



Lake Ripley Management District
Budget Hearing
August 17, 2024
9:00 a.m. at Oakland Town Hall
N4450 County Road A
Cambridge, WI, 53523

Jimmy DeGidio, Lake District Chair, called the budget hearing to order at 9:00 AM. He introduced Debbie Kutz, Treasurer, who then went through the proposed budget line by line, explaining the reason for increases and/or decreases. Landowner Cost-sharing stayed the same, even though interest in the program is up. Weed Harvesting is up because the costs are up. Preserve Restoration/Management is up to allow us to begin work on the inlet creek-wetlands re-connectivity project, as well as the regular maintenance that is part of the 10-year plan. Staff Payroll/Fringes/Taxes (for three employees) is up because costs are up. Legal and Accounting is up because costs are up for both. Dues and Conferences is up a small amount. Office and Community Outreach is up a small amount. Commissioner Stipends is down because some commissioners choose to not receive stipends. Rent is up by a small amount. Capital Reserve, Land Equipment/Acquisition is down because we are no longer saving for a truck. Miscellaneous and General Lake Management is up mostly because the expense of water quality monitoring is no longer covered by a grant, about a \$4,500 cost, now paid by the District. Special Programs is down.

Kutz asked if there were any questions. Scott Pollan asked if we could be getting some income by better placing overfunds. Kutz explained we were doing just that with our 2 CD's, which generate a lot of interest earnings. There were no further questions. DeGidio concluded the Budget Hearing at 9:05 AM.

Annual Meeting

Immediately following budget hearing
Oakland Town Hall

I. Call to Order

Jimmy DeGidio, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM. Board members present were Jimmy DeGidio, Debbie Kutz, Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Doug Maurer, Steve Bieschke and Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County Representative). DeGidio explained that currently there is no Town of Oakland representation. Also in attendance: Lianna Spencer (Lake Manager), Craig Kempel, Roxane Schiller, Jon Tilp, Tom and Nancy Lorden, June Buchanan, Todd Touton, Jim Jermain, Dave DeGidio, Scott Pollan, Robert Gould, Bruce Larsen, Ted Swanson, and Vanessa Leonard (Town of Oakland Policewoman, with her therapy-dog-in-training, Moose).

II. Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Without discussion, Kutz made a motion to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.

III. **Nomination of Board candidates, Statements of candidates, and Election - one open positions (Name on Ballot: Georgia Gomez-Ibanez)**

DeGidio asked three times for any other candidates. **Seeing none, and before the ballots were distributed, Kutz made a motion to unanimously elect Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, seconded by Robert Gould. All ayes. Motion passed. Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez remains on the Board.**

IV. **Chairman's report**

DeGidio reported on the 2024 Boat Census Survey, which was accomplished on August 14, 2024. This survey is part of the District's ongoing carrying capacity study. All boats, swim rafts, boat lifts, piers, and boat houses are counted, which elucidates our boat traffic as well as what is happening in our littoral and riparian buffer zones. This year the crew counted 184 piers, 315 boat lifts, 195 pontoon boats, 112 speed boats, 26 fishing boats, 53 jet skis, 214 kayaks/paddleboards, 34 canoes, 17 paddleboats, 11 sailboats, 30 swim mats/rafts, and 5 boat houses. Since 2023, 9 piers have been added around the lake. 79 more vessels were on the lake, for a total of 662, with the biggest increase (+39) being kayaks/paddleboards. There were also 8 more speedboats, 10 more fishing boats, 11 more jet skis. There were also 10 more canoes/non-motors, 7 more paddleboats, and 3 more sailboats.

DeGidio also reported on Weed Harvesting. We have had a productive season so far, even though the season started late because of high water, which triggered a "slow-no-wake" ordinance on the lake for a week. Even so, the crew has harvested 35.5 loads over 29 days so far, harvesting 3 days each week. The harvesting crew will continue through the end of September. DeGidio thanked the harvesting crew for their great work.

V. **Treasurer's report**

Kutz explained her duties as a Treasurer, such as to safeguard our assets, pay the bills and make reports. An annual audit is required. Joe Pleshek and Roxane Schiller were our audit committee members this year, working with Kutz, DeGidio and Spencer. Schiller presented the audit report, which confirmed that our books are in good order.

VI. **Approval of the budget and tax levy**

Without further discussion, Bieschke made a motion to approve the 2025 budget and tax levy, seconded by Roxane Schiller. All ayes. Motion passed.

VII. **Approval of changes to the District's Bylaws**

DeGidio explained that our attorney recommended 17 bylaw changes mostly in order to be compliant with current state statutes, as our bylaws are roughly 20 years old. DeGidio read through the long list, with the reasons for each change. Most had to do with a word change or a statute number change. **Roxane Schiller made a motion to approve the Bylaw changes, seconded by Scott Pollan. All ayes. Motion passed.**

VIII. **Discussion and possible action on other business that can be legally considered by the District**

DeGidio reminded the gathering that this was their meeting, and invited anyone to speak. Tom Lorden spoke to his property now being part of the L2 Sensitive Area designation, and wondered how the District could protect that area from all the boats who drive right through it, making prop chop. In previous meetings with Lorden, Spencer and DeGidio had wondered if special Critical Habitat and Sensitive Area buoys might be a workable solution. DeGidio explained that the District is waiting for an answer from the WDNR on that, and then it will need to go to the Town of Oakland, as they are in charge of buoys. Todd Touton mentioned that an E.coli warning

at Ripley Park kept his grandkids out of the water for a week. Rock Lake has a rapid test system, but Jefferson County only tests once each week. Touton wondered if we could do what Rock Lake does? Spencer clarified that Ripley Park is privately owned, that it's the goose poop causing the warnings, that the District doesn't manage the park, but that she would learn more about Rock Lake's rapid test. June Buchanan recommended, to Tom Lorden, that we wear a wet suit when raking weeds. Meg Turville-Heitz asked if a map of the Critical Habitats and Sensitive Areas was posted at the boat ramp. Spencer thought that was a great idea, and that the Town of Oakland would be the ones to post it. Scott Pollan asked if he could have a copy of the Critical Habitats/Sensitive Areas map. Spencer offered to make him one.

IX. Tabulation of vote and election of board members

This was no longer necessary.

X. Adjournment

Roxane Schiller made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:40AM.

Meeting of the Board of Directors
Immediately following Annual Meeting
Oakland Town Hall

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Roxane Schiller called the meeting to order at 9:43AM.

II. Election of Board Officers

Gómez-Ibáñez nominated DeGidio for chair, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. DeGidio remains Chair.

DeGidio nominated Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez for secretary, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed. Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez remains secretary.

DeGidio nominated Kutz for Treasurer, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. Kutz remains treasurer.

III. Adjournment

Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Maurer. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:47 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: August 19, 2024