



**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
April 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 Ted Vratny (Town of Oakland Representative). Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County Representative) was excused. Also present: Lianna Spencer – Lake Manager, Arthur Watkinson – Regional Lakes Biologist (WDNR), Todd Touton, Dave DeGidio, and Roxane Schiller.

**II. Public Comment**

There was none.

**III. Approve Minutes of March 16th, 2024, Board meeting**

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

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Kutz presented the March budget and expenditures. Receipts for March were zero. Disbursements amounted to \$11,246.96, about which Kutz reported nothing unusual or noteworthy. The VISA bill was high because it included two annual payments (for our printer rent and our website). \$211,853.58 was in our checking account. The two CD's have \$103,159.55 and \$105,057.62 respectively. Kutz also presented a financial spreadsheet for expenses per category January through March and part of April. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the March Treasurer's Report, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. Kutz** was thanked for her very helpful report.

**V. Town of Oakland Representative Update**

Vratny reported that the artificial wake enhancement ordinance passed at the last Town Board meeting and is ready for the season, including the message, "No artificial wake enhancements" on the back of the boat launch passes. The enforcement of the ordinance begins May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

The erosion control ordinance is on the May agenda. Vratny reported receiving information for that from Spencer. The Park Road rebuild is back on schedule, with the “carp culvert” to be replaced on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Speed on Highway 18 from Cambridge to (we hope) Highway A (but that is uncertain) is being discussed at the County level.

**VI. Jefferson County Representative Update**

Turville-Heitz had sent her update to the office, and DeGidio presented it. It included dates, times and places for hazardous waste disposal in the county, and a CDC alert to take precautions with the rise of avian flu in the USA.

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

Spencer had prepared a lengthy written report and spoke about some. She noted that she had enjoyed a profitable time at the Lakes and Rivers Conference, where she learned a lot and networked meaningfully. Cost-share project inquiries are up. The native plant sale was successful. Plant pick-up is May 20<sup>th</sup>. Grant work is ongoing. Spencer expressed her gratitude we all feel about the passage of the Town’s artificial wake enhancement ordinance. Water quality monitoring shows a drop in chloride levels with the Town’s switch to using brine on the roads instead of salt. Vratny added they will be testing a pre-application of brine that may help the lake even more. Spencer spoke at length about the work Dan Betka (DNR Water Resource Engineer) did to amend the Park Road plans to ensure equivalent stormwater treatment along the road. This represents another “win” for water quality in the lake. Spencer is working with Vratny on our Town erosion control ordinance, and with Cassie Richardson (Jefferson County Zoning Committee board member) on the County’s erosion control and stormwater management ordinances. Spencer is working on the RFQ for the stream restoration project, and also assessing bids for the management work needed for Woods 3 in the Preserve. The harvesters will be attending the Aquarius seminar, with the harvesting season fast approaching. Spencer was thanked for her great work on behalf of the Lake District.

**VIII. New Business**

**a. 2025 Board budget requests discussion and possible action**

The subject of the old wetland-scraper boardwalk was discussed at length. We have received some grant monies towards this project, but they will cover only about half of the cost of removal. Kutz thought the other half could come out of unrestricted funds. DeGidio suggested that we get the boardwalk removed with the 2024 funding we currently have and rebuild when we have proper funding. Maurer cautioned that we do not spend money on cost-shares if we need the funds for our own projects. Spencer will get three bids for removal costs for the May meeting.

The second topic was the potential change in our by-laws needed to allow only one newspaper posting of our annual meeting agenda and budget proposal, which would save \$400. We post these in our summer Ripples, as well, and we could post them on our website. This discussion will resume at the May meeting.

**b. Employee Benefits discussion and possible action**

This subject is postponed until the May meeting for lack of information.

**IX. Return to Open Session**

This was not needed, as we did not go into closed session for item VIII (b).

**X. Old Business**

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

Arthur Watkinson was present to give this update himself. DNR legal has finished their work. Watkinson will verify everything before sending it up the chain of responsibility. Legal had questioned if a second notification of riparian owners might be necessary. Watkinson believes not, because proper notification has occurred at every step, and because there are no meaningful changes in this draft. He plans to attend our June meeting. DeGidio requested an email be sent to the office detailing the final steps needed to finish the project.

**XI. Announcements**

There were none.

**XII. Adjournment**

**Bieschke made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Maurer. All ayes. Motion passed.** Meeting was adjourned at 9:46 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary  
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: April 24, 2024