should respond by. DeGidio agreed that we should come up with the date. Discussion ensued. Kolb suggested two weeks. Commissioners wondered whether that was enough time. Thompson stated that the decision was up to the board. DeGidio and Kolb think two weeks is adequate. Spencer suggested a month as that is what she usually sees on other job postings. Kolb suggested that the due date be before the next board meeting so that the board can discuss possible applications at the next meeting. Due date was established of 10/16/2020.

DeGidio entertained a motion to approve the job posting with the one change as noted. Motion passed.

XI. Adjournment

Christensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:50am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: September 23, 2020