



Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 18, 2021, 9:00 AM
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, Craig Kempel, Doug Maurer, Keith Kolb, and Walt Christensen. Also present: Lianna Spencer - Lake Manager, and Dave DeGidio, Jon Tilp and Dwight Osmon, summer field technician.

II. Public Comment

Jon Tilp urged the Board to take steps to protect the lake from the effects of climate change.

III. Approve Minutes of July 17, 2021 Board meeting

Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the July minutes with one typo corrected. Christensen seconded. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz reported on the July and August budgets and expenditures. Receipts for July totaled \$17.72, all of which came from interest earned. Disbursements for July totaled \$24,003.31. Kutz mentioned that summer payroll is high because of the number of summer employees. Receipts for August totaled \$42,120.83, \$41,971.58 of which was in taxes received, and \$120 in donations in memory of Dr. Robert Krenz, a longtime summer resident of Cedar Shores. Disbursements amounted to \$20,097.15. Kutz noted that there is enough money remaining in the harvesting budget to finish out the season and prep the harvester for winter storage. Kutz explained that "petty cash" has been reduced to \$50 because we rarely use it, preferring to use the credit card. All of the previous Preserve designated funds have been paid out and cancelled from our bookkeeping. Of note, the FEMA property has been surveyed, at a cost of \$750. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Christensen. Motion passed.**

V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Spencer reported on activities during July 13 – August 20 and August 21 – September 17. The main focus of these months has been to complete the Lake Management and Preserve Management Plans. The Lake Management Plan was given to board members in mid-August, to read before the September board meeting. Information and advice are still being gathered on one aspect of the Preserve Management Plan. Otherwise it is also completed. A public input session for the plans is scheduled for October 19 at 4:00pm at the Oakland Town Hall. Other work was focused on cost-shares, grant-writing, the Loop Around the Lake boat survey, and the summer

Ripples. Another UW-Madison engineering capstone project has begun. The weed harvesting program is ending soon, having had a very good season thanks to our new map, the GIS system, the responding quickly to any concerns reported. Winterizing the harvester is scheduled for the week of September 27th. Our harvesting permit expires this year. An Aquatic Plant Management Plan is required for a new permit. Spencer has been preparing for that. At the conclusion of Spencer's report, Kempel advised that complaints may be coming in from certain residents. Kempel disagrees with those complaints; he has been very pleased with this year's program. Kutz noted people don't like cleaning up weeds that wash to shore, but she blames prop-chop, not the harvester. Board members expressed positive sentiments about this summer's harvesting program.

a. Field Technician update

Dwight Osmon reported that within the next four weeks this season's water-monitoring will have been completed, at three stations in the inlet stream and one in the lake. The DNR's Citizen Lake Monitoring Network's water quality monitoring is also done for the year. Kempel reported the latest Secchi disk reading was 13 feet! The lake is unusually clear right now. Osmon said he had spent some time reorganizing the data management system to be more user-friendly. The main data takeaways were, 1) phosphorus at the outlet is low, which means that phosphorus entering the lake remains there, 2) suspended solids are lower this year because of fewer intense rainfall events, 3) nitrate levels are high; this could be farmland runoff, or perhaps an abandoned septic system. Future investigation will be needed, and 4) we are above our target levels in each data category but compared to other local lakes we look pretty good mostly because of the dry weather.

b. CBCW update

CBCW interns completed 214.5 hours at the public landing. This grant will be closed out by the end of the year. It was a very successful season for CBCW.

VI. New Business

a. Grants Resolutions discussion and possible action

i. Banded Killifish

Spencer's time is the District's only fiscal commitment. Resolution passed unanimously.

ii. Clean Boats, Clean Waters

iii. Water Quality Monitoring

This grant will increase funding to expand our actual water-monitoring and related investigations. **Christensen made a motion to proceed with all three resolutions, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion passed.**

b. Harvester Storage discussion and possible action

The Town would like our harvesting equipment (harvester, conveyor, and dump truck) out of the Town storage shed. Aquarius recommends indoor winter storage but also recommends shrink-wrapping the engine and operator's platform if indoor storage is not available. Maurer spoke about maintaining our good relationship with the Town. Kolb wondered if we could build a shed for our equipment next to the Town Hall or pay for an enlargement of the existing facility. DeGidio will see what he can do for us at the

upcoming Town meeting. A compromise could be outdoor storage on Town property for this coming winter.

c. Draft Lake Management Plan discussion and possible action

Kolb had many good suggestions for minor but important changes to improve clarity and readability. Maurer found it very well written but had a concern about Critical Habitat Area designations. He would like to see the reasons for Critical Habitat Areas designations clearly stated so that residents are clear about their responsibilities and limitations. Kutz found it very informative and had recommendations for the wording about mil-rates on page 77. DeGidio spoke about the inclusion of Town ordinances that relate directly to our lake. There was general agreement with this. Kolb suggested labeling the appendices with their subjects. Christensen wondered how the public can view the plan and know about the public input session. Spencer replied that it is all on the website for reading. Notification is through the newspaper and Facebook. **Kolb made a motion to proceed as amended by suggestions, Kempel seconded. Motion passed.**

VII. Old Business

a. Conservation Easement discussion and possible action

A good conversation with the Gebharts seems to have solved our access concerns. The motion to survey the easement area has been put on hold.

b. Weed Harvester update

DeGidio read the latest harvester report. 72 loads so far and 202 hours recorded. The harvesters were able to keep on top of the weed growth by increasing days on the lake from 3 to 5 as the season progressed. DeGidio also said that he and Spencer quickly responded to complaints, on site, so they could be remedied. Board members expressed positive remarks about the harvesting program this summer.

c. Letter of Support – Jefferson County Soil Builders discussion and possible action

Spencer gave a brief description of the possible great value of this group for our lake. She said our commitment would mostly be her hours donated on behalf of the program (perhaps 40-80 hours) and also a financial contribution for seeds or other conservation supplies. No motion was needed.

d. Lake Manager Evaluation form discussion and possible action

After some discussion pro and con, Kolb noted that most of the objections were about process, not the actual form, and recommended that we vote today on the form and discuss process at a future meeting. General agreement was expressed. **Kolb made the motion to accept the form as written, and Maurer seconded. Motion passed.**

A roll call vote was held to enter in to closed session for the purposes of items VII. e. on the agenda. All ayes. Closed session began at 10:30AM.

[Meeting entered Closed Session [as per §Wis. Statute 19.85 (1)(e) to consider land purchase]

e. Discussion and possible action on land purchase for the benefit of the LRMD

VIII. Return to Open Session

Maurer made a motion to go back into open session, seconded by Kempel. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting returned to open session at 11:00am.

IX. Adjournment

Christensen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kolb. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:02am.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: September 27, 2021

DRAFT