



**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
May 18<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, Ted Vratny (Town of Oakland Representative), and Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County Representative). Also present: Lianna Spencer – Lake Manager, Rick Kutz, Dave DeGidio, and Jay Sass.

**II. Public Comment**

There was none.

**III. Approve Minutes of April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Board meeting**

DeGidio noticed a one-word typo under V: “on” should read “of”. Other than that, no discussion. **Bieschke made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Vratny. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**IV. Treasurer’s Report**

Kutz presented the budget and expenditures. Receipts for April were \$12,482.40, including \$650 Clean Boats, Clean Waters advance grant payment for 2024, \$6,075.78 tax settlement, \$2,165.62 Clean Boats, Clean Waters final grant payment for 2023, and \$3,491.00 plant sale pass through. Disbursements amounted to \$12,451.03, of which \$2,400 was the controlled burn in the Preserve of Prairie 2A and Wetland 2A by Midwest Prairies, deemed a success. \$212,151.09 was in our checking account, \$50 was in petty cash, and no new data about our 2 CDs. Kutz noted that \$135,857.49 of the sum in our checking account is from taxes and is what funds this year’s expenses. She noted that our income from taxes is about 90% already received. Vratny added that most Oakland residents seem to pay their taxes in one lump sum. Kutz was thanked for her careful work and helpful reports. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the April Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed.**

V. **Town of Oakland Representative Update**

Vratny spoke first about pushing the Park Road construction process to proceed soon with the culvert replacement because of the carp-barrier issue. Vratny reported that the updated building code ordinance and the updated erosion control/stormwater management ordinance are on this week's agenda for the Town board and are expected to pass.

VI. **Jefferson County Representative Update**

Turville-Heitz reminded us that "Brew with a View" is May 30, 5:00-8:00pm at Korth Park, and supports Jefferson County Parks Department. Nitrate screening is still available.

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

Spencer spoke about some of the items in her lengthy written report. It has been a busy month! The cost-share committee has been busy with two new cost shares as well as work on our cost-share rubric. The Native Plant Sale was a huge success with the most plants purchased ever! Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> is the day we pick the orders up. Spencer worked with Jay Settersten to complete the Request for Qualifications for the inlet stream project. Spencer attended an Enbridge conference in Marshall, Michigan, where she learned about restoration efforts after a large oil spill. (Note: we had our own oil spill coming down the inlet stream some years ago, which was contained long before reaching Lake Ripley!) The Weed Harvester team is attending the Aquarius seminar, while the harvester itself is being readied for the Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, and its deployment on Lake Ripley soon after. We have been getting bids from contractors for several projects in the Preserve. The Nature Preserve Technician has been very busy at various Preserve tasks. And the Critical Habitat Designation is moving through its final stages of approval.

VIII. **New Business**

a. **Cost-share at N4222 Sleepy Hollow Lane discussion and possible action**

Jay Sass was there to present and answer any questions about his project which was riprap along 50 feet of shore and a raingarden, with three sets of contractor bids for each project. The riprap contracts were all complete, but the raingarden contracts did not meet required specifications. After much discussion, the Board decided to go forward with the riprap portion and wait for amended raingarden bids. **Maurer made a motion to approve the Summerset Marine Shoreline Restoration bid, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed.** Sass affirmed his commitment to getting revised bids for the raingarden. Our share for the riprap will be half of \$8,250.00 or \$4,125.00. Kutz reminded us that we have only \$8,880 left in our budget for cost-shares.

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

Vratny opened this discussion by suggesting it's time for the District to pay \$10-15 more per month for rent. DeGidio requested that this suggestion come to the Board in a written statement from the Town. We next looked at three bids for removal of our wetland scrape boardwalk. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to accept the bid from**

**Sigmund's Installations, LLC, for \$4,100, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.** This necessitated another motion to return the \$1,000 grant to build a new boardwalk. **Bieschke made a motion, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez, to do that. All ayes. Motion passed.** Spencer then presented give possible bids for work in Woods 3, some for the forestry mowing, and some for the work thinning undesirable trees. She cautioned these are preliminary bids to give the board a preliminary view of costs involved. We are not at this time deciding, but rather waiting for additional information and advice from our DNR foresters.

**c. Bylaw change discussion and possible action**

Our bylaws currently require two notices in the local newspaper for the annual meeting and budget proposal. Everyone agrees not as many people read the newspaper, so why spend so much money. We could publish it on our website and in the Ripples. Kutz recommends a bylaw change to allow us to publish it in the newspaper only once. **Turville-Heitz made a motion to change our Bylaws to require publication of the annual meeting without a detailed budget only once, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.** The proposed word changes would also include where to go for more information.

**d. Employee Handbook Revision of Addendum B discussion and possible action**

The issue is about the wording of our health insurance policy for the lake manager position, which currently offers \$500 per month for health insurance. It came to our attention that legally this should be called "Qualified Small Employer Health Reimbursement Arrangement". **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to change the language in our handbook, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**e. Lakes and Rivers Conference reimbursement discussion and possible action**

The issue here was reimbursement to our lake manager for cost of a meal while at a conference. We currently have no proper language to cover such expenses. Some groups offer a "per diem" amount, but Bieschke, who is familiar with these issues, thinks "actual, reasonable reimbursement" works better. He could create the wording for that in our employee handbook. **Bieschke made a motion to reimburse Spencer, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**f. Lake Manager evaluation handout**

DeGidio announced it's time for board members to complete this evaluation form, so that we have the results ready for budget talks in June. Please return to DeGidio as soon as possible, so he can average the scores.

**IX. Old Business**

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

Watkinson had sent out a flow chart showing where our CHD was at in DNR headquarters. He hopes to attend our June meeting with good news.

X. **Announcements**

Turville-Heitz reminded us about the Brew-with-a-View event at Korth Park and a Public Health Day event.

XI. **Adjournment**

**Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:31 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary  
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: May 28, 2024