



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
July 15th, 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, Keith Kolb and Meg Turville-Heitz. Excused: Doug Maurer. Also present: Lianna Spencer - Lake Manager, Dave DeGidio, Jon Tilp, Roxane Schiller, Richard Nelson, and Susan Dascenzo – Town Clerk.

II. Public Comment

There was none.

III. Approve Minutes of June 17th, 2023, Board meeting

Without discussion, **Turville-Heitz made a motion to approve the June minutes, seconded by Kolb. All ayes. Motion passed.**

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz reported on the June budget and expenditures. Receipts for June totaled \$7,550.00, of which \$1,425 came from selling the old dump truck, \$125.00 was from selling turtle crossing signs, and \$6,000 was a grant from the Silver Lining Foundation to cover the cost of water quality monitoring of stormwater outfalls along Ripley Road. Disbursement amounted to \$25,887.28. This includes salaries for seven people. The Visa bill, for transparency, included \$1,800 to Tallgrass Restorations for the prairie burn in our Preserve, weed harvester pay, and \$161 to drill out the lock box at the bank. The boxelder thicket removal was completed for \$7,800, and parts for the harvester were \$1,038.87. There was \$180,357.47 in our checking account, \$101,278.65 in the 9-month CD and \$101,932.37 in the 15-month CD. Kolb asked about the stormwater runoff grant. Spencer explained that she had suggested that funding this particular monitoring this year would be advantageous, thus the grant now. It has already been put to use. Kutz was thanked for her work. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the report as presented, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed.**

V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Spencer had a busy June, including scheduling the work of six other employees! She had prepared a written, detailed monthly report and spoke about some of her activities, notably: a possible new cost-share project at Shoreplace, the first round of water sampling under the new stormwater run-off project, and planning with Stantec for an exploration of the inlet creek. She worked with officer Brazzoni on a plan to add two new slow-no-wake buoys on the northeast side of the lake, where the lakeshore is curvy. She and four others completed the Loop Around the Lake to count boats, piers, and lifts. Special thanks to Gary Zibell for donating his time and equipment. This is part of a many-years study of the carrying capacity of Lake Ripley. The boxelder thicket was completed in the Preserve, with our Nature Preserve Technician continuing to check treated stumps for any resprouting. The guests in the Preserve one day were UW-Whitewater students in Dr. Tippery's Field Botany class. The reed canary grass management has gone well so far with good kill results. If needed, another treatment will occur in mid-to-late fall. Heartland Ecological is doing the work with backpack sprays to minimize damage to our native prairie plants. Spencer then spoke about the work of our Water Quality Technician, Nature Preserve Technician, and Watercraft Inspector. All three are off to a great start!

a. Water Quality Technician update

Dwight has focused on water quality monitoring sampling in the field and analyzing data. He will give a detailed presentation at our September meeting.

b. Nature Preserve Technician update

Andrew has focused mostly on invasives in our Preserve but has also collected water quality samples on days when Dwight cannot.

c. Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) update

Tony is enjoying his work this summer. The DNR finally has the SWIMS database working so he can enter his data.

VI. New Business

a. 2024 Budget approval discussion and possible action

Kutz explained the Budget Committee's proposed budget worksheet line by line, explaining the reasons for cuts and/or additions. At the end of this explanation, Board members expressed admiration for this proposed budget. **Kolb made a motion to approve this budget as presented, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

Kutz then wondered if we needed to approve the published version, which contains the actual tax levy which is actually lower than the budget because of

carryover and interest income. **Kolb made a motion to approve the published version of the budget, which has a format mandated by the state. Gómez-Ibáñez seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.**

VII. Old Business

a. Educational Brochure discussion and possible action

Board members each had a copy of the latest version and were asked to submit any comments by next Wednesday. Comments at the meeting were all positive about improvements Spencer had made to the document already.

b. Critical Habitat Designation (CHD) update

Arthur Watkinson still has a final to-do list: condense all the public comments, the DNR lawyers need to look at it, and he needs to write a “Facts of Findings.” He hopes to be done with everything early winter this year.

c. Oakland Hills update

Spencer reported seeing the latest site map of the development. There are now no homes in the wetlands, which the District had asked about. The new maps include the wetlands designations, which are now shown as setbacks. Spencer will be meeting with Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department next week.

VIII. Announcements

DeGidio asked for any announcements, and then specifically of County and Oakland Townships. Turville-Heitz noted that the next “Brew with a View” on Rock Lake would be held on July 27th from 5:00pm-8:00pm at Korth Park. Representatives from Jefferson County Soil Builders will be there. Susan Dascenzo, Town of Oakland’s Town Clerk, welcomed everyone to view the large map they have in the Town Clerk’s office of the Oakland Hills development. She also invited everyone to the Tuesday, August 22nd Public Hearing at the Town Hall about ordinance #2. This ordinance covers a lot of issues which they have rewritten to make it easier to understand but which also contains new language prohibiting wake enhancement. The hearing starts at 6:00pm.

IX. Adjournment

Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kutz. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:38am.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: July 17, 2023