



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 17th, 2024, 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 Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County Representative). Ted Vratny (Town of Oakland Representative) was excused. Also present: Lianna Spencer – Lake Manager, Colton Hutchinson – Water Resources Specialist (LWCD), Arthur Watkinson – Regional Lakes Biologist (WDNR), Todd Touton, Jon Tilp, Dave DeGidio and Jared Smerchek, representing the Willerup Bible Camp.

II. Public Comment

There was none.

III. Approve Minutes of January 20th, 2024, Board meeting

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

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz presented the January budget and expenditures. Receipts for January were \$80,350.76, consisting of tax settlements of \$79,919.27 from Town of Oakland and \$411.49 from the Village of Cambridge. Disbursements amounted to \$11,866.08, which included our annual rent of \$1,800 to the Town of Oakland. The VISA bill included \$922 of grant expenses for water sampling, as well as gas and other miscellaneous. \$50 was in petty cash, and \$182,974.92 in the checking account. Kutz was thanked for her work. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the January Treasurer's report, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

V. Town of Oakland Representative Update

There was no report.

VI. Jefferson County Representative Update

Turville-Heitz had no report other than to express her appreciation for the good presentation Spencer had made at the Jefferson County Board meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

VII. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Spencer reported on a wide range of activities. The Willerup Bible Camp is ready to proceed with four bids and letters have gone out to two prospective property owners for the Swale Program. She is closing out one completed grant and has applied for a quite a few more. We did receive the 2024 Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant. We did not receive the DNR Surface Water grant we hoped would fund the next planning steps of our inlet creek project. Artificial wake enhancement efforts are moving forward. Douglas County passed a resolution pertaining to wake enhancement. We have urged the Town of Oakland to adopt our draft artificial wake enhancement ordinance language, which has already been vetted by the DNR, so this effort can move forward without delay. The County is considering two construction-site erosion control ordinances, which we support. She also lobbied for Senate Bill 222 which would create a "Pre-disaster Flood Resilience Grant", which would help protect wetlands, streams, and floodplains. These areas all play an important role in reducing floods. Spencer was thanked for her work.

VIII. New Business

a. Willerup Bible Camp (N4318 Alpine Village Lane, Cambridge, WI) cost-share project discussion and possible action

Jared Smerchek was present to answer questions. A lengthy discussion ensued, because the cost and job tasks varied so much that they were difficult to compare. In the end, we agreed that the lowest bid seemed responsible. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to accept the bid from Cutting Edge for \$19,099, of which our half would be \$9,549.50. Motion was seconded by Kutz. All ayes. Motion passed.**

b. Field Technician job posting discussion and possible action

This is a part-time position that has been ably filled for several years by Dwight Osmon, who has already said yes if we offer him the job. He will get a raise of \$0.50/hour, which will mean \$22.50/hour for a maximum of 200 hours. **Maurer made a motion to approve this job, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.** (This job will not be posted. Reliable workers who have a history with us are preferred).

c. Nature Preserve Technician job posting discussion and possible action

This part-time position was filled ably by Andrew Sabai last summer. He has agreed to take this on again if asked. He will get a raise of \$0.50/hour, for a total of \$21.50/hour for a maximum of 200 hours. **Maurer made a motion to approve this job, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.** (This job will not be posted).

d. Clean Boats, Clean Waters job posting discussion and possible action

This position has been ably filled for several summers by Tony Tobiasz, who is willing to do it again if asked. The grant which pays for this job has a \$15/hour cap. We will use our own funds to raise his wage to \$15.50/hour. **Bieschke made a motion to approve this job, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.** (This job will not be posted).

e. Weed Harvester job posting discussion and possible action

Ed, Richard and Jim are all returning, but Ed is no longer a regular worker, and Bruce resigned, so we will need one more harvester. This is a seasonal, flexible job. **Turville-**

Heitz made a motion that we post this job as presented, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. (This job will be posted).

f. Upland Prairie 2 and Wetland 2 burn bids discussion and possible action

After much discussion, we chose the lowest, responsible bid, which was from Midwest Prairies for \$2,400. **Turville-Heitz made a motion to award the contract to Midwest Prairies, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

IX. Old Business

a. Critical Habitat Designation (CHD) update

Arthur Watkinson presented this update. He has finished his part, but it remains at legal counsel for final vetting. He plans to talk with Spencer soon about the surface water grant. Colton Hutchinson also added information about a zebra mussel study that would fund our typical water-quality monitoring, but with added focus.

X. Announcements

Turville-Heitz introduced new information about nitrate testing of wells, which she had recommended at an earlier meeting. Colton Hutchinson amplified that with the news that his office has screening tools for nitrates, available to everyone.

XI. Adjournment

Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: February 19, 2024