



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
June 15th, 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 – WDNR Lakes Biologist, Todd Touton, Dave DeGidio, Jon Tilp, Roxanne Schiller, and Jay Sass.

II. Public Comment

There was none.

III. Approve Minutes of May 18th, 2024, Board meeting

Turville-Heitz clarified some wording in her report: “nitrate screenings” are available, but not “well-testing kits”, as had been reported in the minutes. **Kutz made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

IV. Treasurer’s Report

Kutz reported on the budget and expenditures for May. Receipts for May amounted to \$75.07, which was a DOR Special Reimbursement. Disbursements amounted to \$22,401.82, of which \$8,078.00 was for insurance (for the upcoming year, paid in one payment). The checking account has \$186,758.07. Kutz was thanked for her work. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the May Treasurer’s report, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed.**

V. Town of Oakland Representative Update

There was no update, but DeGidio mentioned that he and Spencer had removed the carp gate due to high water flowing through the culvert.

VI. Jefferson County Representative Update

Turville-Heitz noted an open house on June 22, 2024, at which free nitrate-screenings would be available.

VII. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Another busy month for Spencer, who touched on some of the items in her written report. The first mentioned is that the Critical Habitat Designation report is officially online, which means it is effectively being implemented now, which drew a glad round of applause. The successful native plant sale, cost-share committee work, the almost-completed reimbursement work to close out a former grant, and the final year of our phragmites grant were all mentioned. We received two Request for Qualifications submissions for our phased stream and wetland restoration project. Water quality monitoring is ongoing. High water levels in the lake led the District to recommend that the Town of Oakland enact their Emergency Slow No-Wake ordinance June 7th, and recommended it be rescinded on June 13th. The Town adopted both the updated Building Code and Erosion Control ordinances. The spring Ripples is out. The Memorial Day Parade was a success. The harvester and conveyor were launched soon after. The problems with the dump truck were fixed with new batteries. Spencer received permission from the lawyer handling the probate for the Rude farm for us to continue dumping weeds on the Rude field. Spencer was thanked for her work.

VIII. New Business

DeGidio suggested we move VIII(b) (a closed session item) to the end of our meeting. **Turville-Heitz made the motion to set the agenda item VIII(b) to the end of the meeting, Bieschke seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.**

a. Cost-share rubric discussion and possible action

This revision of our old scoring sheet for Landowner Cost-Sharing was brought to the whole board by the Cost-share Committee. Some of the questions are in a new non-scoring section, which the committee thinks better aligns with the Board's intentions regarding cost-shares. **Kutz made a motion to accept the new rubric, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

b. Lake Manager Evaluation discussion and possible action

A roll call vote was held to enter into closed session for the purpose of item VIII(b) on the agenda. Gómez-Ibáñez made the motion to go into closed session, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting went into closed session at 10:02AM.

Meeting entered Closed Session as per §Wis. Statute 19.85 (1)(c) to consider staff-related employment and compensation and as per §Wis. Statute 19.85 (1)(e) to consider land purchase

Turville-Heitz made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting returned to open session at 10:29 AM.

Turville-Heitz made a motion to approve the Lake Manager's salary of \$69,274.44 for 2025, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.

IX. Old Business

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

Jay Sass was present to answer any questions. He had three bids for the raingarden project, but only one qualified under our rules. **Bieschke made a motion to accept the bid from South Central Landscapes for \$3,292.61, of which our half is \$1,646.30. Maurer seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.** Sass hopes to accomplish both the riprap project and the raingarden in August. Kutz noted that this now leaves \$3,200 in our cost-share account for the remainder of 2024.

b. 2025 Board budget requests discussion and possible action

Not much discussion here. Spencer noted that the plans for major work in Woods 3 should be put on hold while we focus on the more important inlet project. Gómez-Ibáñez commented some small-scale work can continue per our regular Preserve budgeted Field Technician.

c. Critical Habitat Designation update

Arthur Watkinson was here to report the update personally. The CHD is officially online, which means it's officially implemented. There are still maps and data to be uploaded to the surface water data viewer (SWDV), which is likely to happen after June 30th, 2024 (the end of the DNR fiscal year). But it is fully implementable now. We had another round of applause!

X. Announcements

There were none.

XI. Adjournment

Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Maurer. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:31 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: June 17, 2024