



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 16th, 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, Doug Maurer, Steve Bieschke, and Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County Representative). No Town of Oakland Representative. Also present: Lianna Spencer - Lake Manager, Dwight Osmon – Water Quality Technician, Dave DeGidio, Adam Dassow, Jim Jermain, Roxane Schiller and Tom Cerwin.

II. Public Comment

There was none.

III. Approve Minutes of July 15th, 2023, Board meeting

Without discussion, Turville-Heitz made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Kutz. All ayes. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz reported on both July and August budgets and expenditures, because of the annual meeting in August.

Receipts for July were zero. Disbursements amounted to \$23,363.49. This includes salaries for seven people. Cash on hand was \$50, the checking account had \$156,018.32, and the two CDs were \$101,278.65 and \$101,932.37. Kutz also noted that grant expenses amounted to \$7,525.61. Kutz explained that although grant expenses are tracked on their own spreadsheet, and that usually we pay the bills and then get reimbursed, the Audit Committee had suggested that grant expenses be indicated in the regular monthly Treasurer's report. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to accept the July Treasurer's report, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

Receipts for August were \$46,416.64, of which \$981 was insurance credit reimbursed after the sale of the dump truck, \$45,240.41 was tax settlement from Town of Oakland, \$183.80 was tax settlement from Village of Cambridge, \$11.43 was Department of Revenue exempt computer credit, and \$150 was from Keith Kolb donating his stipend. Disbursements for the period amounted to \$19,991.98. This still includes salaries for seven people. Petty cash was \$50. There was \$182,703.04 in the checking account and \$101,278.65 and \$101,932.37 in the two CDs. Grant expenses were \$4,746.66. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to accept the August Treasurer's report, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

Kutz also presented the expenses-by-account-number spreadsheet, which is now complete January through August. This spreadsheet is very valuable in planning our annual budget. So far, we are where we expected to be in September, financially. Kutz was praised for her thorough work.

V. Town of Oakland Representative Update

No one was present.

VI. Jefferson County Representative Update

Turville-Heitz informed us about two county initiatives that might be of interest to us. The first has been accomplished already: opening and closing times at all county parks are now uniform. The second is in its beginning stages and could affect the Lake Ripley watershed: changes to current rules about A-1 (agriculture only) lands that could allow A-3 parcel split-offs for residences. This is currently being discussed in the Planning and Zoning Committee.

VII. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

This report covered both July and August as well as the first half of September. In this busy summer season, much time has been focused on managing the work efforts of six other workers. Spencer worked with the DNR on both our Critical Habitat Designation and a new planning grant to explore how best we might work towards reconnecting our wetlands and inlet creek so that the wetlands can work to sequester phosphorus and sediment and send cleaner water to the lake. Interest in our cost-share program has increased. One is currently being completed, another was approved at today's meeting (Shoreplace project), and another is currently getting estimates for a 2024 project. The wake enhancement ordinance required much time, as did the summer Ripples and the weed-harvesting brochure. The weed-harvesting season is coming to a close. the removal of equipment is scheduled for next week, Friday, September 23rd, and winterizing of equipment will begin the following week.

a. Water Quality Technician update

Dwight Osmon presented the findings of the Water Quality Monitoring we have been doing in 2021, 2022 and 2023. In summary, nutrient and sediment loading into

the lake occurs mostly during intense rainfall events, and while the wetlands that lie between Highway A and Ripley Road are productively sequestering phosphorus and suspended solids during such events, our Preserve central wetlands are not. The specificity of these findings will help the next phase of our work to improve wetland function in Wetland 2. Osmon used his teacher skills to make a complex story understandable to his layman audience and was greatly thanked for his work.

b. Nature Preserve Technician update

This update will be a part of the October meeting.

c. Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) update

This update will be a part of the October meeting.

VIII. New Business

a. Discussion and possible action on Shoreplace cost-share

Shoreplace resident, Tom Cerwin, spoke very ably about their project with helpful visuals and clearly stated goals. **Maurer made a motion to approve this cost-share, seconded by Turville-Heitz, for the lower bid by Acer at \$9,600 of which \$4,800 would be our share. All ayes. Motion passed.**

b. Discussion and possible action on attorney representation

DeGidio began this discussion by explaining that our former attorney, Danielle Thompson, is resigning her attorney role after being appointed as Corporation Counsel for Jefferson County. So, we need to establish a relationship with a new attorney. Adam Dassow of Axley Associates was present to answer questions and give a picture of how Axley might be a good fit for the Lake District. **After much discussion and questions answered, Maurer made a motion, seconded by Bieschke, to hire Axley Associates as our legal counsel. All ayes. Motion passed.**

c. Discussion and possible action on LTE position

Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion, seconded by Turville-Heitz, to go into closed session. All ayes. Motion passed.

A roll call vote was held to enter into closed session for the purpose of item IX. c. on the agenda. The meeting went into closed session at 10:31am.

Meeting entered Closed Session as per §Wis. Statute 19.85 (1)(c) to consider staff-related employment and compensation

IX. Return to Open Session

Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting returned to Open Session at 10:52am.

Turville-Heitz made a motion, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez, to approve the LTE position if legal counsel approves our hiring process. All ayes. Motion passed.

X. Old Business

a. Critical Habitat Designation (CHD) update

Spencer noted that Arthur Watkinson, our regional DNR Lake's Biologist, is focused now on Surface-Water grants (including ours!) and that he intends to get back to our CHD work in late fall, early winter.

b. Oakland Hills update

John Didion, the developer, has approached the Lake district about donating approximately 22 wetland acres to the District. While this donation effectively protects these acres from development, Turville-Heitz cautioned that the developers should still have plans in place to prevent stormwater runoff coming into these wetlands. Spencer noted the developer will have to abide by DNR stormwater regulations.

XI. Announcements

There were none.

XII. Adjournment

Maurer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: September 21, 2023