Lake Ripley Management District

Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 18th, 2025, 9:00 AM
N4450 County Road A
Cambridge, Wisconsin, 53523
Meeting Minutes

I. **<u>Call to Order and Roll Call</u>**

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, and Laura Payne (Town of Oakland representative). Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County representative) was excused. Kim Ollhoff-Nett was absent. Also present: Lianna Spencer – Lake Manager, Todd Touton, Robin Touton, Scott Whiting (Town of Oakland Police), Chris Nelson (with his infant son, Graham!), our new attorney, and Dwight Osmon, our Water Quality Technician.

II. **<u>Public Comment</u>**

There was none.

DeGidio asked to move agenda item VIII)a to be next so that Mr. Nelson could leave sooner. **Payne made a motion, seconded by Bieschke, to move agenda item VIII)a to come before agenda item III. All ayes. Motion passed.**

Mr. Nelson introduced himself, and DeGidio thanked him for stepping right up into the middle of our land purchase negotiations and helping us complete the deal. Mr. Nelson is an attorney with Axley.

III. **<u>Approve Minutes of September 20th, 2025, Board meeting</u>**

Payne made a motion, seconded by Bieschke, to accept the September 20, 2025, minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion passed.

IV. **<u>Treasurer's Report</u>**

Bieschke reported on the budget and expenditures for September. There were no receipts for September. Disbursements for September were $23,837.55. Nothing unusual. Staff wages for six people still in September. A pass-through grant paid some of the expenses to Stantec for the Inlet Stream Restoration project. Bieschke noted that $15,000 had been moved from cost-share to Capital Reserve/Land Acquisition for the land purchase. **Maurer made a motion to accept the**

Treasurer's report as corrected, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed. Bieschke was thanked for his work.

V. **Town of Oakland Representative Update**

Payne reported that work on the new public boat launch is moving forward. The engineers have completed their field work and will report to the Town Board at the December meeting. At the Enbridge site, the soil vapor test has been completed, with a large report heading to the DNR in November. Payne was thanked for keeping us informed.

VI. **Jefferson County Representative Update**

There was no report.

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

Spencer spoke briefly about another busy month and her detailed written report. She explained that much of her month has been spent writing 5 grants that we would be approving later, along with working with Bieschke to transition to his new role, working with DeGidio and our new attorney culminating in two land purchases, completing field work and writing reports for two grants, and overseeing the work of our summer staff. There are many other ongoing projects, activities, and collaborations that Spencer either manages or participates in. Spencer was thanked for her work.

a. **End of Year Report – Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW)**

Tony Tobiasz submitted a report that was helpfully detailed but also personable. It is clear that Tony not only completes his mission with a great deal of knowledge, but with personal satisfaction and enjoyment of the tasks themselves, the folks he encounters, and the beauty of the lake.

b. **End of Year Report – Water Quality Technician**

Dwight Osmon presented a detailed analysis of the findings of three years' worth of water quality monitoring data. To summarize: Osmon can see that each high-rain event sends a large load of phosphorus and sediment down the inlet creek and into the lake. He suspects much of it comes from the creek itself, which is also what Stantec's field survey indicates. In concluding remarks, Osmon hopes that we can find a way to use our wetlands as storage for these high-rainfall events. He recommended that we continue water quality monitoring as we work to stabilize the creek's stream banks, so that we can know if our restorations are accomplishing our goals. This brief summary does not do justice to this very meaningful presentation by Osmon.

VIII. **New Business**

a. **Introduction of Chris Nelson – Axley Attorney**

b. <u>**Grant Resolutions discussion and possible action**</u>

   a. <u>**Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant**</u>
      Spencer explained the purpose of this grant. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve applying for this grant, seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed.**

   b. <u>**Surface Water Restoration grant**</u>
      Spencer explained the purpose of this grant. **Payne made a motion to approve applying for this grant, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

   c. <u>**Surface Water Planning grant**</u>
      Spencer explained the purpose of this grant. **Payne made a motion to approve applying for this grant, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

   d. <u>**Surface Water Large-scale AIS Population Management grant**</u>
      Spencer explained the purpose of this grant. **Bieschke made a motion to approve applying for this grant, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

   e. <u>**Surface Water Management Plan Implementation grant**</u>
      Spencer explained the purpose of this grant. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve applying for this grant, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

c. <u>**Prescribed Burn Bids for 5-year Contract discussion and possible action**</u>
   In terms of management costs, a multiple-year contract is good because it reduces overall costs. Maurer brought up an interesting question: is it legal to create a contract before the annual vote on approving our budget? Gómez-Ibáñez wondered as well, how do we conclude a contract prematurely if the contractor is not performing to our expectations? Therefore, we agreed to include language in the contract that makes the contracts for the years 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030 contingent on the contractor meeting our expectations and contingent on the residents approving our budget for that year. Two bids were very comparable, so we accepted the slightly lower bid from Pheasants Forever for $12,600. **Maurer made the motion, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

d. <u>**"Vegetation Streambank Management" bids discussion and possible action**</u>
   This project will be paid for by a donation from a private foundation. Its first phase will be accomplished this fall/early winter (2025). We have in our

Preserve an area near the inlet creek with a dense boxelder/buckthorn thicket beneath which is unvegetated erodible soil. The first phase will remove the woody invasives. Phase 2 will revegetate the area with an appropriate seed mix in 2026. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to accept the bid from Stantec for $22,950, seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed.**

IX. <u>Old Business</u>

a. <u>Land Purchase update</u>

DeGidio reported on our successful purchase of two wetland parcels on both sides of the inlet creek, where the creek meets the lake. This is a very important accomplishment for the District. DeGidio credited Spencer, Bieschke and our new attorney Chris Nelson for completing this transformational purchase. Much credit and many thanks also to DeGidio!

X. <u>Announcements</u>

There were none.

XI. <u>Adjournment</u>

Payne made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary   Date: October 22, 2025

Recorder: Lianna Spencer