



Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
January 15, 2022, 9:00 AM  
N4450 County Road A  
Cambridge, Wisconsin, 53523

**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 Doug Maurer. Present remotely: Keith Kolb. Also present: Lianna Spencer - Lake Manager, Jon Tilp, Dave DeGidio, and Roxanne Schiller. Absent: Walt Christensen (excused at another meeting).

**II. Public Comment**

Jon Tilp congratulated Lianna Spencer, Jimmy DeGidio, and the whole Board for a very successful 2021. The Preserve looks great. The lake did well this summer, and Tilp thinks that's because Lianna manages with science. His big concern is about the new Didion development directly north of our wetlands. He worries it could potentially be disastrous for the lake. Spencer responded that she attends every meeting about it, and that potentially the erosion control measures they will be required to make may actually benefit the lake. DeGidio also suggested adding this subject to our agenda in the future, so updates can be given in public regularly.

**III. Approve Minutes of December 4, 2021, Board meeting**

Without discussion, **Kutz made a motion to approve the December minutes as presented, seconded by Kempel. Motion passed.**

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Kutz reported on the December budget and expenses. Receipts for December were \$1,866.58, of which \$14.98 was interest and \$1,851.60 was the final payment for the CBCW grant. Disbursements for December were \$10,397.13, with \$172,053.95 remaining in the checking account. Kutz mentioned that Kolb had asked that his stipend be a donation. There were no unexpected expenses this month. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Kempel. Motion passed.** DeGidio thanked Kutz for her report. Kutz presented a second report which detailed our entire 2021 financial year, comparing "Actual Expenses" to our "Budget" to our "Budget Remaining" in three columns, category by category. Kutz pointed out how much over budget we were in operator wages-repair category (account #565). All the

winterizing of the harvester equipment was billed as repair, which is compensated at \$20/hour. Gómez-Ibáñez thought this should be considered “maintenance” and billed as regular hours. DeGidio thought it best to look at the agreement/policy itself to see if things are spelled out clearly there. Although we were over budget in a few expected places, overall, we are under budget, and the board members expressed their gratitude and appreciation to Kutz for her diligence and careful work. **Kolb made a motion to accept this report as presented, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion passed.**

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

The biggest news to report is that both 10-year Management plans (Lake and Preserve) are completed, both approved by the DNR, and both printed! The CBCW 2021 grant has been completed, and closed out, with the final payment received. Other grants, for land purchase, are awaiting news. Spencer is moving forward with the wake boat ordinance. A public input session has to be scheduled, per requirement from the DNR. There has been a good outcome to some damage caused in our prairie during corn harvest in the adjacent field, with a neighborly response. The Winter Ripples is almost ready to publish. Doug Maurer donated 150 thank-you cards featuring Preserve and lake photos! Thank you, Doug! This is very much appreciated. Two Koshkonong Trails students will be doing a research project along the inlet stream with a drone. Spencer is working on an ordinance about tree stands in our Preserve, per a previous meeting discussion about the number of abandoned and/or long-term tree stands currently in the Preserve. Another proposed ordinance about soil erosion is not necessary because it already exists as a county-wide ordinance. Our only resort is to continue pressuring the county to enforce the ordinance. After meeting with Allison from Salt Wise, chloride testing will become a regular part of our water quality sampling, several times each year. Finally, Spencer is close to completing a third management plan: this one is for management of aquatic plants and is the prerequisite for our 2022 harvesting permit. Maurer asked about the progress on Critical Habitat Designation process. Spencer responded that Watkinson is just about ready to commence working on it. DeGidio suggested adding an update on CHD progress to every agenda henceforth. Maurer agreed that would help keep it front and center, since it is vital to get it done.

**VI. New Business**

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

Kutz pointed out that by budgeting for them last July, that constitutes approval for 2022. Why not approve renewing them for 2023 at this meeting. Spencer confirmed that she regularly uses these organizations as sources of information and advice, so she sees them as beneficial to our work. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to renew all in 2023, seconded by Kempel. Motion passed.**

**b. Native Plant Sale – Orders due March 25th, 2022**

This was on the agenda for information only. An article about the Native Plant Sale will be in the upcoming Ripples.

**VII. Old Business**

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

After some explanation and discussion, **Kutz made a motion to extend remote access to meeting for 6 months, and we'll look at this again in July, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion passed.**

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

DeGidio gave a brief update on the positive progress towards a new lease agreement (still a work in progress).

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

DeGidio gave a brief update (but as thorough as open session allowed) update on the process so far. A loan will be needed for closing. Both local banks were approached, with one offering a better deal in terms of interest rate. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to take a loan out at 2.375%, for up to \$100,000, for 7 years, from Badger Bank. Maurer seconded. Motion passed.**

**VIII. Adjournment**

**Maurer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kempel. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary  
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: January 19, 2022