



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 18th, 2023, 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, Craig Kempel, Doug Maurer, and Meg Turville-Heitz. Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez was excused, and Keith Kolb was absent. Also present: Lianna Spencer - Lake Manager, Dave DeGidio, Roxane Schiller, and Richard Nelson.

II. Public Comment

DeGidio informed the board that the District has purchased a dump truck to replace the old one. The dump truck was purchased from Michels Equipment Sales in Brownsville; it was listed for \$32,500 but DeGidio managed to negotiate it down to \$27,000. This dump truck does not require a CDL to drive. Our sales representative, Steve, was great to work with. The truck will be getting serviced this month before any use. Maurer asked what we plan to do with the old dump truck that is sitting in the parking lot. DeGidio stated that it will either be donated or auctioned off.

III. Approve Minutes of February 18th, 2023, Board meeting

Without discussion, Kutz made a motion to approve the January minutes as presented, seconded by Maurer. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz reported on the February budget and expenditures. Receipts for February amounted to \$51,886.38, of which \$1.63 was interest earned, \$2,036.62 was the final payment of our 2022 CBCW grant, \$49,511.58 was tax settlement from the Town of Oakland, and \$336.55 was tax settlement from the Village of Cambridge. Disbursements amounted to \$9,786.79. There was \$239,832.73 in the checking account. There were no unusual expenses. Kutz mentioned her frustration with Bank First not responding to her efforts of getting an interest-bearing checking account. For a point of interest, Kutz mentioned that as of today the District has spent \$30,000, which is normal for this time of the year. Kempel asked what maintenance needs to be done to the dump truck before the start of

the season. DeGidio mentioned that the Board had approved \$30,000 in expenditures for the purchase of the dump truck, so the remaining \$3,000 will be used for maintenance. Kutz reminded everyone that to purchase the dump truck the District used \$15,000 out of Restricted Funds and \$15,000 out of General Funds. **Turville-Heitz made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Kempel. Motion passed.** Kutz was thanked for her good work.

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

Spencer touched base with the cost-share participants to make sure that their project was moving forward; they signed their contract and got on the landscaper's schedule. The bids for the Cambridge Community Foundation grant were sent in. We are waiting on a response to determine if we can move forward with this project this year. Spencer has been applying for many different grants to help with our long list of projects. She has applied for roughly \$1,000,000,000 in grants this past month. We hope we can land a large grant to help us with potential land acquisition projects! Spencer and Degidio had a meeting with the four representatives from the DNR to discuss artificial wake enhancement and what is happening at a state level vs at the local level. She was invited to join the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Team Forum on Recreational Impacts – Planning Team. This group was created to design a forum to serve as a platform for SE WI Lake Leaders to connect and share their lake work and observations regarding recreational impacts with each other. The boxelder thicket project is moving along; we received a reasonable hourly rate from Tallgrass Restorations for applying herbicide in a wetland. Spencer also discussed Preserve burns with their ecologist: burn schedule (strategy), how climate change is affecting the burn season, and how to use burns to aid in our existing management of reed canary grass. DeGidio, Jon Tilp and Richard Nelson cleaned out the wood duck boxes – thank you! It was reported that there was about 50% success rates in the boxes. Spencer was thanked for her report.

VI. **New Business**

a. **Weed Harvesting Map discussion and possible action**

Spencer has been working with the DNR and Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department to update the weed harvesting map. The map is being adjusted to help alleviate some of the issues that residents have brought to the District's attention during regular and annual meetings. The previous map only included navigational lanes extending from the larger pier clusters. In the updated map for 2023, the area harvested is similar in acreage when compared to the 2022 map. Spencer mentioned that the District is trying to strike a balance between preserving habitat and addressing resident concerns. Kempel asked if we could have a side-by-side comparison of the two maps to highlight the changes that were made. Kutz mentioned that the District is trying to strike a balance; through our public opinion surveys we have learned that there are many residents around the lake who would prefer Lake Ripley to be a no-motor lake.

Turville-Heitz made a motion to accept the map as presented, seconded by Maurer. Motion passed.

b. Zoning Violations discussion and possible action

There has been an influx of complaints in the past two months from residents regarding zoning issues which the District passes on to the Jefferson County Zoning Department. We have been told by Zoning that if you do not get a permit for the work you want to complete and you go ahead with the work, your permit fee doubles. Zoning has the power to issue citations, however their Corporation Counsel has decided not to exercise that option at this time. Spencer suggested that the District send a letter to the Zoning Department with attention to their Corporation Counsel requesting that they allow the Zoning Department to issue citations. **Maurer made a motion to write and send a letter to Jefferson County Corporation Counsel recommending that they enforce the enforceable aspects of the zoning regulations including citations, penalties, or any other corrections necessary, seconded by Turville-Heitz. Motion passed.**

c. Weed Harvester job posting discussion and possible action

One of the District's weed harvesters accepted a full-time job in Madison and is unable to work on the weed harvesting crew this summer. Therefore, the District needs to review the job posting, update it, and post it online. DeGidio discussed the updates made to the job posting: 1) increase the starting wage from \$14/hour to \$16/hour, 2) new harvesters must attend a training seminar, 3) changed the timeframe from 8-11:30 to 8-12:00, and 4) position is open until filled. DeGidio asked if we wanted to increase the returning weed harvester's pay, so the new harvester wouldn't be making the same as our returning harvesters. DeGidio also mentioned that currently we have capped our weed harvester's pay at \$20/hour and suggested making our cap \$21/hour. **Turville-Heitz made a motion to raise the cap on the weed harvester position from \$20/hour to \$21/hour for the 2023 season and raise the wage of the returning weed harvester by \$1/hour and accept the rest of the policy as written, seconded by Kempel. Motion passed. Maurer requested that the language, "for the 2023 season" be removed from the motion and Turville-Heitz accepted the friendly amendment.** Motion reads: raise the cap on the weed harvester position from \$20/hour to \$21/hour, raise the wage of the returning weed harvester by \$1/hour, and accept the rest of the policy as written.

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

DeGidio requested that we move this agenda item to last, since it needs closed session. **A roll call vote showed all in agreement. Turville-Heitz made the**

**motion to move VI. d to last place on the agenda, seconded by Kempel.
Motion passed.**

VII. Old Business

a. Oakland Hills update

No update.

b. Critical Habitat Designation (CHD) update

Spencer had multiple meetings with Arthur Watkinson over the last week. Arthur anticipates having the report done the week of March 20, 2023. He needs to run the report by Wes Matthews and Kristina Pecachek before it is considered official. Arthur and Wes will discuss the homeowner letters during their next meeting. Maurer asked about the homeowner who reached out to the District potentially opposing the critical habitat designations. DeGidio explained that this group is interested in dredging the inlet and wanted to know how it would be affecting them. Spencer informed the board that in 2010 that the DNR denied this groups original permit for dredging the DNR.

VI. d. Discussion and possible action on land purchase for the benefit of the LRMD

**Kutz made the 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 items VI.
d. on the agenda. All ayes. Closed session began at 10:12am.**

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

VIII. Return to Open Session

Turville-Heitz made a motion to enter open session, seconded by Maurer. Motion passed. Open session began at 10:35 A.M.

Maurer made a motion to give permission to the Land Acquisition Committee to work with Thompson Legal (Attorney Danielle Thompson) to make an offer on the property, seconded by Turville-Heitz. Motion passed.

IX. Announcements

There were none.

X. Adjournment

**DeGidio made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Turville-Heitz. Motion passed.
Meeting was adjourned at 10:36 A.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: March 20, 2023