



**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
February 21, 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: Steve Bieschke, Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Doug Maurer, Kim Ollhoff-Nett, Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County representative), and Laura Payne (Town of Oakland representative). Also present: Lianna Spencer – Lake Manager, Dean Lund, Jon Tilp, Todd Touton, Deann Schneider, and Town of Oakland Officer Rittmeyer.

**II. Public Comment**

Dean Lund spoke in favor of walking trails at the new development ‘The Preserve at Oakland’ (formerly Oakland Hills).

**III. Approve Minutes of January 17, 2026, Board meeting**

Maurer made a motion to approve the January minutes with a correction, seconded by Laura Payne. All ayes. Motion passed.

**IV. Treasurer’s Report**

Receipts for January amounted to \$58,151.80, which included \$51,674.32 (Town of Oakland tax settlement), \$195.48 (Village of Cambridge tax settlement), and \$6,280.00 (Enbridge water quality sampling reimbursement). Disbursements for January were \$18,089.45. There were no unusual expenditures this month. There was \$161,663.39 in the checking account, \$5,771.30 in the cost-share restricted funds, \$18,961.24 in the Streambank Restoration Project restricted funds, and \$155,020.30 in General Funds. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the January Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Ollhoff-Nett. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**V. Town of Oakland Representative Update**

Payne reported that although Enbridge continues its work at the site, there is nothing new to report. She also spoke to the wake boat bill AB1033, which kept her busy making calls to oppose it. She explained to Senator Ratcliff about our local strong support for strong wake boat legislation, as our local ordinance provides.

**VI. Jefferson County Representative Update**

Turville-Heitz reported that the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association also voiced opposition to AB1033.

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

Spencer spoke about some of the many items in her written report. Another busy month, even though it's winter and the lake lies under a layer of ice! She reached out to all part-time employees to see if they would be returning, and updated all the job descriptions. The Sleepy Hollow cost-share project is still waiting for DNR final approval. Spencer has been completing the reports due from our DNR grants. Currently, she is working on our Aquatic Plant Management Plan. She has been consulting with our DNR Lake Biologist, Arthur Watkinson, and DNR Fisheries Biologist, Mark Baldock, to make sure our plant management plan is compatible with our fishery goals. She has had productive meetings with USDA/NRCS colleagues as the Stantec project moves forward. Our own Streambank Restoration Project on Preserve land has progressed. Regarding Enbridge, Spencer has requested that Enbridge reimburse our water quality monitoring expenses throughout 2026. She has engaged Patricia Cicero in discussions about replicating a pier-shading study that the District completed in 2005. This seems especially important with permanent piers becoming more popular. The wake boat legislation bill AB1033 was introduced but it was not a bill that would have protected Wisconsin's lakes. Spencer spoke in opposition to AB1033 and SB1025, at both the Assembly and Senate committee's public hearings, where the vast majority of speakers spoke against the bill. Brainstorming about a fundraiser for our wetlands purchase has begun. Spencer was thanked for her work.

**VIII. New Business**

**a. March Board Meeting Date discussion and possible action**

**Without discussion, Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion that we meet on March 21, 2026, at 9:00am as we normally would, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**b. Clean Boats, Clean Waters job posting discussion and possible action**

This position is mostly funded by a DNR grant. It pays \$15/hour. When we have exemplary employees, we add \$/hour to boost the pay. After discussion and much tabulation we decided to offer a 3% raise as we do with other employees. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to offer Tony Tobiaz the job at \$16.45/hour, seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**c. Weed Harvester job posting discussion and possible action**

The payment/hour in this category is a sliding scale. First year employees start at \$16/hour, and receive \$1 more/hour each succeeding year if they worked 35 hours or more the previous season. We have two returning

employees and will need to hire a new crew member. The job description was updated to include a section on “Physical Requirements and Working Environment”, an updated responsibilities list, and review process. **Payne made a motion to accept the updates as presented, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**Turville-Heitz made a motion to pay Leo Allen \$18/hour and Richard Moen \$21/hour, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**d. Field Technician job posting discussion and possible action**

The person filling this job for several years is not returning, so discussion ensued to create a pay range from \$18-21/hour based on experience. The job description was updated to include a section on “Physical Requirements and Working Environment”, an updated responsibilities list, and review process. The ‘207-acre’ Preserve was corrected to 244 acres. **Turville-Heitz made a motion to approve all updates and corrections, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**e. Nature Preserve Technician job posting discussion and possible action**

The person working in this position, Andrew Sabai, is planning to return, therefore discussion focused on changing the pay range to \$14-23/hour. With a 3% raise Sabai will receive \$22.81/hour. This job description also included updates in “Physical Requirements and Working Environment”, an updated responsibilities list, and review process. The ‘207-acre’ Preserve was corrected to 244 acres. **Payne made a motion to approve the updates and corrections, seconded by Ollhoff-Nett. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**Payne made a second motion to approve the hourly rate of \$22.81, seconded by Ollhoff-Nett. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**IX. Old Business**

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

Bieschke laid out several financial scenarios about how best to reduce our debt and save money in the long run. There was much discussion over the advantages and disadvantages of paying off our original loan, and setting aside the budgeted monthly loan payment money and using it at year’s end to pay down the principal of the second loan. This was Bieschke’s preferred scenario. Concerns about unexpected expenses came up strongly, but in Bieschke’s proposal we still have the loan payment money if we need it. In the end, we agreed with Bieschke’s proposal. **Maurer made a motion that we pay off the first loan and accumulate the money budgeted for that**

**loan to pay down the principal of the second loan. Ollhoff-Nett seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.**

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

DeGidio summarized the survey results, with Saturdays at 9:30am or Thursdays at 5:30pm being the two most popular picks. **After much discussion, Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to keep the board meeting date/time on the third Saturday of the month at 9:00am, seconded by Ollhoff-Nett. All ayes. Motion passed.**

**X. Announcements**

Todd Touton announced that the wake boat bill was officially dead.

**XI. Adjournment**

**Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed.** Meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.

Respectfully submitted,

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Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary  
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: February 23, 2026