



**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
June 19, 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, Dave DeGidio, and Patricia Cicero.

**II. Public Comment**

Patricia Cicero, Director of the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department, introduced herself, explained that she would be speaking at VI a. and praised Spencer's collaborative efforts with her department.

**III. Approve Minutes of May 15, 2021 Board meeting**

**Kutz made a motion to approve the May minutes, Kolb seconded. Motion passed.**

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Kutz reported on the May budget and expenditures. Receipts for May were \$16,893.16, including \$5.89 (Wisconsin Personal Property Aid), \$40.00 (for turtle signs purchased), \$48.25 (our first online donation!), \$5,000 (advance payment on phragmites grant), \$11,722.00 (advance payment on watershed monitoring grant), and \$27.02 in interest earned. Disbursements for May were \$13,200.31. The annual insurance bill was the only large expense of note. **Kolb made a motion to approve the report as presented, Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. Motion passed.**

Kutz then presented a document of Revenues and Expenses, prepared by our accountant, which showed April-May compared to January-May. Kutz was pleased to note that everything financial was just about where we hoped it would be this time of the year. Preserve expenses exceeded the budget, but ways were easily found to pay for them (observation deck, tree drop, and survey work being the biggest items). DeGidio praised Kutz for her always clear presentations, as did the rest of the Board. No motion was needed to accept this report.

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

Spencer reported on the events and accomplishments of the month. As is always the case, summer weather brought an increase of calls to the office regarding water conditions, algae, shoreline issues, boating issues and pier issues, etc. The phragmites removal project (grant-funded) is going well. The CBCW interns are both also working at invasives-removal tasks in our Preserve two days each week (thanks to Kutz for finding money in the budget for this!). The work is going well. Concerns were expressed about Susan Graham's sudden retirement from the DNR.

Graham was the point person working on our Critical Habitat Designation report. Spencer has been working with Graham's supervisor at the DNR so that this important work can be accomplished. Water quality monitoring in our inlet creek continues as planned. Our summer Field Technician is working several days each week now that school is out. The grant has allowed the purchase of new equipment to record water flow to establish the creek's water budget, which is important to better understand water issues in the lake. The pontoon boat is almost ready to launch. The work on the Preserve Management Plan is nearly complete. The weed harvesting crew has been working after a refresher seminar and GPS training so that the new harvesting map can be followed accurately. Many compliments were expressed to Spencer for her work.

**a. Field Technician update**

Osmon is working several days each week. He will be installing three new loggers at the inlet, outlet and in the lake itself. Osmon's work and the new equipment are all grant-funded.

**b. CBCW update**

Our CBCW interns have been doing great work at the public launch every weekend. They are also removing invasives in the Preserve two days every week. So far, they have removed garlic mustard, dames rocket, and the seed-heads of reed canary grass.

**VI. New Business**

**a. Jefferson County Soil Builders – July 22nd**

Patricia Cicero spoke about this producer-led watershed group and how collaborative efforts with water quality resource groups can improve Rock Lake and Lake Ripley. UW-Extension is involved, as is the Rock Lake Improvement Association. Cicero hopes our Board will also collaborate. We are invited to a "meet and greet" event on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5:00-8:00pm at Korth Park with special support of Tyranena's "Brew with a View". A number of Board members expressed their intent to attend. Cicero was warmly thanked for her presentation as well as her long work on behalf of water issues in Jefferson county in general and Lake Ripley in particular.

**b. UW-Madison capstone projects discussion and possible action**

Spencer thinks that last semester's students did great work and offered good suggestions for improving water quality in our inlet creek. The professor would like his fall semester 2021 students to be able to do a similar project in our Preserve. We all agreed to have them back. No motion necessary.

**c. Board member election update**

Only one member is up for reelection this year, and Gómez-Ibáñez has already turned in her intent-to-run statement.

**d. Weed Harvester update**

DeGidio summarized our launch of the harvester on May 25, and subsequent successful work on the lake until its mechanical problems, which were repaired by Aquarius. The harvester is now back out, cutting 2-3 days per week. This schedule will be ramped up to 4-5 days per week as needed when the expected aquatic plant "explosion" occurs. Thanks to the new

harvesting map based on Spencer's aquatic plant survey last summer, we can now make more meaningful navigational lanes for boaters.

**e. Oakland Conservation Club encroachment discussion and possible action**

Lengthy discussion about the history of this issue and possible liability issues that need to be resolved. General agreement that we regard Oakland Conservation Club as good neighbors, and we would like to solve issues without damaging this partnership. Gómez-Ibáñez was able to provide some historical background information about this situation and the Conservation Club's willingness to address our concerns in the past. **Kolb made a motion, seconded by Maurer, to work with our lawyer and Rumpf (conservation club's lawyer) to address our concerns of liability and renegotiate the terms of our agreement. Motion passed.**

**f. FEMA property discussion and possible action**

An observant boater noticed boat trailers parked on our FEMA property. Investigation showed that the neighbor had mowed enough of the FEMA land to park numerous trailers and had a fire-pit there also. The neighbor was told to remove his stuff, and he did. DeGidio urged that our next steps should be to survey and properly mark the boundaries. Gómez-Ibáñez was able to give some historical background on this property, which has been maintained as native, wet-prairie/wetland since acquiring the property. **Kolb made a motion to have the property surveyed and its boundaries marked, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion passed.**

**g. Lake Manager Evaluation discussion and possible action**

DeGidio requested that we move this agenda item to last, since it needs closed session. **A roll call vote showed all in agreement. Christensen made the motion to move VI. g to last place on the agenda, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion passed.**

**VII. Old Business**

**a. Discussion and possible action on Endowment fund**

No update

**b. Board budget requests discussion and possible action**

Discussion focused on the need to sometime replace the pickup truck. Christensen had examined its undercarriage, per a request by Spencer, and found "normal" rust. He thought it would be serviceable for up to three years. Discussion then focused on the merits of saving up money in our next budgets, versus borrowing money.

**VI. g. Lake Management Evaluation discussion and possible action**

**Gómez-Ibáñez made the motion to go into closed session, seconded by Christensen. Motion passed. Closed session began at 10:20am.**

[Meeting entered Closed Session [as per §Wis. Statute 19.85 (1)(c) to consider staff-related employment and compensation]

**VIII. Return to open session**

**Motion was made by Kolb, seconded by Maurer, to return to open session at 11:27am. Kolb made a motion to increase Spencer's salary by 2.0% merit and the required 5.5% COLA. Seconded by Kempel. Motion passed.**

**IX. Adjournment**

**Kutz made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Christensen. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary  
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: June 23, 2021