



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 18th, 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: Debbie 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, Jon Tilp, Todd and Robin Touton, Roxane Schiller, and Adam Dassow – attorney for the Lake District.

II. Public Comment

Jon Tilp thanked the Town and the Board for the public meeting with Enbridge but said that he came away from it deeply concerned, because of what the DNR spokesperson had said: that they are “not concerned, because we are dealing with a responsible party”. Tilp explained that formerly he was the point person for any accident or spill of hazardous substances for a large trucking company. He was trained on what to say and not say. So he urges the Town and District Board to be super vigilant, to work together, and press for more testing of groundwater beyond the Enbridge property line. He noted that the Enbridge representative had asserted that there were already substances in the groundwater that would put into question the source of future substances, essentially a disclaimer.

Todd Touton had been reading Enbridge reports. He reported that Enbridge’s report to the U.S. Department of Transportation – Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) reveals that Enbridge admits that the faulty flange was originally installed without its important inner ring, and without the use of a calibrated torque, which suggests that the leak could have been leaking for 50 years! He thinks there is a big credibility risk with Enbridge and encouraged the Board and Town to be testing water themselves, and remain alert. (Note: the District has been testing water in the inlet creek.)

III. Approve Minutes of December 27th, 2024, Board meeting

Without discussion, Payne made a motion to approve the December 27 meeting minutes, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer’s Report

Kutz reported on the budget and expenditures for December 2024. Receipts for the month amounted to \$589.00, which was a reimbursement from EMC for Workman’s Compensation. She noted the problem is not yet completely resolved. Disbursements for the period amounted to \$20,636.96, and included two completed projects in the Preserve for \$3,950. There was \$50 in petty cash, \$133,317.33 in the checking account, \$107,048.89 in the loan CD, and \$106,133.80 in the restricted funds CD.

Kutz then presented the full-year spreadsheet of actual expenses relating to the budget in each category. Overall we were under budget, with a few categories over budget. This is all information we very much need as we move forward with fiscal responsibility. Kutz also presented an end of year financial report which clarified the status of monies in our checking and CD accounts. Some District funds are classified as “Restricted Funds”, which can be spent only for specific projects, and “Unrestricted Funds”, which don’t carry those specific requirements. This information is also very useful to the Board.

Kutz was thanked for all her work on our behalf. **Bieschke made a motion to approve the December Treasurer’s report, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

V. Town of Oakland Representative Update

Payne focused mostly on the Enbridge leak, noting our Town meeting for residents on January 8th and her resolve to keep the public informed as news develops, on the Town and Lake District websites. Melissa Aagard (our new State Senator) and Joan Fitzgerald (our new Assembly Representative) are both on board about this problem. Results from most recent monitoring well tests may impact the remediation plan. DeGidio noted he would push for additional monitoring wells, and the addition of whatever technology would detect a slow leak. Payne also informed us about the 3.6-acre former church property now being potentially developed. The Town Planning Committee voted to deny a variance that would have allowed homes closer to Highway 12 and allowed only 1 pier per the keyhole development ordinance. One property owner already receives flooding from this development.

VI. Jefferson County Representative Update

Turville-Heitz noted that while the County Board of Health cannot test homeowner well water, they can provide guidance on what tests to ask for, and they plan to work with other county agency experts to determine whose wells fall into an area of concern where the cost of well testing will be covered by Enbridge. This then will become a part of the Enbridge work plan.

VII. Lake Manager’s Report and Correspondence

Spencer touched on some of the many tasks that have filled her especially busy month. Regarding the Enbridge leak, Spencer noted that she had been in many meetings held with DNR, Enbridge, and Town and Lake District people. This issue will continue to require much of her time. The Willerup Bible Camp cost-share will need more time to complete the repair work to remove some riprap and install an herbaceous layer, likely in April. Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant for 2025 has been approved and the advance payment received. Stantec rescheduled their BANCS survey until spring but will conduct a preliminary site visit on February 6. Lianna has invited Colton Hutchinson (Jefferson County Land and Water) and Andrew Sabai (Nature Preserve Technician) to participate. The Lake District will help with information and planning as the Town begins the process of rebuilding the boat launch. Spencer continues to push for the reform of drainage district rules and obligations. Repair work on two stone spillways in Wetland 3 was completed. Spencer received two compliments recently: she was asked to present at the Lakes and Rivers conference, and she was asked by the DNR to join the Advisory Committee working on the Aquatic Plant Management Rulemaking Process, which oversees all weed harvesting operations. These

are a nice tribute, which confirms the high esteem Spencer has earned working with so many organizations and governmental agencies in her role as Lake Manager.

VIII. New Business

a. Land Acquisition discussion and possible action

Meeting may enter Closed Session [as per §Wis. Statute 19.85(1)(e) to consider land purchase

Kutz made a motion to enter Closed Session, seconded by Turville-Heitz. Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting entered Closed Session at 9:56 AM.

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 11:08AM.

X. Discussion and possible action on items discussed in closed session

No action needed.

XI. Old Business

There was none.

XII. Announcements

There were none.

XIII. Adjournment

DeGidio made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Maurer. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:09AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: February 18, 2025