



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 20, 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, and Walt Christensen. Present remotely: Keith Kolb. Absent: Doug Maurer. Also present: Lianna Spencer - Lake Manager, Dave DeGidio, Jon Tilp and Rick Haas.

- II. Public Comment** – Rick Haas spoke about using his snowmobile and sled to compact the snow and make it easier for hikers to hike. The snow is deep and has deeper drifts. He is offering to do the work himself. Mr. Haas was thanked for the offer. He was also thanked for using his snowmobile to free all the pickup trucks stuck in the snow the day of our wood harvest. Christensen brought to our attention a Milford area farmer who wants to start a watershed group of farmers in Jefferson county. This is something we have been working towards ourselves because this could accelerate the adoption of lake-friendly practices on agricultural land near our inlet creek.

III. Approve Minutes of January 16, 2021 Board meeting

Kutz noticed a spelling error. **Christensen made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction. Kempel seconded. Motion passed.**

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz reported on the January budget and expenditures. Receipts for January were \$70,661.35, of which \$70,187.82 was tax money from Oakland and \$452.13 was tax money from property owners within the Village of Cambridge. Interest earned added another \$21.40. Disbursements for the period were \$12,665.87. Kutz noted that no pension payment came out of January expenditures, but that there would be two payments in February. DeGidio noted that although we paid A1 Tree Service for cutting down trees along the trail in the woods, snow made it impossible to hold the wood harvest on January 30th. Kutz discussed another way of looking at what funds are actually available to use and what funds are tied up in restricted funds. She wondered about the origin and intent of the Friends of the Preserve and Preserve Restoration Funds. Gómez-Ibáñez was able to explain that a Preserve Committee had come up with recommendations for improvements to our then-new Preserve, to make it accessible to the public for low-impact recreational and education activities. The committee had presented its recommendations with a check to help start things going. Kutz wondered if the repair of the observation deck could come out of that fund. Absolutely! Kutz said she was in favor of spending them down and not having them as separate accounts. Gómez-Ibáñez wondered if it is useful to have such a fund for unexpected Preserve projects that need action but hadn't been budgeted for. Kempel knew about the Forest Elson Fund and

agreed it could be used for the carp gate. DeGidio agreed that it makes sense to retire these small, restricted funds, because they add to accounting work, and we would always have money in our budget for unexpected costs. Many thanks were expressed to Kutz for her report, and especially her analysis of funds actually available to use.

Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Kempel seconded. Motion passed.

V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Spencer's report detailed many accomplishments during the month. Highlights include administrative work and progress on the carp gate project. The Lake Management Plan draft is out for feedback and equipment needed for summer work was checked (one for repair and purchase of another). A new battery for the harvester, the native plant sale, the incident involving a dog and a coyote trap, an update of our Ripples mailing list, website work, and the weed harvester's meeting. Spencer was thanked for her progress on so many fronts.

VI. New Business

a. Discussion and possible action on boundary markers in the Preserve

This item came up because of the dog being caught in the coyote trap. The landowner was agreeable to work with and had the trapper move his trap. DeGidio thought the trap was a good 8-10 feet into Preserve land, but there are no boundary posts along this "back 40" part of our north boundary. It seems prudent to get this section surveyed and posts set in as soon as possible. Chief of police Gondert spoke to this issue as well. The landowner had called him regarding trespassing on his property. Chief Gondert urged us to get the boundary surveyed and marked as soon as possible. He was thanked for his input. Spencer had gotten quotes for the work from three companies. Combs and Associates (formerly Abex) had the lowest bid and had actually done all of our previous survey work. Gómez-Ibáñez wondered if we could put something temporary there so Preserve hikers don't trespass this winter, by mistake. **Kutz made a motion to hire Combs to do the work. Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Motion passed. Kolb wondered about surveying other acquisitions. It was agreed to discuss at another meeting.**

VII. Old Business

a. Critical Habitat Designation update

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

b. Discussion and possible action on Endowment Fund

There is no news, yet. Spencer is waiting on a reply from Mike Rumpf; he said he would contact her in 15-30 days.

Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to go into closed session. Christensen seconded. Motion passed. A roll call vote was held to enter into closed session for the purpose of item VII. C. on the agenda. All ayes. Closed session began at 10:04 a.m.

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

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

VIII. Return to Open Session and Adjournment

Christensen made a motion to return to open session at 10:30am. Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Motion passed. Christensen made a motion to adjourn. Kempel seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:32am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: February 24, 2020