



Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
July 17, 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 Richard Nelson.
- II. **Public Comment**  
None
- III. **Approve Minutes of June 19, 2021 Board meeting**  
**Kutz made a motion to approve the June minutes, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion passed.**
- IV. **Treasurer's Report**  
Kutz reported on the June budget and expenditures. Receipts for May were \$330.92. disbursements for June were \$15,131.75, wages being large because we are at the busy season with weed-harvesters, CBCW and Preserve interns, and our Field Technician as well as our Lake Manager. **Kolb made a motion to approve the report as reported, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion passed.** Kutz was thanked by the Board for her report.
- V. **Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence**  
Spencer proceeded with her report, covering the business of the summer month of June. As usual, summer brings many phone calls from residents about lake-related concerns. The carp barrier has been removed and stored for deployment next spring. The phragmites eradication program is going well. The usual "Loop Around the Lake" survey of boats and piers is planned for early August. Osmon is researching and writing about five ordinances that will help protect water quality in the lake. These will go to the Oakland Town Board, who have the authority to pass ordinances. Meetings included one with the professor whose engineering students will be doing another capstone project in our Preserve wetlands, pre-planning for the September "Pontoon Classroom" for our local high school biology class, and learning from the Audubon sanctuary managers about building a successful volunteer base. Spencer also reminded Board members about the upcoming Jefferson County Soil Builders meet and greet, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at Korth Park. Work in the Preserve is going well, as is the Preserve Plan. Weed harvesting is going well, in part due to increased education of GPS system and the new map for the permit as well as daily communication between the harvesters and Spencer. Spencer reminded everyone she will be out of the office until Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>.

a. **Field Technician update**

Osmon presented a very informative summary of the data he has collected this summer, which builds on the data he collected last summer. The picture painted is sobering but hopeful, in general. Total phosphorus is not up from last year, and in fact shows a slight trend down from last year, which is good news. Big rain events clearly trigger spikes in phosphorus loading in the creek (and therefore, into the lake). Thus one of our clear mandates will be to determine just where the loading is occurring, so we can take steps to reduce it at the source. Overall, at all data collection sites, total phosphorus exceeds the amount we would like to see. Total suspended solids show an increase from last year at all data collection sites. This is especially troubling because phosphorus binds to sediment and is carried along with it into the lake. Preliminary assumptions based on current data shows that 1 ton of sediment is added to Lake Ripley every 3 days. Next steps for Osmon include installing more “loggers” that will record water flow every 15 minutes, 24/7. These should help clarify where things are happening along the creek in the Preserve, and also clarify if something is happening in the lake itself that we don’t yet understand. Big rain events are currently a very big deal for the lake. Last year the Secchi depth decreased by 9 feet after one large rain event. Collaborating with adjacent farmers to install BMP’s could do a lot to reduce total phosphorus and total suspended solid loading. The new loggers should help us understand better what is occurring and where. Osmon was thanked for his informative presentation.

b. **CBCW update**

Spencer read the report from our CBCW interns, who feel the work is going well, and that most people are positive about the CBCW interactions.

VI. **New Business**

a. **Weed Harvester update**

DeGidio reported that the weed harvesters had been cutting three times per week, but recently increased that to five days per week. So far, they have removed 12.25 loads, of which 10.5 loads happened since our June meeting! The crew is doing a great job. Complaints are down from last year. When a complaint does come in, DeGidio and Spencer personally inspect the site, and direct the crew to it, when appropriate.

b. **2022 Budget approval discussion and possible action**

Kutz presented the documents for the proposed 2022 budget. Totals for most categories remained about the same as the 2021 budget. Less was budgeted for cost-sharing, and more for staff payroll (which includes not only the Lake Manager, but also the Field Technician and interns for work in the Preserve). Kutz answered any questions with clarity and offered the rationale for all decisions. It is anticipated the proposed budget will not cause an increase in the mil rate, for residents.

c. **Conservation easement discussion and possible action**

After much discussion pro and con about the need to survey the easement in question (at a cost of (\$2,500), **Kolb made a motion to proceed with the survey, including a letter from our lawyer to the property owners, seconded by Maurer. Motion passed.**

d. **Lake Manager Review discussion and possible action**

This being a “closed session” agenda item, **Kutz made a motion to move it to the end of the meeting, seconded by Christensen. Motion passed.**

**VII. Old Business**

**a. Remote meeting (COVID-19 related) discussion and possible action**

DeGidio explained that this meeting is the last one we can have with remote technology available (we had previously extended the remote option for 6 months) and we cannot have remote attendance at our annual meeting in August. Kutz recommended another 6-month extension since the pandemic is not yet over. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to extend remote attendance for 6 months, Kempel seconded. Motion passed.**

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

Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Kutz. A roll call vote was held, all ayes. Closed session began at 10:15AM.

**Meeting may enter Closed Session [as per §Wis. Statute 19.85 (1)(e) to deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties].**

**I. Return to open session**

**Kolb made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Christensen. Open session resumed at 10:25AM.**

**Christensen made a motion to proceed with the document as presented with the possible changes recommended about lead and brass shots, seconded by Kempel. Motion passed.**

**II. Adjournment**

**Christensen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kutz. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:30AM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary  
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: July 17, 2021