



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 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, Jon Tilp, Roxane Schiller, Karen Hewitt, Michael Hewitt and Town of Oakland Officer Rittmeyer.

II. Public Comment

Michael Hewitt spoke about the extensive use he and his wife make on the lake, especially waterskiing daily. They notice that each year they must ski closer to the center of the lake, where fast boating is already busier, because of the aquatic plants. They were also concerned about one item in the updated Aquatic Plant Management Plan about a “Give the Lake a Break” day. DeGidio explained that item has been in our 2021 Lake Management Plan, and that it has not been pursued. Ordinances are made by the Town of Oakland, not the Lake District.

III. Approve Minutes of February 21, 2026, Board meeting

Turville-Heitz had a correction to make: Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Committee (instead of State Committee of Land and Water Departments). **Turville-Heitz made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

IV. Treasurer’s Report

Bieschke first commented on the February Financial Report, the detailed report on expenditures, noting two loan payments per month for the new loan so as to save money long term, and that this will be the last time the older loan appears because it will be paid off in March per our decision in February. **Payne made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

Bieschke then read into the record the Treasurer’s Report: receipts for the period amounted to \$119,822.45, consisting of Town of Oakland tax settlement of \$119,048.59 and Village of Cambridge tax settlement of \$773.86. Disbursements

for the period amounted to \$25,828.48. There was \$260,043.64 in the checking account, \$5,771.30 in the Cost-share Restricted fund, \$9,736.24 in the Streambank Restoration fund, and \$245,047.34 in General Funds available. Bieschke noted that next month that last amount will be quite a bit smaller, due to paying off the old loan. Bieschke was thanked for his work.

V. Town of Oakland Representative Update

Payne informed us that the next round of water quality monitoring sampling has been completed by Enbridge (and by us, Spencer noted). Results will be available at our next meeting. Also, as soon as soil has thawed, Enbridge will restart its product recovery program (the soil vapor extraction process). That process seems to be working well at that site. No update from the new development.

VI. Jefferson County Representative Update

Turville-Heitz began by passing out a packet from the Jefferson County Health Department concerning the killing and composting of millions of chickens due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (bird flu) which cost much money and time by various county authorities and caused public health risks for residents and groundwater. The packet is a request that the legislature consider how to better protect people and the environment from future outbreaks, including vaccination of chickens, improve composting regulations for safer transport, evaluate incineration as an alternative to composting, and strengthen the protection of groundwater and drinking water wells. Turville-Heitz noted that the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association is working on the PFAs issue.

Work is ongoing for a county solar and battery storage systems ordinance that would be required for a siting permit. Turville-Heitz and Payne both want towns to have a seat at the table on this issue. There is a proposal that solar arrays could not have more than 20% of their land be prime agricultural land.

VII. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Spencer spoke to some of the many items in her written report. She noted that work will begin as soon as weather permits on the Sleepy Hollow cost share. Native plant sale orders are due April 3. Spencer has been focused on completing the Aquatic Plant Management Plan, which is necessary for a weed harvesting permit. The 'Watershed Restoration Project' is a DNR grant that was awarded less than requested, so she has revised the grant to represent the work that can be reasonably accomplished with \$7,625.25. The Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant has received its advanced payment. Landowners are being engaged in the 'Inlet Stream Restoration Project'. Two engineers from DATCP have joined the effort, and will attend the next site visits if their schedules allow. The Pier-Shading study is moving forward, with several scientists on board. The DNR will conduct a spring electrofishing survey in May (through our funding) so as to proactively monitor the panfish population in Lake Ripley. Ice-off date was March 9, 2026. Ice was on for 91

days, four more days than last year. The first round of Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) water sampling was accomplished on March 20th. The purple loosestrife biocontrol project is set to go. The burn of Prairie 2C will happen in April; the actual date is dependent on weather, especially wind.

VIII. New Business

a. Memorial Day Parade discussion and possible action

DeGidio explained that this is good for public relations for the District. Last year, Spencer noted, the Board allocated \$300 for candy and prepping the harvester and paying the driver. **Ohloff-Nett made a motion to be a part of the parade and to spend no more than \$300 on this activity, seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed.**

b. Fundraising Committee update

DeGidio noted that many good ideas came up in the meeting and thanked everyone for bringing good ideas to the table.

IX. Old Business

There was none.

X. Announcements

There was none.

XI. Adjournment

DeGidio made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Turville-Heitz. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:49 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: March 23, 2026