



**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
January 20, 2024, 9:00 AM  
N4450 County Road Ap  
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, Colton Hutchinson – Water Resources Specialist (LWCD), Arthur Watkinson – Regional Lakes Biologist (WDNR), Todd Touton, Roxane Schiller, Richard Nelson, and Jon Tilp.

**II. Public Comment**

Jon Tilp wondered if we were concerned by last summer’s drought, which dried up the pond in the Preserve, and Zeloski Marsh, and left Red Cedar Lake too shallow for canoes. Spencer responded that Jefferson county was in the “red zone” for extreme drought, and that with climate change, this is likely the new summer condition.

**III. Approve Minutes of December 3, 2023, Board Meeting**

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

**IV. Treasurer’s Report**

Receipts for December were zero. Disbursements amounted to \$21,770.13, with no surprises. Before proceeding to a year-end analysis of our finances, Kutz asked that the report for December be approved. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the December Treasurer’s report, seconded by Vratny. All ayes. Motion passed.**

Kutz presented the 2023 spreadsheet. She explained that our accountant had advised us to move the \$8,280 remaining in our cost-share account to 2024 restricted funds, so that it could only be used for cost-share projects, but she wanted board approval to do that. **DeGidio made a motion to move the \$8,280 to restricted funds (2024), seconded by Maurer. All ayes. Motion passed.**

Kutz then explained our accountant had also advised moving the \$25,000 remaining in our Capital Reserve account be moved to restricted funds (2024). **DeGidio made a motion to move the \$25,000 in Capital Reserve to restricted funds (2024), seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

Kutz then spoke at length about the “over/under” document, noting that the “under” category was \$4,548 more than the “over”, but that this was due mostly to some board members declining their stipends, the accountant declining her salary, and Maurer’s generous help with Ripples. Kutz’ takeaway is that we need to consider how tight our budget actually is and build in some extra in our budget for 2025. Kutz was thanked for her clear reports and hard work.

**V. Town of Oakland Representative Update**

Vratny spoke about progress towards a Township erosion-control ordinance, having spoken to both Spencer and the former Town building inspector, Greg Knoll, for ideas. Vratny hoped the Town could see what the County comes up with. DeGidio cautioned that the County is experiencing some pushback, and that he hoped we wouldn’t wait for the County. DeGidio also asked about the artificial wake enhancement ordinance and would that be on the February agenda. Maurer asked if the Town would vote on that issue before the upcoming election in April. Vratny hoped it would be voted on in the March meeting.

**VI. Jefferson County Representative Update**

Turville-Heitz had sent her updates to Spencer, who spoke. First noted was the big holdup to slow progress towards a county-wide erosion control ordinance. Secondly, she wanted us to know that there has been a notable increase in accidents on Hope Lake Road. Vratny added that a grant to reconstruct Hope Lake Road would have covered only 50% of the cost, and was thus unaffordable, but that by putting a weight restriction on Hope Lake Road they would apply for a grant which would cover 70-80% of the cost, so that was how they were proceeding.

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

Spencer touched on some of the many items noted in her written report. She had an opportunity to look at and organize files that Mary Behling, Mike Sabella, and Debbie Kutz had given her, and she felt she had learned a lot. She had also learned a lot from a few partnership meetings and webinars. She reported that Willerup is moving forward getting the three bids for riprap work. Spencer had been busy wrapping up some grants and submitting new ones. She has met with Joe Strupp (LWCD – Resource Conservationist) to discuss how best to use EVAAL results to help farmers with best management practices. She has maintained a conversation with Nate Lipinski, the engineer working on the Park Road reconstruction, to make sure our lake recommendations make it into the final plan. She is currently waiting to hear from Dan

Betka, the DNR stormwater engineer, who is reviewing the plans for the Oakland Hills subdivision as well as the Park Road rebuild. And finally, the winter Ripples is almost ready for publication.

**VIII. New Business**

There was none.

**IX. Old Business**

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

Arthur Watkinson presented this update himself. He has completed his part, and he feels it is almost accomplished with only two signoffs from supervisors and legal team at DNR remaining. He hopes it will be finalized and up on the website in February, in just a few weeks. What good news!

**X. Announcements**

There were none.

**XI. Adjournment**

**DeGidio made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary  
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: January 24, 2024