



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 20th, 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: Steve Bieschke, Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Doug Maurer, Laura Payne (Town of Oakland representative), Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County representative), and our new member Kim Ollhoff-Nett. Welcome Kim! Also present: Lianna Spencer – Lake Manager, James Jekanoski (Town of Oakland Police), Jon Tilp, Seth Oren, and Sarah Majerus, here to speak about our project with Stantec.

II. Public Comment

There was none.

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

Turville-Heitz made a correction to the wording of her update: that the money in the new state budget will “help pay staff” at the County Land and Water Departments across the state. **DeGidio made a motion to accept the July 19, 2025, minutes as corrected, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes, except Payne abstained, since she had not been present. Motion passed.**

IV. Treasurer’s Report

Bieschke, our new Treasurer, reported first on the budget and expenditures for July. Receipts for the month amounted to \$66,908.65, including \$45,517.22 from the Jacobson-Brown Family Trust, for which we are very grateful, \$15,000 final payment (essentially a reimbursement from the DNR) for the Phragmites grant, \$6,188 from Enbridge (a reimbursement for water quality testing), \$177 EMC refund, Department of Revenue computer aid of \$11.43, and \$15.00 for garnishment reimbursement. Disbursements for July were \$29,893.21. As usual summer payroll is up because of eight staff in summer. Larger disbursements went to water sampling (later reimbursed by Enbridge), \$3,196.62 to Heartland Ecological for reed canary grass project. There was \$221,873.85 in the checking account, \$108,821.78 in one CD, and \$57,398.30 in the other CD, and \$50,035.07 in the savings account.

Turville-Heitz made a motion to approve the July Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed. (Congratulations, Steve!)

Steve then reported on the August budget and expenditures. Receipts for August were \$286,194.13, which included \$217,302.03 (cashed-in the CDs), \$63,877.10 August tax settlement, \$5,000 anonymous donation towards the land purchase, and \$15.00 Employer Garnishment fee. Disbursements for the month were \$326,345.75, and included \$304,215.00 for land purchase as well as \$1,000.00 earnest money and \$1,800.00 land appraisal. There were no other unusual costs, though payroll is still high because of eight persons on staff in summer. There was \$182,379.94 in the checking account. Bieschke was thanked for assuming the role of Treasurer. Bieschke explained that he and Spencer are learning how to use QuickBooks so that we better understand our accounting system. "It has been a steep learning curve," he acknowledged. **Maurer made a motion to approve the August Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed.**

V. Town of Oakland Representative Update

Payne reported on several issues of interest to the lake. After trying brine on some roads near the lake last winter, the Town purchased much more for the coming winter. It both lowers costs, and helps the lake. Enbridge has completed its third quarter water quality testing (no results back yet). They continue to collect riser oil, 548 gallons so far. The soil vapor extraction test will happen September 29, and if approved, that too will start working at the site. Payne thinks grants will help pay for the engineering costs for the new Town boat launch. She also mentioned there are two seats open on the Town's Planning Committee. They meet on the first Tuesday of the month, when there are zoning issues to be addressed. Maurer asked about residents reporting seeing wake boats on the lake, and if police were responding. Payne thought that two of the reported boats turned out not to be actual wake boats. There ensued a discussion of what makes a wake boat a wake boat. Officer Jekanoski was asked to join us. He confirmed that two boats were not wake boats, but encouraged residents to call police if they think a wake boat is on the lake, and if possible, to take a video that shows the registration numbers on the hull as well as footage of the wake. Officer Jekanoski was thanked for his contribution. Payne was thanked for her update.

VI. Jefferson County Representative Update

Turville-Heitz reported that no report was needed at this time.

VII. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Spencer condensed her lengthy written report to report on highlights of a busy mid-July to mid-September. Spencer spoke to the ongoing contributions of the late Jane Jacobson-Brown and Kent Brown, with a generous \$45,517.22 donation from their

trust fund to the Lake District. Spencer welcomed Steve Bieschke as our new Treasurer and Kim Ollhoff-Nett as our new commissioner. She spoke of the summer accomplishments of the inlet creek project with Stantec and hoped everyone would attend the presentation on Tuesday, September 30th here at the Oakland Town Hall at 5:00pm. Spencer also spoke about the ongoing surveys on the lake under the two DNR grants, including a point-intercept survey of plants that took samples of plants at over 700 points and took four full days to complete. This study in particular creates the data used to create our weed harvesting program guidelines and our Aquatic Plant Management plan. Spencer also accomplished a Shoreland and Shallows survey, which looks at the health of the lake's littoral and shoreline areas. The Western Banded Killifish project is proceeding well. Spencer anticipates releasing fish into Lake Ripley as soon as summer 2027. Spencer acknowledged a lot of hours went into the purchase of 18 acres of wetland adjacent to the inlet and lake, and thanked DeGidio for his hard work to facilitate it happening. Spencer spoke to high mortality of frogs on roads, including Highway 12 and County Road A, during rains this summer and asked people to please submit sightings of mass mortalities to the DNR. She invited us to see her participation in a podcast about lakes and lake committees. Weed harvesting continues through the end of September. They have harvested 53 loads so far. Work continues at the new subdivision nearby, "The Preserve at Oakland", with regular inspections by Spencer and Payne. So far, stormwater systems seem to be working. Spencer was thanked for her great work.

VIII. New Business

a. Stantec Presentation on the "Lake Ripley Inlet Watershed Analysis" report

Sarah Majerus, our project manager at Stantec, presented a PowerPoint presentation about this summer's work on the inlet project. They did an actual on-site investigation along nearly 11,000 linear feet of the inlet stream, documenting each area where streambank erosion was occurring, and assessing it as Very High, High, or Moderate Erosion. They added 2 sampling sites for water quality sampling to our existing sampling scheme. Their modeling suggests 211 tons of sediment is caused annually by streambank erosion, 194 tons coming from upstream sites on private property. One achievement was to notice and delineate 10 subbasins within our 4,688-acre watershed. They then used a PLET Model to estimate nutrient and sediment loads coming from each subbasin. This helps focus our efforts where we can achieve the greatest reductions in nutrient and sediment loading. Their conclusion, in general, is to focus first on the areas upstream where so much erosion is occurring, if landowner agreement can be gained. Spencer also noted that the District is initiating a floodplain revegetation project on its own property along the inlet creek this fall, thanks to a grant that will cover its implementation costs. Questions for

Majerus included what about remeandering the creek and what about removing the spoils along the creek that prevent normal integration of the creek with its wetlands. Majerus responded that both of those projects could be beneficial, but that the upstream projects should be given priority because that's where nutrient and sediment loading can be reduced the most. And of course, our main goal is to benefit water quality in Lake Ripley. Majerus ended by reminding everyone that they can attend the September 30th presentation at the Town Hall.

IX. Old Business

a. Land Purchase update

DeGidio announced the District's successful purchase of 18 acres of wetland along the inlet where it meets the lake. The cost was \$304,215.00, much of which came from the CD established for another purchase that was not successful. We are still trying for another parcel of wetlands on the other bank of the inlet. DeGidio also noted that we have accepted a donation of 8.7 acres of wetlands from John Didion's development. Soon we will begin establishing a management plan for these wetland areas.

b. Legal firm update

DeGidio explained that our attorney at Axley has left the firm for other endeavors. Our new attorney is Chris Nelson, and DeGidio expressed gratitude for the excellent work of Adam Dassow, the departing attorney.

X. Announcements

There were none.

XI. Adjournment

Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ollhoff-Nett. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:15am.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: September 24, 2025