



**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
July 19<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: Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Steve Bieschke, and Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County representative). Also present: Lianna Spencer – Lake Manager, and Scott Whiting (Town of Oakland Police), Jon Tilp and Roxane Schiller.

**II. Public Comment**

Jon Tilp brought to our attention a piece of property for sale. He also discussed a new mine being proposed near the Boundary Waters. It is a sulfide mine. Jon's concern is that the latest congressional bill opened doors to mining in previously protected areas, and that this now-pristine water flows to Hudson Bay. Tilp was thanked for bringing this information to the Board.

**III. Approve Minutes of June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, Board meeting**

**Turville-Heitz made a motion to approve the June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, minutes, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Kutz being absent, DeGidio presented the Treasurer's report on the budget and expenditures for June. There were no receipts for June. Disbursements for June were \$37,400.47, with nothing unusual. Salaries are up because of our summer workers. Water sampling was \$1330.00, and \$9,549.50 finished out the completed Willerup cost-share project. There was \$184,200.50 in the checking account, \$108,821.78 in one CD, \$57,398.30 in the other CD, and \$50,035.07 in Savings. **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 being absent, DeGidio noted that progress is being made on the reconstruction of the Oakland Town boat launch, and that several grants are available to help pay for it.

**VI. Jefferson County Representative Update**

Turville-Heitz had some good news! The new state budget includes \$8 million to help pay staff at County Land and Water Conservation departments across the state. This will help improve staffing for this very important service.

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

Another busy month! Spencer touched briefly on some of the many items in her written report. She has been learning to use QuickBooks, which will be useful for tracking and monitoring budgets going forward. The Phragmites grant is completed and the \$12,000 reimbursement from the DNR has been received. Spencer is currently working on aspects of several other active grants. Tony, our CBCW inspector, has built a mount for the AIS tools while working at the boat launch. Preliminary data from field work and modelling done with Stantec shows promise for doing some actual pilot-test BMP implementations along the inlet stream. Grant funding will allow this to proceed sooner than anticipated! Our independent water samples (regarding the Enbridge spill) again detect no VOC and/or PAH contamination: very good news! The Banded Killifish project is moving forward, mostly preparing the pond for the killifish, which involves a lot of physical labor. The Loop Around the Lake survey has been scheduled for Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. This is when we count all vessels, piers, docks, etc. on Lake Ripley, as part of our ongoing carrying capacity study. The summer Ripples is done, and will be in our mailboxes soon. Spencer is meeting with three different restoration companies to discuss 4-year burn contracts. The perchlorate study will happen around the Labor Day fireworks, as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks were cancelled due to weather. The work at the new subdivision is moving forward. They are doing a good job with erosion control during this rainy spell. Spencer noted she will be on vacation August 4-8. Spencer was thanked for her work.

**VIII. New Business**

**a. Legal Firm update**

DeGidio informed us that our attorney Adam Dassow will be moving to another firm in the near future, but will continue to work with us on any unfinished projects until they are completed.

**b. 2026 Budget Approval discussion and possible action**

**After discussion noting increases and/or decreases in the proposed 2026 budget proposal, Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the 2026 budget proposal, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**c. Discussion and possible action on land purchase for the benefit of the District**

**Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to enter into Closed Session, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**A roll call vote was held to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of item VIII (c) on the agenda. All ayes. Meeting entered Closed Session at 9:28am.**

**Meeting entered Closed Session [as per §Wis. Statute 19.85 (1)(e) to deliberate the purchase of public property and the investing of public funds**

**IX. Return to open session**

**Turville-Heitz made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting returned to Open Session at 9:58am.**

**Turville-Heitz made a motion to authorize offers on two parcels of property, to authorize the District to move restricted funds as necessary, and to authorize the District to secure additional funds if needed, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**X. Old Business**

**a. Loan payment discussion and possible action**

**No action is needed at this time.**

**XI. Announcements**

**There were none.**

**XII. Adjournment**

**Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary  
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: July 22, 2025