



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 18th, 2026, 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: Steve Bieschke, Georgía Gómez-Ibáñez, Doug Maurer, Kim Ollhoff-Nett, and Laura Payne (Town of Oakland representative). Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County representative) was excused. Also present: Lianna Spencer – Lake Manager and Town of Oakland Officer Rittmeyer.

II. Public Comment

There was none.

III. Approve Minutes of March 21st, 2026, Board meeting

Bieschke made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Receipts for March amounted to \$843.75, which was the advance payment for CBCW 2026 from the DNR. Disbursements amounted to \$69,807.34, which included paying off the older loan, \$28,606.68. There was \$191,080.05 in our checking account, \$5,771.30 in the cost-share restricted funds, \$3,690.74 in the Streambank Restoration Project restricted funds and \$181,618.01 in our available General Funds. Bieschke noted that when we figure our budget for 2027 we will need to budget more for paying off the current loan. He also suggested creating a new line item to account for the new system of electronic paychecks for every employee, which carries a \$5.00 fee for each payment. Bieschke was thanked for his work, especially the extra work to pay off our first loan, and streamlining our system of payments to employees. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed.**

V. Town of Oakland Representative Update

Payne began by noting that the County is providing sand and bags for anyone needing help with flooding. There is also a DNR website for advice about flooding. The Town crew has been busy removing storm-related downed trees from our roads, and also have nearly completed repairs on both Town piers. They will be installing the piers soon. The latest Enbridge news is that groundwater test results

indicated that the contamination has not spread, and that wells are still fine. Payne was thanked for her report.

VI. Jefferson County Representative Update

There was none.

VII. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Spencer spoke about some of the topics covered in her lengthy written report. She has received one application for the open Weed Harvester Operator position and six applications for the Water Quality and Field Technician position. Interviews will be scheduled soon. Fundraising Committee planning is going well. The Sleepy Hollow cost-share work will happen after June 15th to avoid fish spawning in that CHD area. All the deliverables have been completed and submitted to the DNR for the Direct Watershed Connection grant. The Aquatic Plant Management Plan has completed its public comment period. Board approval of the plan will allow us to apply for our 2026 weed harvesting permit. All the 2026 DNR grants are in various stages of commencing. We did not receive a hoped-for grant from the Cambridge Community Foundation. Much action coming up soon on the Inlet Stream Restoration Project with Stantec: onsite visits at 7 properties have been scheduled with Spencer, Stantec, and supportive colleagues from DATCP, NRCS, USDA, LWCD and WWA. Each site will be investigated to determine best practices for that site. The DNR will be conducting a spring electrofishing survey on Lake Ripley in mid-May. This is in response to Spencer's concern that our fish surveys should be done more regularly in order to better track our fishery's health. The chloride sample taken in March at the deep hole showed a higher level of chloride than in 2024, which was concerning, especially because the Town of Oakland have been using a more environmentally friendly brine on the lake road. We will be trying to understand this negative finding. The spring burn in Prairie Zone 2C has occurred. Seed was spread on the burned area, and the task of cutting and herbiciding the shrubs/small trees that survived the burn has begun. Spencer was thanked for her report.

VIII. New Business

a. Aquatic Plant Management Plan discussion and possible action

This is the plan that is required by the DNR in order to issue our weed harvesting permit. Resident Michael Hewitt has objected, at our March meeting, to a line item that would have created a day on the lake without speed boats. **After lengthy discussion, Maurer proposed a motion removing that item from the plan. It was seconded by Bieschke to allow further discussion. After discussion, there were three ayes and three nays. Motion failed.**

The error in the plan, which listed 7:00PM instead of 7:30PM as the time slow-no-wake begins, had already been corrected.

In addition, DeGidio wondered if language needed changing under Water Quality Goals, item 3, concerning our cost-share program, which has no funding in 2026. We agreed the language could stand, as it is likely funding will be available next year. **DeGidio made a motion to approve the plan, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

b. Employee Handbook discussion and possible action

After lengthy discussion, Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to add the words “full-time” to the sentence “All new full-time District employees will undergo an initial 60-day orientation period...”. The understanding of the Board was that this statement refers to the position of the Lake Manager alone. It was seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.

c. Weed Harvester Operator Agreement discussion and possible action

Attention was focused on the Compensation paragraph, where one of our longtime employees will reach the current pay cap next year. The rewrite reads as follows: “A \$1/hour raise shall be awarded to returning employees, who have worked a minimum of 25 total hours the year prior, at the start of each subsequent operating season upon board approval.” **Payne made the motion to approve the changes to the Weed Harvester Operator Agreement, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

d. 2027 budget requests discussion and possible action

DeGidio began this discussion with a few ideas of his own. One concerns the carp issue. The rebuild of Park Road made our carp gate unusable. A new gate was investigated, but cost was deemed too high (\$15,000). DeGidio hopes we can investigate other solutions. He also proposed that a new line item for our newest property be established, and that we increase our budget for legal expenses. Bieschke added his wish list: payroll expenses all direct deposit and a new line item for the new loan. We agreed to revisit this item next month.

IX. Old Business

There was none.

X. Announcements

There were none.

XI. Adjournment

Payne made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:43 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: April 28, 2026