



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 16th, 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, Arthur Watkinson – Regional Lakes Biologist (WDNR), Jon Tilp, Jim Jermain, and Dave DeGidio.

II. Public Comment

Jim Jermain asked a question: were we still interested in the property on Highway 18 and Sleepy Hollow Road now that the church had removed the building? DeGidio responded for the Board that we are not.

III. Approve Minutes of February 17th, 2024, Board meeting

Without discussion, Bieschke made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz presented the February budget and expenditures. Receipts for February were \$49,430.95, all of which was tax settlement from the Town of Oakland. Kutz reminded us that almost all of our income from taxes comes at the beginning of each year. Disbursements amounted to \$9,755.46, of which \$520.94 was postage for the recent Ripples, and over \$700 for vehicle repair. \$50 is in petty cash, and \$222,650.41 in the checking account. Turville-Heitz asked about the vehicle purchase amount, and Kutz replied that this very topic would be taken up later in the agenda when we discuss budget issues. We are beginning to talk about the 2025 budget earlier than usual this year. Kutz was thanked for her attention to detail in her Treasurer's work. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the February Treasurer's report, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

V. **Town of Oakland Representative Update**

Vratny had given his report to Spencer. DeGidio reported that both ordinances, erosion control and artificial wake enhancement, will be discussed at the Tuesday, March 19th Town meeting. A RPF for a new building inspector has been issued, with the goal of having a new inspector under contract in April. Draft Building Code and Draft Erosion Control and Stormwater Management ordinances have been created and will be refined in the next few weeks.

VI. **Jefferson County Representative Update**

Turville-Heitz reported that the County Board had voted to allow certain A3 properties to be subdivided, under certain conditions, if there was no negative effect to nearby agricultural lands. The aim of the vote was to promote development clusters. Turville-Heitz explained she had voted against the measure because it did not address septic system and water well concerns, and because Towns would not have any veto power. Turville-Heitz was thanked for bringing issues to our attention.

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

Spencer covered many topics in her report. The cost-share work for Willerup Bible Camp is planned for September 2024. She is 90% on the reimbursement forms for the DNR – Surface Water grant, with actual reimbursement expected in June. Ice cover on the lake was only 43 days this year. This has big implications for algae and aquatic plants on the lake this summer. Andrew Sabai, our Nature Preserve Technician, completed our first round of Citizen Lake Monitoring Network water sampling on March 7th – our earliest ever. Spencer hoped all board members concerned would attend the Town Board meeting on Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30pm, to express support for both the artificial wake enhancement ordinance. The Park Road plans will be reviewed by Dan Betka, DNR Water Resources Engineer, but some work has already commenced, such as placement of culvert protections and the removal of some trees along the road before bats return to roost in them. Preliminary planning for Pontoon Classrooms has begun. Woodland 3 management plans for work in 2025 and beyond has involved getting advice from several experts. The stream restoration project can move forward by reallocating some funds.

VIII. **New Business**

a. **Memorial Day Parade discussion and possible action**

DeGidio explained our participation in this event for the past few years. Our costs are minimal, and we get a lot of public outreach for little effort. **After discussion, Bieschke made a motion to participate this year, seconded by Maurer. All ayes. Motion passed.**

b. **Inlet stream restoration budget discussion and possible action**

Spencer explained that the stream restoration project could move forward by reallocating some Preserve funds and Silver Linings Foundation funds, that will allow installation and monitoring of piezometers which will help us determine more precisely where our phosphorus problems are coming from. Stantec has suggested that we send

out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) at this point, rather than a Request for Proposals (RFP). An RFQ will help us choose a firm, which will increase continuity and reduce the need for recurring RFP's during this many years' project. **After lengthy discussion, Turville-Heitz made a motion to send out an RFQ, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

c. 2025 Board budget requests discussion and possible action

Kutz explained that we need to do our budget in June this year, not July, so we are beginning our budget talks early. DeGidio mentioned he had scheduled the first Budget Committee meeting for Friday, April 5th at 1:00pm. One issue to decide is should we continue to save money to replace the Ford Ranger truck. We used what we had saved for the Ranger to purchase the dump truck. The Ranger is old, but still serviceable. Turville-Heitz wondered if the newer truck donated by Enbridge effectively negated the need for the Ranger. Spencer responded that a smaller, lighter vehicle like the Ranger is better for Preserve work. DeGidio added that one solution would be to add more money into the truck maintenance/repair budget line. After much discussion, the Board thought that saving \$3,750 for five years towards replacing the Ranger was the prudent plan on action. DeGidio mentioned the need to rebuild the wetland boardwalk. Kutz hoped all board members would contribute their thoughts in the coming weeks.

IX. Old Business

a. Critical Habitat Designation (CHD) update

Arthur Watkinson was present to give us the update, which is that the document still sits with legal. Discussion followed as to whether there was anything we could do to move it forward. The Board asked Spencer to send a letter on behalf of the Board to the acting Secretary of the DNR, Steven Little. No motion was needed for Spencer to take this action.

X. Announcements

Turville-Heitz announced the Clean Sweep events for Jefferson County are coming up soon.

XI. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: March 18, 2024