



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 21st, 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, Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Craig Kempel, Doug Maurer, and Meg Turville-Heitz. Keith Kolb absent but excused. Also present: Lianna Spencer - Lake Manager, Ron and Sue DeJonge, Jon Tilp, Dave DeGidio, Arthur Watkinson – WDNR Regional Lakes Biologist, and Roxane Schiller.

II. Public Comment

There was none.

III. Approve Minutes of December 3rd, 2022, 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 expenditures. Receipts for December were \$25,251.86, of which \$25,000 was from land settlement, \$248.55 from a voided check, and \$3.31 was interest. Disbursements were \$13,585.07, with nothing out of the ordinary. \$135,713.55 remains in the checking account, and \$200,870.99 in the investment account. Kutz noted that Hometown Bank is about to become Bank First, in February. We might have an opportunity to get a checking account that earns interest when this occurs. Much gratitude for careful management was expressed. **Turville-Heitz made a motion to accept the December report as presented, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion passed.**

Kutz also presented an extensive end-of-the-year financial report. The first report showed the final checking account balance on 12-31-2022 of \$131,055.88. It itemized that amount in terms of restricted funds, unrestricted funds, grant money, truck fund, which explained the money on hand and how it can be used. It was a positive statement. The over/under 2022 statement showed \$8,823.45 “over” in certain categories but \$33,878.00

“under” in others, for a total of \$25,054.55 in “under-spending”. This becomes “carry-over” to use in 2023. The final report showed spending patterns for all 12 months of 2022. All of these documents will be very helpful when the Budget Committee meets in July. Many compliments were sincerely stated to Kutz for this information contribution. **Turville-Heitz made a motion to accept these reports as presented, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion passed.**

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

Spencer had prepared a lengthy and detailed written report and spoke about some of the important issues she had worked on, including the erosion control ordinance for the Town of Oakland. Spencer put in a request for all in favor of the ordinance to attend the Town meeting on Wednesday, February 15th, 2023, at the Town Hall. She reported on something interesting about another Lake District: Peppermill Lake is a “slow-no-wake-lake” with a harvesting program similar to ours but they experience zero prop-chop issues! Something to investigate further in case we can learn something helpful! Spencer has been working with the Last Wilderness Alliance in Presque Isle to see how their wake ordinance is proceeding. She has been writing an informational weed-harvesting/lake health (“everything you need to know!”) brochure. She has also improved the new program (previously called the Ditch Program and now called the Swale Program). Other items being on the agenda were left until later. Many thanks were extended for Spencer’s great work on behalf of the District.

VI. **New Business**

a. **Cost Share Project (N4333 Park Drive) discussion and possible action**

There was much discussion on this project about the correctness of cost-sharing not the lowest bid but the highest bid, because it was determined that the two lower bids were insufficient to do the job and therefore not “responsible”. The DeJonge’s were present to answer any questions. There was general agreement that we should cost-share at the amount of the highest bid. **Maurer made a motion to go with the Acer proposal, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion passed.**

b. **AI Tree Service bid discussion and possible action**

There was much discussion on this project because we had only one bid and our by-laws require at least two if the amount exceeds \$2,500. A-1 Tree Service has always been the lowest bid and we were always happy with his performance. But there is also a time issue. This is work that needs to be done during a time where the ground is hard-frozen. So we made the following compromise: **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to secure two more bids and proceed with the lowest, responsible bid without needing to bring it back to the board, seconded by Kempel. Motion passed.**

c. **Critical Habitat Designation map discussion and possible action**

This is the latest, updated version of the Critical Habitat Designation map. Arthur Watkinson of the DNR was present to answer questions. The DNR needed formal approval of this map to move the process forward. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to accept this map, seconded by Turville-Heitz. Motion passed.**

VII. **Old Business**

a. **Cost-share Committee – Stormwater Runoff Program discussion and possible action**

This program seeks to reduce stormwater reaching the lake from the swale system created by the remaking of Ripley Road. Easements cannot be used because the swales are in the Town right-of-way. Even though the agreement signed by the adjacent property-owner specifies the agreement belongs to the property not the person, Board members were concerned this language wouldn't hold property owners legally responsible to hold up their end of the agreement. Gómez-Ibáñez observed even our cost-share agreements involving easements don't always end well. After much discussion, **Maurer made a motion to send this document to our lawyer for an opinion on whether the language would hold up legally, and bring it back in February, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion passed.**

b. **Covid-19 remote meeting discussion and possible action**

This item also needed much discussion, but most readily agreed that our constituents voiced their opinion very clearly that they want Board members present at Board meetings. And we prefer it ourselves. **Maurer made a motion to sunset the Covid-19 remote meetings at the end of our April 2023 meeting, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion passed.**

c. **Oakland Hills update**

The surveyors are currently surveying the plats as if there will be only one access point, but the County Highway Department is lobbying for State Highway Department to add one access from Highway 18. There are already too many accidents at the intersection of Highway A and Highway 18.

d. **Critical Habitat Designation (CHD) update**

Arthur Watkinson explained that our Critical Habitat Designation project is the first in many years because such designations lost priority status in the DNR in the late 2000's. So many of the initial reports for our CHD needed updating. These have been accomplished. Different DNR experts have reviewed the updated reports. That report is now scheduled to be completed in February 2023, with letters to be sent out to affected property owners in March, and the public hearing also to be scheduled in March. Maurer had questions about what property owners in CHD areas could expect

regarding projects on land. Watkinson hesitated to suggest projects within 30 feet of the shore might be subjected to more than the usual scrutiny, and referred the question to DNR's Water Reg/Zoning Specialist, Weston Matthews. Spencer thought the County Zoning would cover on-land projects. Maurer's HOA group is still doing restoration work on the Majestic Pines "island", so their concerns come from that project.

VIII. Announcements

There were none.

IX. Adjournment

**Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Maurer. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 10:15am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: January 25, 2023