



**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
March 15<sup>th</sup>, 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: Deb Kutz, Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Doug Maurer, Steve Bieschke, Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County representative), and Laura Payne (Town of Oakland representative). Also present: Lianna Spencer – Lake Manager.

**II. Public Comment**

There was none.

**III. Approve Minutes of February 15, 2025, Board meeting**

**Bieschke made a motion to approve the February 15 meeting minutes, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Kutz reported on the budget and expenditures for February. Receipts for the month amounted to \$43,049.12, which included tax settlement from Village of Cambridge of \$209.50, tax settlement from the Town of Oakland of \$41,551.14, and a reimbursement for water sampling from Enbridge of \$1,288.48. Kutz noted that Enbridge has reimbursed us very promptly. Disbursements for the month amounted to \$15,205.20. Kutz pointed out the payment to Rock Lake Paint; this was for a repair to the Chevy Silverado. The Visa bill included our webpage redesign for \$1,020. Kutz brought up the subject of our insurance bill, which renews in June. It will cost substantially more and includes a larger deductible. She wondered what we wanted to do about this. After discussion, we agreed it was important to shop around. There was \$50 in petty cash, \$253,548.60 in the checking account, \$107,048.89 in the loan CD and \$106,133.80 in the restricted loan CD. The loan CD will mature on March 20 and will be renewed for 8 months at 4%. Kutz noted that the best returns come on shorter CDs. The restricted funds CD will mature in June. Kutz was thanked for this helpful report and discussion. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the February Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**V. Town of Oakland Representative Update**

Payne reported first on the status of the several local development projects. The Town Board has denied a variance for the Woodcrest development; the intent is to keep the plan under eight homes. The seven-acre site near Shoreplace was denied access to Highway 18, so only one house can be built. It's a complicated site for many reasons. The Oakland Hills development has had a design remake which Payne thinks is a big improvement environmentally. And safety has been improved for the entrance/exit. The Town engineer is studying the stormwater plans. Spencer noted she is looking at them too, to ascertain that runoff will not be entering the wetlands Didion wishes to donate to the District. Payne announced that the next Town public meeting with Enbridge and the DNR will be Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. This meeting will be an opportunity to ask questions or make comments on Enbridge's Work Plan. The Lake Board really appreciates these detailed updates about Town issues that so directly affect the lake.

**VI. Jefferson County Representative Update**

Turville-Heitz reminded us about the upcoming public meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm to discuss the County groundwater study. Patricia Cicero and Kevin Masarik will be presenting information about groundwater issues and private wells. She also reported that at the Towns' meeting of Land and Water Conservation Departments a big topic was the need to plan for the new realities of stormwater in the conditions of climate change, in particular the more frequent large rainfalls and how we manage that water. Turville-Heitz and Payne then both spoke about the dangerous intersection of Highway 18 and Highway A.

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

Spencer reported on the good news that all of our part-time employee's intend to return for the 2025 season. All the current cost-share projects are still active. Work on the two Surface Water grants will begin soon. Stantec is reworking the plans for our project with them. Enbridge continues to provide updates to the Lake District and the Town. They have agreed to fund quarterly water testing in the creek adjacent to their facility. If anything shows up, they will revise their plan to test more frequently. Spencer reminded us that she will be at the Lakes and Rivers conference, March 26-28, where she will be presenting on our non-game fish studies here in Lake Ripley. Spencer was thanked for her good work and accomplishments.

**VIII. New Business**

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

DeGidio talked about the good will impact of our participation in this Village event. Discussion focused on the cost of the candy, as well as the cost of the staff being paid to ready the harvester and drive the truck. **Payne made a motion to allow spending up to \$300 on candy (which is tossed to**

children along the parade route), seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.

**b. Burn bids discussion and possible action**

We received two bids from well-known contractors who have successfully worked with us, to burn Prairie 2B and our Town raingarden. Both bids were deemed equally responsible, so we had to choose the one with lower cost. **Turville-Heitz made a motion to hire Tallgrass Restoration LLC for \$2,325.00, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**c. 2026 Board budget requests discussion and possible action**

This was an annual reminder that we already need to be thinking about our budget for 2026! That budget gets set in July and (hopefully) approved at the annual meeting in August. DeGidio requested board input.

**IX. Old Business**

**a. Land Acquisition discussion and possible action**

**Meeting may enter Closed Session [as per §Wis. Statute 19.85(1)(e) to consider land purchase**

**Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to enter Closed Session, seconded by Payne. Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting entered Closed Session at 10:04 AM.**

**X. Return to Open Session**

**Turville-Heitz made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting returned to Open Session at 10:46 AM.**

**XI. Discussion and possible action on items discussed in closed session**

**Turville-Heitz made a motion to send the letter of intent (minus item #4), seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**XII. Announcements**

Turville-Heitz announced that the Rock River Coalition is honoring Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez as educator of the year and Walt Christensen as elected official of the year! There will be an evening event on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**XIII. Adjournment**

**Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary  
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: March 20, 2025