



**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
February 18<sup>th</sup>, 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, Jon Tilp, Dave DeGidio, Roxane Schiller, and Richard Nelson.

**II. Public Comment**

There was none.

**III. Approve Minutes of January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Board meeting**

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

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Kutz reported on the January budget and expenditures. Receipts for January amounted to \$77,241.56, of which \$4.32 was interest earned, \$100 was a donation in memory of Kent Brown, \$2,227.20 was the final payment of our LPL Grant that helped us write our 10-year Lake Management plan, \$74,513.01 was tax settlement from Town of Oakland, and \$397.03 was tax settlement from Village of Cambridge. Disbursements amounted to \$10,564.30. There were no unusual expenses. There was \$200,870.99 in the investment account. There was extra work this month as Hometown Bank became Bank First, necessitating a new routing number, new checks, and new credit card. The Board spent a few minutes remembering fondly the important and meaningful contributions made to Lake Ripley and to the lake Board by Jane Jacobsen-Brown and Kent Brown. **Gómez-Ibáñez 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**

Another busy month for Spencer! Since some issues would be discussed later in the agenda, Spencer touched on a few of the many other things she worked on. Cambridge Community Foundation requested bids for installation of a new wetland scrape boardwalk, because they might support this project. Discussion ensued about perhaps reconsidering the present plan to go with a floating boardwalk, which could better accommodate fluctuating water levels and probably be better for the environment. Spencer noted that she had received much positive feedback about the latest Ripples, and thanked Maurer for all of his help with that. The boxelder thicket project is moving forward. A1 Tree Service did have the lowest bid, and will be doing the work. We will be using an aquatic-certified herbicide to treat the stumps, because the slopes are so close to Wetland 3. We are looking for a DATCP-certified applicator to do the work. Spencer spent some time reaching out to other lake districts/municipalities to learn what the current pay-scale for weed harvesters is, and to learn what they do about prop-chop. Also Spencer has been working with Arthur Watkinson, DNR, and Marisa Ulman, JLWCD, to discuss a new weed-harvesting map, which might address some riparian owners' concerns. Maurer asked about a zoning issue: that people have been removing trees within 30-feet of the shoreline without permits. This has been a problem recently. Spencer noted that all the local tree companies know about this permit issue. But unfortunately, some riparian residents don't understand the issue and hire non-local companies who also don't know the rules around our lake. Spencer thinks zoning is addressing the issue vigorously. Spencer was thanked for her great work for the lake.

VI. **New Business**

a. **Field Technician job posting discussion and possible action**

This is a position we have budgeted for. DeGidio introduced this subject by explaining that last year the Board agreed to offer this position to Dwight Osmon, rather than posting it, because we were happy with his previous work. Both Kutz and Maurer spoke to Dwight's expertise and experience, which allows him to jump right into the work. Maurer thought we should offer the job with a pay increase. DeGidio and Spencer both confirmed Osmon would accept the job if offered. **Maurer made a motion to offer him the job at \$22/hour, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion passed.**

b. **Nature Preserve Technician job posting discussion and possible action**

This is a position we have budgeted for, to accomplish work in our Preserve that is in our 10-year Preserve plan. The work mostly involves the removal of invasive species. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to post this position as is, seconded by Turville-Heitz. Motion passed.**

c. **Clean Boats, Clean Waters job posting discussion and possible action**

This is a DNR grant funded position. Last years CBCW intern, Tony Tobiasz, was excellent at this position. He enjoyed doing it, and suggested he'd be interested in doing it again. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to offer the position to Tobiasz, at the new rate of \$15/hour, and only post it if he declines. Turville-Heitz seconded. Motion passed.**

d. **Memorial Day Parade discussion and possible action**

The parade will be on Monday, May 29, in downtown Cambridge. We have been a part of this for several years now. The only real costs are candy, informational handouts, and about 3 hours of paid work for the person driving the truck and hauling the harvester. Kutz explained she uses the Information/Education budget for this. General agreement among board members is that it is a positive-feedback endeavor. **Turville-Heitz made a motion that the District participate in this year's parade, seconded by Kempel. Motion passed.**

e. **Upland Prairie 1 burn bids discussion and possible action**

This 5-acre prairie is due for a burn this spring, per our 10-year plan. Spencer had three bids for the Board to examine. One was deemed too expensive. Of the other two, similarly priced, we preferred the one from Tallgrass Restoration, LLC., because all crew members are trained, and they specifically assert that "the burn will be scheduled as weather conditions allow". As this bid was only \$110 above the other, we went with them. **Turville-Heitz made a motion to give the job to Tallgrass Restoration, LLC., seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion passed.** Spencer will ask Tallgrass to schedule us as early in the season as weather permits, because birds are returning earlier, to nest in the prairie.

VII. **Old Business**

a. **Dump truck discussion and possible action**

Our old dump truck cannot be used again. We have saved up \$15,000 in our truck fund which we can use to purchase a new truck. DeGidio, Spencer and Kempel had investigated three different trucks. Much discussion ensued about the CDL license required to drive a truck weighing more than 26,000 pounds. It is very helpful, in our weed-harvesting program, to not have a truck requiring a CDL-licensed driver. This has been a problem in the past. **After much discussion, Maurer made a motion to spend up to \$30,000 on a truck, preferably one not requiring a CDL driver. Turville-Heitz seconded. Motion passed.** Kutz noted that she thought the motion should have included that the extra money needed would come from restricted funds. We do have enough in that fund for that purpose. To accomplish this amendment, **DeGidio requested that Maurer rescind his motion, which he did, seconded by Turville-Heitz. Rescind-motion passed. Maurer made a new motion to use the**

**\$15,000 in the truck fund, and up to \$15,000 from restricted funds, to spend up to \$30,000 on a truck, preferably one not requiring a CDL driver. Turville-Heitz seconded. Motion passed.**

**b. Cost-share Program – Swale Program (previously called Stormwater Runoff Program) discussion and possible action**

This document has been looked at carefully by our lawyer because of previous Board concerns that liability risk was too great without legally enforceable easements. Board members still expressed concerns about \$1,500 of cost-share liability. Spencer noted we could lower that to \$1,000, that being the point at which a conservation easement would be necessary. Gómez-Ibáñez noted that even our regular cost-share agreements haven't prevent landowners from trashing a cost-share installation. **Turville-Heitz, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez, made a motion to proceed with this version of the program with the one change on page 3, paragraph 4, of \$1,500 to \$1,000. Motion passed.**

**c. Oakland Hills update**

The developer is now plotting the lots. No news about in/out access points.

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

The final report should be completed by Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Spencer will be talking with Watkinson that day. Next steps are: letters go out, public input session, and final publishing note on the DNR website which implements the designation.

**VIII. Announcements**

DeGidio and Spencer noted many positive comments on latest Ripples.

Turville-Heitz used this opportunity to let us know about a few county-level efforts of interest to us:

Large confined-animal businesses, or CAFOs, are legal in Jefferson County but do cause human health and environmental problems. The county is investigating ways to restrict/regulate them more closely. Three avenues being researched are: construction of facilities, erosion control, and the treatment of animals when there are large mortality issues (humane treatment and safe disposal methods). Related to this is the subject of high-capacity wells, and how they affect water quality in private wells. There is a registry of high-capacity wells. The county is reaching out to owners of private wells, seeking testing of those likely/potentially close enough to high-capacity wells to be affected. DeGidio noted that perhaps all residents of Oakland Township have private wells. Turville-Heitz was thanked for bringing these county-level issues to the Board.

**IX. Adjournment**

**Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kempel. Motion passed.  
Meeting was adjourned at 10:24 A.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary  
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: February 20, 2023