



**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
December 9<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, 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, Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County Representative) and Ted Vratny (Town of Oakland Representative). Also present: Lianna Spencer – Lake Manager, and Colton Hutchinson.

**II. Public Comment**

Colton Hutchinson used this opportunity to introduce himself to the board. He is the new Water Resources Management Specialist with the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department. He is a graduate of UW-Stevens Point. He received a warm appreciative welcome from the board members.

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

**Without discussion, Maurer made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Kutz reported on both the October and November budgets and expenditures because we had no meeting in November.

Receipts for October amounted to \$7.66. Disbursements amounted to \$14,227.27. This included payroll for six people, as the weed harvester was winterized this month, and our Preserve Technician was still working in the Preserve. The VISA bill included about \$700 for the legal notice we are required to have in the newspaper for our annual meeting. Petty cash was \$50.00, and the checking account had \$152,822.45. Our two CDs had \$102,555.04 and \$102,695.44. Grant expenses totaled \$1,056.42. **Bieschke made a motion to accept the October report as presented, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

Receipts for November were zero. Disbursements amounted to \$17,883.73. This included payroll for four people. Petty cash had \$50.00, the checking account had \$141,358.56, and the two CDs had \$102,555.04 and \$102,695.44. In December Kutz will receive a statement of interest accrued in this quarter for the CDs. Grant expenses amounted to

**\$439.90. Turville-Heitz made a motion to accept the November report as presented, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

Kutz also presented the annual spreadsheet of expenses. This monthly snapshot is valuable when we prepare our budget for the next year. At this point, it appears our actual expenditures are quite close to our budget. Kutz was thanked for her clear presentations and careful stewarding of funds.

**V. Town of Oakland Representative Update**

Vratny reported on several issues of interest to the lake, with the first being the new Town erosion control ordinance being worked on currently. Vratny reported that the county had sent inquiries to the towns about their local ordinances and asked if a county-wide ordinance would be helpful and/or welcome. Turville-Heitz added that she thought a county ordinance would improve uniformity county-wide for both contractors and property owners. Vratny also reported on the Oakland Hills development. The Town has hired an engineer to oversee the final planning stages. He also reported that planning for the Park Road rebuild was already busy, as the Town hoped to lock in prices soon, and be ready ahead of the construction season.

**VI. Jefferson County Representative Update**

Turville-Heitz noted that the county strategic plan is now available on the county's website. She reported that there are more pro-business growth advocates on the county board now, and fewer voices for conservation and resilience to climate change, but that there was support for repurposing urban density over development on agricultural land. She also reported that the survey of Jefferson County wells showed significant well problems in Oakland Township, including salt issues in wells around the lake, and wells with arsenic and manganese. She urged board members to get their wells tested regularly. Lastly, she informed the board about a possible county-wide erosion control ordinance. It is still at the committee level but is anticipated to be brought to the county board sometime in 2024.

**VII. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence**

Spencer began her report by thanking Andrew Sabai for his work as Interim Lake Manager November 13 – December 5 while Spencer was gone on medical leave. The cost-share program has seen more action this year. The DeJonge project is now complete. The Shoreplace project has been approved and the work will commence next spring. The cost-share committee gave the Willerup Bible Camp preliminary approval for a large riprap project to repair serious erosion occurring now. The committee recommended that because this project is large and because the shoreline is long, and the cost will be high, to do this first phase including riprap/shoreline repair only, with a following project to include establishment of native plants.

Grant writing and grant completions have occupied much of the past two months. The phragmites grant has one year left, but good progress is reported by ERC. The Ripley

Road Stormwater Runoff grant which monitors water at road outflows is painting a picture of sediment and nutrients entering the lake during large rain events, as predicted. The new planning grant to connect the inlet stream to its wetlands was submitted November 14<sup>th</sup>, after many sessions with Stantec engineers, Rock River Coalition, Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department, and DNR staff. The boxelder thicket project has moved forward. Firebreaks have been cut for winter and for the spring 2024 prescribed burn in Prairie 2A and Wetland 2A.

## VIII. New Business

### a. Board meeting dates for 2024 discussion and possible action

DeGidio explained that our December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting is the exception to our normal third Saturday of the month meeting schedule, to avoid the hunting season of the November meeting. Consensus was to continue with this practice. **DeGidio made a motion to continue with our third Saturday meetings except for November, when we would instead meet on December 7<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.** (For clarity, this means January 20, February 17, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, September 21, October 19, and December 7, with our annual meeting being August 17.)

### b. Wisconsin Lakes Association, Rock River Coalition, NALMS renewal discussion and possible action

Turville-Heitz surmised that these organizations are useful to us and our lake manager. Spencer responded affirmatively. **Turville-Heitz made a motion to renew all three memberships for the cost of \$315, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez.** Maurer asked to hear more from Spencer before voting. Spencer responded that she gets a lot of help and information from all three organizations. **All ayes. Motion passed.**

### c. Last Wilderness Alliance donation discussion and possible action

Our speaker from the Last Wilderness Alliance wouldn't accept compensation for gas expenses for the 2-way trip from Presque Isle, but suggested we make a donation to the group. Vratny asked that it be noted in the record that he was recusing himself from both the discussion and the vote. Turville-Heitz wondered if it would be legal for us to donate to an organization. Bieschke wondered if it would be wise, or would it make us appear biased. Good discussion followed. The issue will come back to the board in January after consultation with legal counsel.

## IX. Old Business

### a. Critical Habitat Designation (CHD) update

There was no update. Spencer reported that she would be speaking with Watkinson next week, and that he plans to come to our January meeting.

**b. Oakland Hills update**

We agreed that we had already received this update from Vratny.

**X. Announcements**

There were none.

**XI. Adjournment**

**DeGidio made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary  
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: December 12, 2023