



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 15th, 2025, 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: Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Doug Maurer, Steve Bieschke, Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County representative), and Laura Payne (Town of Oakland representative). Debbie Kutz was excused. Also present: Lianna Spencer – Lake Manager, and Jon Tilp.

II. Public Comment

There was none.

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

Payne made a motion to approve the January 18 meeting minutes with one typo correction, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz being absent, DeGidio read the report on the budget and expenditures for January 2025. Receipts for the month amounted to \$108,098.50, including \$696.61 for the Village of Cambridge tax settlement, \$105,506.89 for the Town of Oakland tax settlement, CBCW grant advance payment of \$750.00, and two EMC reimbursements for Workers Compensation of \$395.00, and \$750.00. Disbursements for the period amounted to \$11,331.31, of which there was nothing unusual or unexpected. There was \$50 in petty cash, \$224,323.03 in the checking account, \$107,048.89 in the loan CD and \$106,133.80 in the restricted funds CD. We appreciated this report, as usual. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the January Treasurer's Report, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

V. Town of Oakland Representative Update

Payne reported that the Enbridge Work Plan proposal to the DNR should be available very soon. She has urged the DNR and Enbridge to agree to a wider monitoring radius than required by law. She plans to arrange for another public meeting for Oakland residents to ask questions/voice concerns about the Work Plan. Payne also brought us up to date on the proposed Woodcrest subdivision along Highway 12. The developers still want a variance on how close to Highway 12 they can be. The developers understand that they will have access to only one boat slip and that they must demonstrate that their plan keeps all runoff within the site. There will be no development without that as part of the plan.

VI. Jefferson County Representative Update

Turville-Heitz reminded us about an upcoming event co-hosted by Jefferson County Health and Land and Water Conservation Departments about the large groundwater study done by staff at UW-Stevens Point. The presenter will be Kevin Masarik, who participated in the study. The focus will be on educating the public about their private wells and the need to test regularly for nitrates, arsenic and bacteria.

VII. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Spencer talked about some of the many issues she has been working on this busy month. Our website has been updated to be more user-friendly. The Native Plant Sale has begun; orders are due March 31st. Both DNR Surface Water grants were approved, for a total of \$15,000. One covers our initial inlet stream projects; the other covers the cost of multiple surveys we are required to accomplish every five years. Some of them will inform a new weed harvesting permit due next year. Stantec, with Spencer, Andrew Sabai, and Colton Hutchinson conducted a preliminary stream survey and found conditions better than anticipated. They will likely not need to do a full BANCS survey, which will allow us to move more quickly on issues which do need addressing. Spencer hopes a follow-up meeting next Thursday will be very productive. Focusing again on the Enbridge spill, Spencer noted how appreciative she was for Laura Payne's advocacy throughout these weeks. Spencer toured the Enbridge site with some members of the Town board, and was able to voice her hope that they would modernize some old equipment up to new standards. In other news, Ripples is out, and bids are out for the upcoming spring burn in part of Prairie 2 and Wetland 2. She also thanked Jon Tilp for his recommendations and concerns for signage regarding AIS and No Motorized Boats on Red Cedar Lake. She is working with Colton Hutchinson (Jefferson County Land and Water Department) on this issue. Spencer was thanked for her great work.

VIII. New Business

Spencer explained that since every person who worked for us last year would like to work again this year, and we very much want to have them, these job posting documents won't be posted. Today's task is to set the wages of these returning employees.

a. Field Technician job posting discussion and possible action

DeGidio explained that we budgeted enough money to give everyone a raise. Dwight Osmon currently makes \$22.50/hour. DeGidio proposed a 3% raise of 68 cents/hour. **Maurer made a motion to give Osmon a 3% raise of 68 cents/hour seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes.** Motion passed. Osmon is highly skilled, and has worked for us for 5 years now.

b. Nature Preserve Technician job posting discussion and possible action

Spencer explained this is the position Andrew Sabai has filled very capably for a few years. Sabai's current pay is \$21.50/hour. DeGidio proposed a 3% raise of 65 cents/hour. **Payne made a motion to raise Sabai's pay by 3% or 65 cents/hour, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

c. **Clean Boats, Clean Waters job posting discussion and possible action**

Spencer explained that the CBCW grant covers up to \$15/hour pay for the Watercraft Inspector position. Because we value Tony Tobiasz' work very highly, last year we raised his hourly rate to \$15.50/hour, using our budget to cover that difference. We would want to do that again. DeGidio proposed a 3% raise, or 47 cents/hour. **Payne made a motion to raise Tobiasz' pay by 3% or 47 cents/hour, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

d. **Weed Harvester job posting discussion and possible action**

Spencer explained that returning weed harvesters get an automatic \$1/hour raise, if they worked a minimum of 35 hours for us the previous season. All three returnees had. **Maurer made a motion to give each weed harvester the \$1/hour raise, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.** (Note: wages can go up until they reach our cap of \$21/hour).

IX. **Old Business**

Maurer spoke about his Majestic Pines HOA encouraging homeowners with basins to plant them with native plants. It's a slow process of getting everyone to comply.

X. **Announcements**

There were none.

XI. **Adjournment**

Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: February 19, 2025