



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
June 21st, 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, and Scott Whiting (Town of Oakland Police).

II. Public Comment

There was none.

III. Approve Minutes of May 17th, 2025, Board meeting

Payne made a motion to approve the May 17th, 2025 minutes, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motions passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz reported on the budget and expenditures for May. Receipts for May were \$14,580.90 and included \$3,103.60 for the plant sale (a pass-through). Also included was a \$7,500 grant advance for the 'Lake Ripley Habitat Assessment' grant, a deposit of \$100.89 from petty cash, a \$3,750 grant advance for the 'Direct Watershed Connection' grant, and \$51.34 and \$75.07 from the Department of Revenue for "technical support" (computers). Disbursements for May were \$20,804.40. This is the season when our summer staff start taking wages. The VISA bill (\$2,121.03) was spent on repairing an oil leak in the Chevy truck, training for harvesters, water quality equipment, and others. There was \$221,046.61 in the checking account, \$50,000 in savings from the CD that came due, and \$107,760.56 and \$57,058.68 in the two CDs. Kutz was thanked for her work. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

V. Town of Oakland Representative Update

Payne noted that the Town had recently revised and passed a fireworks ordinance, with permits required as well as timely cleanup afterwards. This is good for the lake because of the perchlorate contamination of lake water. The Town passed the final

plat and developer agreement for the new development called 'The Preserve at Oakland'. Payne, Spencer, and a DNR representative walked the entire development site, especially regarding erosion control. Site inspections will continue weekly and after large rain events. The latest Enbridge report included testing of private wells and monitoring wells, with all good indications that there has been no movement of contamination. They will continue to sample quarterly. 116 gallons of free product have been removed so far.

VI. Jefferson County Representative Update

The Jefferson County Land and Water Department just received an award from Gathering Waters.

VII. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Spencer's report reflected the busyness of this season, juggling many projects simultaneously. The Willerup cost-share is officially completed; the Sleepy Hollow is awaiting DNR approval of their permit. The Phragmites grant is officially completed; deliverables have been approved, and we are now waiting for reimbursement from the DNR. We received a \$3,750 advance payment for the Direct Watershed Connection grant and have already completed some water quality monitoring work. The \$7,500 advance payment for the Lake Ripley Habitat Assessment has already been put to use in a near-shore, non-game fish survey. The District is busy completing many surveys that the DNR requires we accomplish every 5 years. These are important as they inform and direct our management plan. The inlet stream restoration project with Stantec has included arduous field work. Spencer is actively involved with work going on at the Enbridge spill site, regularly visiting the site and discussing the monitoring system. She has been learning about successful carp programs on other lakes, and planning a project to boost lake Ripley's small, nongame fish, which in turn supports our game fish. The spring Ripples went out, and the Memorial Day Parade was a success. A Pontoon Classroom event was held for students at Koshkonong Trails. Summer work in the Preserve is progressing, along with water quality monitoring in the lake. The harvester was launched June 2nd and has collected four loads of curly-leaf pondweed so far! Spencer has made inspections, especially for erosion-control, at the new development site, working with Laura Payne and the DNR. Spencer was thanked for her work.

VIII. New Business

a. Restricted Funds to Pay for Land Acquisition Legal Fees discussion and possible action

DeGidio and Kutz explained that about \$3,000 of our legal expenses this year have been directly related to land acquisition. Lake Districts are allowed to use land acquisition funds to pay for related legal work. The question was: shall we do this too? – or add more money into our legal fees

budget? After discussion, Kutz made a motion to use restricted funds (land acquisition) to pay for legal fees connected to land acquisition, seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed.

b. Perchlorate Sampling discussion and possible action

Spencer explained that last year the District participated in a perchlorate study by the University of Las Vegas that was grant-funded. The federal funding is gone, but the cost of doing the study ourselves would be \$627 for sample analysis at a reputable lab. Spencer thought it would be worth the money to do this for another few years to better understand how fireworks on/near the lake are affecting water health. She asked for spending \$700. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to spend \$700 to continue this study, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

c. Lake Manager Evaluation discussion and possible action

Kutz wondered if we should move this closed-session item to after our IX. Old Business: a: 2026 budget requests. **DeGidio made a motion to move IX: Old Business (a) to before VIII (c), seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed.**

IX. Old Business

a. 2026 budget requests discussion and possible action

Kutz noted new recommendations including upping hour times for the Nature Preserve Technician and Water Quality Technician, Preserve burn bids, carp program costs, and Stantec Phase 2 budget estimate.

VIII.

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(c) on the agenda. All ayes. Turville-Heitz made a motion to go into Closed Session, seconded by Bieschke. All Ayes. Motion passed. Meeting went into Closed Session at 10:00am.

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

X. Return to Open Session

Turville-Heitz made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting returned to Open Session at 10:55am.

Bieschke made a motion to provide a COLA pay increase of 3.3% with a merit pay increase of 3.5%, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.

XI. Announcements

There were none.

XII. Adjournment

Payne made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:56am.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: June 24, 2025