



**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
January 16, 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, Doug Maurer, Craig Kempel, and Walt Christensen. Present remotely: Keith Kolb. Also present: Lianna Spencer - Lake Manager, Dave DeGidio, Jon Tilp.

**II. Public Comment – No public comment.**

**III. Approve Minutes of December 5, 2020 Board meeting**

Without discussion needed, **Christensen made a motion to approve the minutes, Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Motion passed.**

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Kutz reported on the December budget and expenditures, as well as an Actual-to-Budget remaining report covering all of 2020. Receipts for December were \$1,657.50, consisting of \$1,538.25 which was the final payment for the CBCW grant, a \$100 donation for the Preserve (restricted funds) from Steve Erickson, and \$19.25 interest earned. There was \$145,049.17 in our checking account. Under expenditures, Kutz pointed out the expense of \$20 for our safe deposit box, mainly to remind us that we have one. The good news for our 2020 finances is that even though a few line items were over-budget (where we had an unexpected expense), we were under budget by about \$3,000 overall. The main over-budget items were a special maintenance oil for the harvester, a costly repair for the pick-up truck, and payroll taxes for grant-paid work. Kutz expressed gratitude to Irene at Drews Tax Plus for preparing the documents and the W-2's and 1099's ready for us today. Irene has never billed us for her services. Many thanks were expressed to Kutz for her careful work, her clear reports, and her ability to explain complicated accounting issues in laymen's language we can all understand.

**Chairman DeGidio entertained a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Gómez-Ibáñez made the motion, Kolb seconded. Motion passed.**

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

Updates included an annual inspection of the ditch plugs by Spencer and DeGidio, and the Capstone project by engineering students in our Preserve will begin soon. The latest Ripples went out more than a week ahead of schedule. It has received many compliments. Many thanks were expressed to Maurer for his generous contributions. The new Lake Management Plan is ready to be sent out for professional comment.

a. **Town Web Designs – website remodel update**

Spencer gave us an update on the website remodel. It is coming along well. Thanks to help from Kutz, it has a “donation button”. The new website should be up soon.

b. **Carp gate update – Town of Oakland meeting**

Spencer and Joe Pallardy of EOR met on-site to evaluate the carp gate proposal. It will be a heavier duty installation but will cost less because Spencer is handling the permitting. Once EOR sends the design, Spencer can send the permit application to Jefferson County. DeGidio will be presenting the plan to the Town of Oakland Board on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, for their approval.

c. **CBCW 2021 update**

The CBCW Grant for 2021 has been secured.

d. **Weed Harvest Permit Update**

Spencer met with DNR personnel about the findings of the summer 2020 Point-Intercept Plant Survey which indicated the need for a new permit map. Spencer created the new map and sent it to the DNR for approval. If approved, this should eliminate many of last summer’s concerns expressed by residents. Discussion ensued about the best way to let the public know. Maurer thought it was important to let the residents know they had been heard, while emphasizing that science dictated the changes in the map. Gómez-Ibáñez thought a careful Ripples article in the spring edition might be the best way to explain the changes.

VI. **New Business**

a. **Firewood winter pick-up discussion and possible action**

A-1 Tree will be dropping about 30 dead trees, mostly Elm, on Thursday or Friday, January 21-22. After some discussion we agreed to schedule a firewood event on Saturday, January 30, probably from 8:45-noon. Spencer will post it on Facebook and on our website.

b. **Endowment Fund discussion and possible action**

DeGidio explained that we had initiated this idea a few years ago and had worked on the memorandum of understanding with Mike Rumpf and the Cambridge Foundation. At that time, we did not have \$15,000 we could spare to start the fund. So, we set it aside. Recently someone wanted to donate to us but could not because we are not a 501-C-3 nonprofit. Our Endowment Fund would be. The intent of the Endowment Fund is to build a fund for capital expenses. DeGidio asked the Board for direction.

**Maurer made a motion to move forward with the work towards an agreement with the Foundation. Kempel and Kolb seconded simultaneously.**

c. **Wisconsin Lakes Association, Rock River Coalition, NALMS renewal discussion and possible action**

These are informational and lobbying groups helpful to our District. our memberships are up for renewal. Discussion focused on renewing at Wisconsin Lakes Association for \$150 or \$750. Maurer suggested that Spencer should be the decision-maker on this issue. Spencer thought it best to renew for \$150.

**Christensen made a motion to renew all three memberships, renewing at Wisconsin Lakes Association for \$150. Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Motion passed.**

d. **2021 LTE field technician position discussion**

The discussion centered on whether to simply rehire last summer's employee or to go through the normal hiring process. Kolb thought it was a waste of our time to go through the hiring process if we had an employee interested in returning. Maurer thought it is in our best interest to have a good employee return. Spencer noted that changes would need to be made in the document because the responsibilities have changed since 2020. Gómez-Ibáñez suggested that it would be in the District's best interest to go through a hiring process.

**Kolb made a motion to rehire last year's employee, if he had done a good job for us, with a salary increase of \$1.00/hour. Christensen seconded.** Gómez-Ibáñez said since we cannot discuss personnel matters in open session that we really needed to have a closed session discussion in February. Christensen asked if there was any need to hurry; could we revisit the topic in February. DeGidio closed discussion and asked for a vote on Kolb's motion. All ayes except Gómez-Ibáñez. **Motion passed.**

e. **Native Plant Sale – Orders due February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

DeGidio reminded the Board that this is not a fundraiser for the District, but a service to District residents. It was advertised in the January Ripples and is up on our website. It is part of our mission to protect and improve water quality in the lake.

**VII. Old Business**

a. **Critical Habitat Designation update**

There is no news. Spencer hopes for an update at our February meeting.

Before adjournment, Kutz had a question for Spencer: why was there no Board agenda in the Cambridge news? Spencer said there should have been and that she would investigate it.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Christensen made the motion to adjourn. Maurer seconded. Motion passed. Adjournment at 10:27AM.