



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 21st, 2023, 9:00 AM
N4450 County Road A
Cambridge, Wisconsin, 53523
Meeting Minutes**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Jimmy DeGidio, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Board members present in addition to DeGidio: Debbie Kutz, Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Doug Maurer, Steve Bieschke, and Ted Vratny (Town of Oakland Representative). Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County Representative) was excused. Also present: Lianna Spencer – Lake Manager, Andrew Sabai – Nature Preserve Technician, Jon Tilp, Matt Lueder, Dave DeGidio, Tim Lorden, Joy Graffin, Jane James, Richard Moen, Anna Cassidy, Tom Jensen, Jeff Meessmann – presenter from Last Wilderness Alliance, and Paul Gardetto – co-presenter from Lakes at Stake and Lake Ashippun resident.

II. Public Comment

Matt Lueder requested that we have our meetings with “virtual” attendance possibilities. Richard Moen asked if there wasn’t some way to encourage residents to promptly remove their piers and boatlifts once their boats are no longer on the lake.

III. Approve Minutes of September 16th, 2023, Board meeting

Without discussion, Kutz made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer’s Report

Kutz reported on the September budget and expenditures. Receipts for September were zero. Disbursements amounted to \$14,376.26. This still includes salaries for seven people. Petty cash was \$50.00. The checking account had \$176,137.20, and the two CDs had \$102,555.04 and \$102,695.44, making \$2,039.43 in interest over the past three months.

Kutz brought us up to date with the spreadsheet that captures expenditures throughout the year. We appear to be over-budget in insurance, weed harvesting, vehicle expense, legal notices, and legal fees. Fuel costs were up for weed harvesting. The over-budget amounts

were not large. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to accept the September Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

V. Town of Oakland Representative Update

Vratny gave no report.

VI. Jefferson County Representative Update

Turville-Heitz was not present.

VII. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Spencer reported on her work for the month. The DeJonge's cost-share project is going well, and another cost-share site visit at Willerup coming up soon. Our inlet-outlet water quality monitoring grant ends in December, so any further monitoring we will need to pay for ourselves. Spencer is currently working on a new planning grant that would use data from the previous grant to plan the reconnection of our inlet stream to its adjacent wetlands (Wetland 2 in our Preserve). The weed harvester has been cleaned and winterized and will be taken to storage on Monday, October 23rd.

a. Nature Preserve Technician update

Andrew Sabai reported on his activities in the Preserve this summer and fall. He performed many varied tasks including but not limited to prairie maintenance, removal of invasive species, and help with the removal of boxelder thicket. He did some of the water quality monitoring sampling and created some experimental flood lanes through the Wetland 2 reed canary grass. Sabai was thanked for his presentation and work.

b. Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) update

Tony Tobiasz could not be present but gave a report to Spencer who related that Tony continues to enjoy this assignment, and that 1,653 boats came onto the lake at the public ramp, 800 of those coming more than once, 63% of them being fishing boats.

VIII. New Business

a. Presentation by Jeff Meessmann discussing Artificial Wake Enhancement

Mr. Meessmann's presentation was titled "The Impact of Inadequate Wake Surfing Regulations on Lakes", using PowerPoint illustrations as well as video clips to clarify his points. Meessmann first made it clear that water skiing and wakeboarding are not what he is discussing. Boats for water skiing are designed to not create waves, and wakeboarding boats create a controlled wake, and the board has a tow rope. His basic points were that wake surfing harms lakes by creating wakes larger than any that wind could produce, they blast the lake bottom with such force that plants are uprooted, and the bottom is scoured and

releases sediment up into the water, creating phosphorus plumes and algae blooms. Their inaccessible ballast systems easily transport aquatic invasive species and fish viruses. They also cause shoreline erosion and make the lake unsafe and unpleasant for other lake users. His advice: pass a local ordinance that specifies prohibited equipment and operation methods, but which explicitly states what operations are exempted. Such ordinances are legal and will protect a lake. Mr. Meessmann was thanked for his detailed presentation.

b. Discussion and possible action on Grant Resolutions

a. Inlet Stream Restoration (2024-1)

Spencer explained that this is a DNR Planning and Implementation grant that will cover expenses for studying the best way to reconnect the inlet stream and its adjacent wetlands. **Maurer made a motion to proceed with the grant request, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

c. Discussion and possible action on truck donation from Enbridge

Enbridge offered a pick-up truck to the District. It could be very useful to have two trucks. This is a used truck in good condition. Our only cost would be insurance. After discussion, **Bieschke made a motion to accept the truck, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

IX. Old Business

a. Critical Habitat Designation (CHD) update

There was no new information.

b. Oakland Hills update

Vratny explained that there was now a final plat map, that drainage to the wetlands will be in compliance with DNR rules, and that although the Town had to pay for engineering costs, the Town will be reimbursed by the developer.

X. Announcements

There were none.

XI. Adjournment

Kutz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: October 23, 2023