



**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
January 17, 2026, at 9:00am  
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, Doug Maurer, Kim Ollhoff-Nett, and Laura Payne (Town of Oakland representative). Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County representative) and Steve Bieschke were excused. Also present: Lianna Spencer – Lake Manager, Roxane Schiller, Jon Tilp and Deann Schneider.

**II. Public Comment**

There was none.

**III. Approve Minutes of December 6, 2025, Board meeting**

**Payne made a motion to approve the December minutes as presented, seconded by Ollhoff-Nett. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

DeGidio read Bieschke's report. Receipts for December were zero. Disbursements for December amounted to \$19,727.66. There was nothing unusual. There was \$124,676.56 in the checking account, \$5,771.30 in one restricted fund related to a still-pending cost-share, and \$18,961.24 in our second restricted fund (the 'Streambank Restoration Project'). General funds available amounted to \$99,905.26. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Maurer. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**V. Town of Oakland Representative Update**

Payne informed us that the Town Board approved the plans for the new boat launch at their last meeting. They submitted the grant application in February which would help pay for the renovation project. Enbridge has reported on its 4<sup>th</sup> quarter water testing. The private wells are all ok so far. The surface water testing found styrene in the site furthest downstream, but it appears to be an anomaly, because that is not a substance found in crude oil, but rather is related to plastic. The groundwater monitoring sites remained the same, which is good. The soil vapor extraction process continues, and a new system for that will be presented to the DNR for

approval soon. This also is good news, because that continues to shrink the size of the plume in the on-site ground.

**VI. Jefferson County Representative Update**

There was none.

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

Spencer announced she will be speaking at the Lakes and Rivers conference this April. She is currently working to complete the reports required to close out two big DNR grants. Several reports are complete, a few to finish. One of those, the Aquatic Plant Management Plan, is essential to create the new weed harvesting permit. Warmer winter weather had delayed the work on our current 'Streambank Restoration Project' with Stantec, but work has now begun Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, with cutting and herbiciding boxelders and buckthorn and creating burn piles. The recent snows have meant snow shoveling has been necessary on the pond where our banded killifish are overwintering. Our new wetland parcels have been surveyed. Didion has sent Phase 2 information about the 'Preserve at Oakland subdivision' including the wetland donation. Maurer asked if the new weed harvesting permit will allow more harvested areas. Spencer doubted that, since the Point-Intercept Survey shows that our invasive species on the lake are diminishing. But she also thought that the DNR would likely approve the cutting pattern that supports recreational navigation. Ollhoff-Nett commented that there is still chatter amongst residents that weed debris along the shore is the fault of the weed harvester, although she knows that is not true. DeGidio responded that, according to Aquarius, our harvester picks up at least 90% of what it cuts, and that most of the weeds along the shore are due to prop chop. Payne and Maurer both commented on fertilizer from yards contributing to weed growth. Gómez-Ibáñez commented that the next Ripples has an article about the connection between yard care and nutrients in the lake. Spencer was thanked for her great work.

**VIII. New Business**

**a. Master Services Agreement (Stantec) discussion and possible action**

Spencer explained that the intent of this agreement would mean that if some small new-but-necessary project came up as part of the overall project with Stantec, we could give Stantec that job without having to get three separate bids for it. Spencer sees this as a time-saving agreement. Maurer voiced his concern about "what is a small project? \$10,000? \$40,000?". Discussion followed. **Following discussion, Maurer made a motion to approve the Master Services Agreement with Stantec, but the District would retain the right to get additional quotes. Payne seconded. All ayes. Motion passed, with the understanding that our attorney would also approve.**

**b. Savings Account discussion and possible action**

This topic applies to the \$99,000 in 'general funds available'. One plan would be to put all of this money in a high-yield savings account. Another financial scenario: pay off the \$50,000 loan on the first wetland parcel, and keep the rest in a high-yield savings account as an emergency fund. Much discussion! In the end, because of Bieschke's absence, and pending further discussion at the bank, we decided to bring this topic back at the February meeting.

**c. February Board Meeting Date discussion and possible action**

**DeGidio made a motion to meet as usual on the third Saturday in February, which is February 21<sup>st</sup>, at 9:00am. Payne seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**IX. Old Business**

**a. 2026 Board Meeting Dates discussion and possible action**

After considerable discussion, and acknowledging the absence of two Board members, it was decided that Spencer would send out a survey to Board members and we would revisit this topic in February.

**X. Announcements**

There were none.

**XI. Adjournment**

**Payne made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Maurer. All ayes. Motion passed.** Meeting was adjourned at 10:02am.

Respectfully submitted,

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Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary  
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: January 21, 2026