



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 16th, 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) and Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County representative). Also present: Todd Touton, Robin Touton, Roxane Schiller, Richard Nelson and John Didion. Lianna Spencer – Lake Manager, was excused.

II. Public Comment

Todd Touton urged the Lake District to protect its ‘sovereign immunity’ by clarifying and not overstepping any agreements with the new development, The Preserve at Oakland, which has already stolen our Preserve’s name, without our objection. The easement agreement as well as our acceptance of the Outlot 5 wetland, in his opinion, threaten our sovereign immunity. DeGidio thanked Touton for his advice, and thought we’d speak to our lawyer about this.

Robin Touton asked if it was true that an ‘Air B&B’ had received a permit to build a boathouse. DeGidio responded that it was true. Payne added that the permit came from the County, not the Town. Touton worried this would result in more boathouses being built around the lake.

III. Approve Minutes of April 18th, 2026, Board meeting

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

IV. Treasurer’s Report

Receipts for April amounted to \$16,979.56, and included \$10,000 from the Silver Linings Foundation for the ‘Inlet Stream Restoration Project – Phase 2’ (account #420-ISR2), \$1,282.25 (refund from Badger Bank from first loan payoff), and \$5,697.31 – the April tax settlement (\$32.46 Village of Cambridge and \$5,664.85 Town of Oakland).

Disbursements for April amounted to \$13,454.36. Legal fees were high because of legal work on the Employee Handbook rewrite. There was \$194,605.25 in the

checking account, \$5,771.30 in the Restricted Fund #417 (cost-share project), and \$13,690.74 in the Restricted Fund #420-ISR2, and \$175,143.21 in General Funds available. Bieschke noted that there was good news with our insurance renewal: it cost \$215 less! Bieschke has spent considerable effort into streamlining how we pay for everything and clarifying the financial reports to be more understandable. We all appreciate this, and Bieschke was thanked for this significant work. **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 reported that Enbridge has submitted their comprehensive investigation plan to the DNR, and have indicated they would participate in a public meeting, possibly this fall. The Town of Oakland has applied for a federal grant to help with the cost of the rebuild of the public launch.

VI. Jefferson County Representative Update

Turville-Heitz informed us that at the most recent County Board meeting she had been reassigned to all of her committees and assignments, including the Lake District representative position. We were all very glad to hear this good news! Turville-Heitz keeps us informed about county issues important to the District.

VII. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

DeGidio spoke in Spencer's absence. He reported that we had hired two new people: one fills the Water Quality and Field Technician position, and the other is our newest Weed Harvester. DeGidio encouraged everyone to read the Lake Manager's written report.

VIII. New Business

a. Phone Contract discussion and possible action

Bieschke gave his opinion, that we could be fine without the landline, and that Spencer agreed. Several board members thought it would be important to get the word out to the public. Maurer thought it could be published in the August Ripples. **Maurer made a motion to let the landline phone go, but to put the new information in Ripples, on our website etc., seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

b. Lake Manager evaluation handout

DeGidio handed out the forms and asked that we return them to him at least a week before our June meeting, but as soon as possible.

c. 'The Preserve at Oakland' access easement discussion and possible action

DeGidio explained the reason for this document. Maurer objected to any mention of walking trails in any document we agree to with "The Preserve at Oakland". DeGidio noted this document only verifies something we already agreed to when receiving ownership of Outlot 5. Ollhoff-Nett wondered how Outlot 2 would be accessed without this access. Didion assured us that there was access for Outlot 2. **DeGidio made a motion to move to approve the access easement between District and Oakland Hills, LLC, and approval is conditional upon the following: 1) the approval of the final plat of "The Preserve", 2) Oakland Hills LLC., providing a copy of the final plat of "The Preserve" to the District and 3) the completion of an exhibit by Quan Engineering of the access easement in a form deemed acceptable by the District's attorney. Payne seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.**

d. Land Acquisition discussion and possible action

Turville-Heitz moved to go into closed session, seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed.

A roll call vote was held to enter into closed session for the purpose of item VIII (d) on the agenda. All ayes. Closed session began at 9:40am as per §Wis. Statute 19.85 (1)(e).

IX. Return to Open Session

Turville-Heitz made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Payne. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting returned to Open Session at 10:00am.

a. Discussion and possible action on any Closed Session Items

Payne made a motion, seconded by Bieschke, to tell the landowner that we are not interested, unless he would like to donate the parcel. All ayes. Motion passed.

X. Old Business

a. 2027 budget requests discussion and possible action

DeGidio reminded us to be thinking about the 2027 budget. Turville-Heitz hoped we had a robust line item for vehicle maintenance.

XI. Announcements

There were none.

XII. Adjournment

**Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ollhoff-Nett. All ayes.
Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: May 20, 2026