



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 15, 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, Dave DeGidio, and Roxane Schiller.

II. Public Comment

There was none.

III. Approve Minutes of September 17, 2022, Board meeting

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

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz reported on the September budget and expenditures. Receipts for September were \$24.68 and were entirely interest earned. Disbursements for September were \$115,260.74. (Note: 6 people were still on payroll in September). Most of the Visa bill paid for our important water testing study. She noted she moved \$100,000 to a 9-month CD to take advantage of the generous interest available. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Maurer. Motion passed.**

V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Spencer had prepared a lengthy and detailed report for work accomplished in September. She spoke about several projects of special interest, including the successful installation of native vegetated mats at our first ditch program site. She was pleased to announce that these were less expensive than previously thought, which makes cost-sharing for property owners and the District more feasible. Spencer spoke at length about the Watershed Renewal grant, about which she has been meeting with many experts, getting advice and information. This grant would fund a 3–5-year process reconnecting the hydro-

connectivity between the inlet stream and the surrounding wetlands and floodplain. This is the long-term large project for which we have devoted much time and funding for, the water testing at multiple sites to understand better the dynamics of nutrient-loading in our lake. Related to this is an increased focus on farmers in our watershed, encouraging them to join Jefferson County Soil Builders and encouraging their attendance at informational events focused on best practices for soil and water conservation. Spencer was thanked for her great work and achievements moving the District forward towards our long-term goals for Lake Ripley.

a. Clean Boats, Clean Waters update

Spencer gave the report for Tobiasz, who was unable to attend. 1,000 people were contacted, and 473 boats were inspected! The best news was the only 2% of the boats had been on different waterbodies in the last week, which helps reduce the risk of introducing invasive species. Tobiasz concluded his report by stating how much he had enjoyed the work. Kutz requested that Tobiasz be thanked for his exemplary work.

VI. New Business

a. Reed canary grass bids discussion and possible action

These bids are to address our concern about isolated but increasingly large clumps of reed canary grass in our established prairie (Prairie 2) in our Preserve. Only one bid was for a 3-year program, and which specified control measures acceptable to our management goals for this prairie. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to accept the bid from Heartland Ecological Services, seconded by Maurer.** After discussion about funding this addition to our Preserve budget for 2023, **Kolb made a motion to amend the original motion to use restricted funds for this project, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez.** During further discussion about funding, Spencer acknowledged she could look for grant funding for this work. **Amendment passed. DeGidio restated the motion with its amendment. Motion passed.** Kolb requested that Spencer come back to the December meeting with ideas on how to fund this project.

b. Jefferson County Tourism brochure discussion and possible action

After discussion, everyone agreed to not participate again.

c. Grant Resolutions

a. Banded Killifish – Resolution #2022-1

This grant would fund the re-establishment of a Banded Killifish population to Lake Ripley. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to move forward with this grant, seconded by Turville-Heitz. Motion passed.**

b. Watershed Renewal – Resolution #2022-2

This is the grant Spencer spoke about at length earlier in the meeting.

Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to move forward with this grant, seconded by Kutz. Motion passed.

c. Clean Boats, Clean Waters– Resolution #2022-3

Without discussion, Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to move forward with this grant, seconded by Kutz. Motion passed.

d. Dump truck discussion and possible action

After much discussion, no motion was needed, but the Board asked DeGidio and Spencer to look at the possibilities for replacing the dump truck.

VII. Old Business

a. Weed Harvesting and prop-chop discussion and possible action

There was much discussion about this topic. Much of it focused on more education of property owners. Spencer reported on her discussions with representatives from seven other lakes and with DNR personnel. None of the other lakes have similar situations. Spencer noted two especially important observations: the first was that over-harvesting of native aquatic plants for navigational purposes would likely result in blue-green algae blooms. The second was that in the opinion of the DNR, Lake Ripley is one of the healthier lakes in this region of Wisconsin. Everyone agreed with Maurer’s statement that our mission is to maintain and improve the lake’s ecological health. Everyone agreed that our mission was not to be a pick-up service for prop-chop. We need to focus our efforts on proactive measures rather than reactive ones. Two motions followed: **Maurer made a motion to issue the statement that the Lake District will not collect riparian prop-chop, seconded by Kolb. Motion passed. Kolb made a motion that we prepare and send to residents a flyer/brochure about the science behind our weed-harvesting program, seconded by Maurer. Motion passed.** (These topics will also be in our next Ripples issues, as usual.)

b. Oakland Hills update

There was no new information. They are still waiting for the traffic study.

c. Critical Habitat Designation (CHD) update

This process is still waiting for the contribution of the DNR fisheries report, which will come next week. The timeline remains the same: letters to affected property owners in November, followed by a public input meeting in January at the Town Hall and hosted by the DNR.

- d. **Discussion and possible action on land purchase for the benefit of the LRMD**
Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Turville-Heitz. Motion passed. A roll call vote was held to enter in to closed session for the purposes of VII. (d), on the agenda. All ayes. Meeting went into Closed Session at 10:24am.

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

VIII. Return to Open Session

Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Turville-Heitz. Motion passed. Meeting returned to Open Session at 10:43am. Kolb made a motion to pursue other options for land purchase for the benefit of the Lake Ripley Management District, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed.

IX. Announcements

There were none.

X. Adjournment

Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kutz. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:44am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: October 18, 2022