



**Lake Ripley Management District**

**Budget Hearing**

August 16, 2025

9:00 a.m. at Oakland Town Hall

N4450 County Road A

Cambridge, WI, 53523

Jimmy DeGidio, Lake District Chair, called the budget hearing to order at 9:00 AM. He then introduced Deb Kutz, Treasurer, who went through the budget line by line, explaining any increases or decreases.

Many items are up simply because all costs are up. Weed-harvesting is up in part because the harvester needs a new roller bar. Preserve Restoration/Development is up to cover the cost of completing the requirements of the 10-year management plan, and to proceed with the watershed improvement project along the inlet stream. Staff payroll is up. Insurance is up a bit. Legal and accounting is down a bit. Dues and conferences remain about the same. Office is up, in part for a program (QuickBooks) that will make tracking budget components more timely and efficient. Rent is the same. Capital Reserve, Land/Equipment Acquisition is considerably up. General Lake Management is up to complete work mandated by the 10-year plan. Special Programs has been eliminated because it is not needed.

Kutz opened the meeting up to questions. Ron Buss of Ripley Waters wanted to know more about a possible land purchase. DeGidio replied that there could be no discussion because the purchase was still pending. Mr. Buss then commented that he hoped there would not be trails for the public in his back yard, and that he would prefer Ripley Waters maintaining that property. DeGidio asked if there were any other comments or concerns. There were none. DeGidio concluded the budget hearing at 9:09 AM.

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**Annual Meeting**

Immediately following budget hearing

Oakland Town Hall

**I. Call to Order**

Jimmy DeGidio, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM. Board members present were Jimmy DeGidio, Debbie Kutz, Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Doug Maurer, Steve Bieschke, Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County Representative), and Laura Payne (Town of Oakland Representative). Also in attendance: Lianna Spencer (Lake Manager), Richard Kutz, Pam Dollard, Jon Tilp, Leah Maurer, Cari Redington, Ron Buss, Jeanne DeGidio, Dave DeGidio, Scott Whiting, John Didion, Andy Kornaus, Brian McKittrick, Jeff Roessler, Mike Doman, Mary Heynis, Karen Hewitt, Michael Hewitt, Roxane Schiller and Richard Nelson.

**II. Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Without discussion, Bieschke made a motion to approve the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**III. Nomination of Board candidates, Statements of candidates, and Election - one open positions**

**(Name on Ballot: Doug Maurer)**

DeGidio called for nominations from the floor. Cari Redington nominated Kim Ollhoff-Nett who couldn't be present today. Redington read Ollhoff-Nett's candidate statement. Maurer spoke on his own commitment to continue being a board member. DeGidio then asked three times if there were any further nominations. Seeing none, ballots were distributed.

**IV. Chairman's report**

DeGidio presented the weed harvesting report. It has been a productive season on the lake so far. The crew has harvested 38.25 loads so far, harvesting three days a week earlier in the summer and now 4-5 days a week. Harvesting will continue until the end of September. DeGidio thanked our harvesters for their great work.

DeGidio then reported on our "Loop Around the Lake", our annual census of boats, piers, lifts, boathouses, and swimrafts. This survey is part of our carrying capacity study. This helps us keep track of boat traffic on our lake, as well as the condition of our littoral and riparian buffer zones. This years' numbers were down from last year's, which appears now to have been a one-year spike instead of a trend.

DeGidio asked if there were any questions or comments. Ron Buss asked about dredging the inlet. Spencer spoke to the work we are currently doing upstream with the engineering firm, Stantec. Michael Hewitt observed that it seemed like he had to go further into the lake before he could waterski. Spencer spoke to the aquatic plants, which can occupy water out to about 20-feet deep, but that they protect the shores, reduce algae, and support the entire lake ecosystem, so the harvesting permits tries to find a good balance between recreation and a healthy plant population. There were no further questions or comments.

**V. Treasurer's report**

DeGidio began by announcing that this would be Kutz's last report for us, as she is retiring. Kutz then explained her duties as Treasurer: to safeguard our assets, pay bills and file financial reports. She explained that an annual audit is required. Pam Dollard presented the audit report. Dollard, Jon Tilp and Roxane Schiller were on the Audit Committee, working with Kutz and Spencer. The report confirmed that our books are in good order. There was a round of applause for Kutz, thanking her for her good work.

**VI. Approval of the budget and tax levy**

**Without further discussion, Bieschke made a motion to approve the 2026 budget and tax levy, seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**VII. Discussion and possible action on other business that can be legally considered by the District**

No further topics were brought up.

**VIII. Tabulation of vote and election of board members**

Spencer and Dollard collected and counted the ballots. Maurer received 24 votes, Nett received 20. Maurer remains on the board and Kim Ollhoff-Nett is our new board member.

**IX. Adjournment**

**DeGidio made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:43 AM.**

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**Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
Immediately following Annual Meeting  
Oakland Town Hall

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Pam Dollard called the meeting to order at 9:44 AM.

**II. Election of Board Officers**

**Maurer nominated DeGidio for chair, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed. DeGidio remains Chair.**

**DeGidio nominated Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez for secretary, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed. Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez remains Secretary.**

**DeGidio nominated Bieschke for Treasurer, seconded by Maurer. All ayes. Motion passed. Bieschke becomes our new Treasurer.**

**III. Adjournment**

**Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Maurer. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM, followed by a round of applause from the audience.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary  
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: September 10, 2025