



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 17th, 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, Todd and Robin Touton, and Jon Tilp.

II. Public Comment

There was none.

III. Approve Minutes of April 19th, 2025, Board meeting

Bieschke made a motion to approve the April 19th meeting minutes, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz reported on the budget and expenditures for April. Receipts for April amounted to \$7,370.76, and included a \$1,656.00 reimbursement from Enbridge for water testing, tax settlement from the Village of Cambridge of \$32.50, and tax settlement from the Town of Oakland of \$5,682.26. Disbursements for April were \$15,362.88. The Visa bill paid for the annual training for the weed harvesters and repair of the flow meter. There was \$100.89 in petty cash, \$225,941.44 in the checking account, \$107,760.56 in one CD and \$106,788.05 in the other. Kutz noted that this is the last time “petty cash” will appear on financial statements because it is not needed. Kutz was thanked for her good work. **Payne made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

V. Town of Oakland Representative Update

Payne spoke first about the Enbridge update. They are now extracting free product weekly. In April the total extracted was 20 gallons. The DNR has approved their work plan. Numbers are still pending on the total amount of the leak. They have completed another soil excavation removing about 2,000 square feet to a depth of 13 feet, which Payne thinks will be very helpful. DeGidio asked if, when excavating, other buried flanges were examined and brought up to current standards. Payne

said the Enbridge report did not include that information. On the Highway 18 issue, Payne reported that the DOT denied the request to reduce the speed limit to 45mph. The DOT will host a meeting at the Oakland Town Hall at 5:30PM on Tuesday, May 27th to explain their plans for Highway 18 and Hope Lake Road now scheduled for 2027. Payne hopes residents will attend. Work has begun at the new subdivision now called The Preserve at Oakland (formerly Oakland Hills). They are currently putting in the sewer lines, but ahead of receiving the final approval. Payne was thanked for keeping us informed about these matters of importance to us.

VI. Jefferson County Representative Update

Turville-Heitz noted that the state Republicans have stripped a number of items that Oakland residents care about from the Governor's proposed budget, things like farm preservation, DATCP, grants for increasing grazing and no-till farming, erosion control, PFAs remediation, and statewide regulations on wake boating. Turville-Heitz and Payne both spoke to a new 640-acre solar panel installation beginning work in the Town. So far, road use and erosion-control measures are pending. Turville-Heitz recommended that residents call their representatives about the cuts to important environmental improvements. Turville-Heitz was thanked for bringing this information to us.

VII. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Another busy month of attending to multiple responsibilities best describes Spencer's report. From employee schedules, coordinating the Audit Committee meeting and a Lakes and Rivers partnership meeting to overseeing cost-share projects (Willerup's shoreline work is complete, Sleepy Hollow still pending permit) and a successful completion of the Native Plant Sale! Spencer worked on organizing the tasks to be completed for two DNR grants (lots of important on-the-lake surveys coming up this summer). Stantec's work on the stream restoration project continues. The Cambridge Community Foundation is supporting this effort with a grant. Spencer noted that Payne had covered the Enbridge issue sufficiently, and how much she appreciated Payne's contributions on behalf of residents and the lake. The District continues to do quarterly sampling of water for VOC's and we will be asking about sampling for PAH's. The new carp barrier gate for the new culvert will likely not be ready in time for carp coming up the outlet creek this year. More on this later in the agenda. Spencer was glad to report that the latest Ripples had been sent out. Tallgrass Restorations did a successful burn of Prairie 2B, and Andrew overseeded forbs-heavy areas with grass seed collected last fall, as well as the areas herbicided for Reed Canary Grass. Andrew has also completed the water quality sampling for May. Spencer and Andrew also completed sampling for the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network program. All three weed harvesters attended the Aquarius Seminar on May 16, and work will begin soon on readying the equipment for the summer's work on the lake. Tom Hensel is moving the equipment from storage to the Town Hall. Spencer attended the first meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management General Advisory Committee to review the NR107/109 statutes for

updates and changes. This pertains to weed harvesting programs statewide. Spencer was thanked for her good work.

VIII. New Business

a. Loan Payment Discussion and Possible Action

Kutz recommended that we retire this loan now, since we aren't currently trying to purchase land. But the most important purchase, though currently in limbo, is actually still 'pending', so a compromise was proposed to table this decision until our July meeting. Kutz was concerned that our final 2026 budget must be approved at the July meeting, and would we need to include loan repayments in the budget. Maurer proposed that at our July meeting we put this decision item, on the agenda ahead of the budget item, so that if we retire the loan we can remove loan payments from the budget. **Turville-Heitz made the motion to table this decision until July, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. 6 ayes and one nay. Motion passed.**

b. Carp Barrier Discussion and Possible Action

Our old carp barrier does not fit the new culvert on Park Road. The new redesign must be approved by the DNR and County Zoning. Securing the dimensions from the contractor and getting it built by another company will take time. Thus, we are likely running out of time to get a new carp barrier gate installed this year. Spencer explained that a Lake Protection Grant could possibly pay for this new carp barrier. **Payne made a motion for Spencer to pursue costs for a custom carp barrier, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

c. Lake Manager Evaluation Handout

DeGidio urged us to complete these soon and to return them to him, at the Town office.

IX. Old Business

a. 2026 budget requests discussion and possible action

DeGidio opened this discussion with the cost of the carp barrier gate being added to our 2026 budget item list. Kutz recommended an agenda item of using restricted funds to pay for legal fees related to land acquisition. That practice was recommended to Lake District treasurers, she reported.

X. Announcements

There were none.

XI. Adjournment

Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kutz. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:16 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: May 20, 2025