



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
July 16, 2022, 9:00 AM
N4450 County Road A
Cambridge, Wisconsin, 53523
Meeting Minutes**

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 Meg Turville-Heitz. Also present: Lianna Spencer - Lake Manager, Dwight Osmon – Field Technician, Tony Tobiasz – Watercraft Inspector (CBCW), Dave DeGidio, Jon Tilp and Roxanne Schiller.

II. Public Comment

There was none.

III. Approve Minutes of June 18, 2022, Board meeting

Without discussion, Maurer made a motion to approve the June minutes as presented, seconded by Turville-Heitz. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz reported on the June budget and expenditures. Receipts for June totaled \$27.45, all interested earned. Disbursements for June were \$14,476.92. Payroll now includes five mostly-summer LTE positions. Other items of note: \$1,294.97 (our first loan payment) and \$3,410 to survey the property line between the Preserve and the land belonging to Oakland Conservation Club. \$477 of the Visa bill came out of account #695 – General Lake Management, for water quality testing. \$327,151.40 remains in the checking account. Kutz was thanked for her careful work. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Kempel. Motion passed.**

V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Spencer assumed we had all read her detailed written report and focused her remarks on three projects of special interest. First was the welcome news that Agrecol has indicated interest in supporting our new ditch cost-share program, perhaps by donating vegetated mats for two demonstration ditches! Secondly, she has begun working on a grant to

extend and expand our water quality, flow, and other monitoring to include dissolved phosphorous and other facets to better understand our lake's water budget and watershed model. Third, based on multiple incidents of zoning violations being ignored, and no clear line of authority for accountability, Spencer and DeGidio have achieved a working collaboration with Jefferson County Zoning so we can provide guidance before permits are issues. Spencer is also writing erosion control responsibilities into the Town's building inspector's contract. Spencer was thanked for her great work.

a. Field Technician Update

Osmon presented a detailed report, using many graphs to illustrate how water flows through the lake's watershed, through the inlet creek and the lake itself, using data points collected this summer at six specific sites. The water quality data includes phosphorous, nitrogen, and sediment loading. He also monitors lake levels. He is using the data to build an understanding of the lake's water budget and watershed model. Some of the big take-aways so far include: 1) large rainfall events greatly increase nutrient and sediment loading in the lake, 2) the spikes are biggest at Preserve Central (where the inlet is a ditch physically separated from surrounding wetlands by a wall of spoils), 3) spikes are diminished where the inlet is connected to its wetlands, as in Wetland 1 in our Preserve, and 4) nutrients and sediments remain in the lake, as evidenced by the excellent quality of the outlet creek. This information points towards a restoration project at Preserve Central which would result in clearer water entering the lake. Osmon received a round of applause for his work.

b. CBCW update

Tobiasz told us a bit about his professional history and a life spent near water before explaining that he works Friday, Saturday, and Sundays making some 8—boater contacts so far, 55% of them fishermen. When he is not working with boaters, he spends time cleaning up the area (trash of all kinds gets unloaded in the landing area). Tony was thanked for going above and beyond his CBCW duties!

VI. New Business

a. 2023 Budget approval discussion and possible action

DeGidio made some preliminary remarks about our process, noting where we had been able to cut certain budget lines. Kutz explained the rationale for line items that received additional funding, mainly cost-share funds, wages, general lake management, miscellaneous, capital reserve, and preserve restoration/development. Wild cards are the cost-share program and inflation itself. It appears that property taxes will remain about the same, despite a larger proposed budget. After quite a bit of discussion, **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve sending this proposed budget, as is, to the voters at the annual meeting, seconded by Kempel. Motion passed, all ayes.**

b. Bylaw discussion and possible action

DeGidio explained that the language in our bylaws concerning election of commissioners was written when the District was brand new, and no longer provides clear instructions about current elections. Danielle Thompson, our attorney, drew up new language which is clear. **Kolb made a motion, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez, to send this version (showing both the old language and the new proposed language) to the voters at the annual meeting. Motion passed.**

VII. Old Business

a. Covid-19 remote meeting discussion and possible action

DeGidio explained that we have revisited this provision every six months. So far, each time, we have voted to extend this provision for another six months. Several board members noted that the pandemic is clearly with us still. Maurer thought it was time to drop the remote provision. **Turville-Heitz made a motion to extend it for another six months, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion passed, with one nay.** Note: this provision does not apply to the annual meeting, where in-person attendance is required for participation.

b. Oakland Hills update

Spencer learned recently that this development project is on hold until the rebuilding of Highway A is completed. This is because of the issue of proposed entrances/exits to Highway 18 and Highway A has not yet received a traffic study, and that cannot happen until Highway A roadwork is done. DeGidio expressed regret that the Town board declined a request to a full Environmental Impact Statement for the development.

c. Critical Habitat Designation (CHD) update

Spencer reported that there has been considerable progress recently. On July 7th, 2022, site visits were made to all nine sites, with eight still considered sensitive, or critical, or both. A meeting with the District's regional lakes biologist from the DNR, Arthur Watkinson, is scheduled for July 18th to discuss the reports Spencer has been producing. Spencer feels that the DNR staff is positive about completing this project. Letters to affected riparian owners are going out in November, with a tentative January 2023 public hearing.

VIII. Announcements

There were none.

IX. Adjournment

Kolb made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kempel. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:44am, to general comments of “great meeting!”.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: July 18, 2022