



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
July 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 9:01 AM. Board members present in addition to DeGidio: Steve Bieschke, Georgía Gómez-Ibáñez, Kim Ollhoff-Nett, Laura Payne (Town of Oakland representative) and Meg Turville-Heitz (Jefferson County representative). Doug Maurer was excused. Also present: Lianna Spencer – Lake Manager and Jon Tilp.

II. Public Comment

There was none.

III. Approve Minutes of June 20th, 2026, Board meeting

Turville-Heitz had corrections to make concerning her Jefferson County report. It was the County Board that sent regulations to the state, not the Land and Water Conservation Board. She also instructed that item #4 about wake boats should be deleted. **Turville-Heitz then made a motion to approve the corrected minutes, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

IV. Treasurer's Report

Bieschke spoke on the Financial Report first, indicating there was nothing unusual or unexpected. The high VISA bill was mostly the new brush mower. Payroll is up because of our six summer employees. Receipts for the period amounted to \$4,317.00, including \$170 (plant sale reimbursement), \$2,874.00 (Enbridge reimbursement for water quality testing), and \$1,250.00 (reimbursement for grant LPL190525 – Direct Watershed Connection). Disbursements for the period were \$51,954.86. There was \$146,455.37 in the checking account, \$5,771.30 (the cost-share, now completed and soon to be paid and closed out), and \$140,684.07 in General Funds. (Note: general funds now includes the grant monies.) **Payne made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

Bieschke explained that our system of paying our loan has changed because the bank was unable to correctly account for twice-monthly loan payments, yet we need to report our loan payments correctly to the state. Thus, we have begun paying

the loan once a month, and plan to put in a large extra sum at the end of the year to pay down the loan more quickly, as originally planned.

V. Town of Oakland Representative Update

The DNR has not yet reviewed Enbridge's 'Site Investigation Report'. Enbridge is doing a large upgrade project at the site, removing and replacing some pipes. This gives them an opportunity to remove additional contaminated soil. After this work is completed, they will begin their soil vapor extraction process again.

VI. Jefferson County Representative Update

Turville-Heitz had two timely updates for us. One was about an 18-month moratorium on data centers for Jefferson County; a public hearing on this subject was held on July 16. The second is news of a high voltage transmission line being planned, starting near Gays Mills and running eastward through Dane and Dodge counties before heading south through Jefferson County, where it's so-far loosely defined route includes Oakland Township. There will be a public hearing on August 26, at an unspecified place and time.

VII. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence

Spencer spoke about a selected few of many issues covered in her lengthy written report. The Budget Committee produced a budget for 2027 that Bieschke will elaborate on later in the meeting. The Sleepy Hollow cost-share work has been completed. Next week the final paperwork will be completed, and the reimbursement can be paid out. Spencer is working on several grant funded projects. Final, but lengthy, paperwork for the 'Lake Ripley Habitat Assessment' will require a lot of data evaluation. The 'Watershed Restoration Project' (also known as the 'Streambank Restoration Project', which we are working with Stantec on) is at an active stage. Spencer plans to meet next week with potential partnering county-level agencies (DATCP, NRCS, USDA, WWA and LWCD) for advice and possible help with the three most promising BMPs. Tony is working Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays under the CBCW grant. The 'Restoring Western Banded Killifish' project (also grant funded) is being restarted after dealing with an unexpected delay. Spencer and Colton Hutchinson (LWCD), with help from others, have conducted the Pier-Shading Survey field work. The 'Loop Around the Lake' was accomplished on July 15th. The Ripples is almost ready for publication. Spencer completed a polished draft of 'Amendment 2' of the '10-year Preserve Management Plan', with plans for our three new parcels.

VIII. New Business

a. '10-Year Preserve Management Plan' – Amendment #2 discussion and possible action

Much approval was voiced for this amendment, which proposes management plans for our three newest Preserve parcels. Over the next few years, we will be able to learn more about what these parcels require in terms of maintenance. In 2030, when our new 10-year plans will be written, these insights can be incorporated. A wording change on page 3, and a one-word additional on page 16 were recommended and agreed upon. **Gómez-Ibáñez made a motion to approve the document with its changes, seconded by Bieschke. All ayes. Motion passed.**

b. 2027 Proposed Budget Approval discussion and possible action

DeGidio went through the budget line by line, explaining why some received more (or less) than the 2026 budget. For example, the cost of QuickBooks (which greatly helps our running understanding of our finances) is the reason for adding \$825 to the 'Office Expenses' budget. The large amount in 'Capital Reserve – Land Acquisition' is because it is from this line item that we are paying off the loan for our land purchase. Bieschke noted that the guesstimates for lines #501, #502 and #503, all dealing with insurance, were now the accurate actual new numbers from the insurance company. **Payne made a motion to approve the 2027 proposed budget, seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. All ayes. Motion passed.**

IX. Old Business

There was none.

X. Announcements

Turville-Heitz announced the next 'Brew with a View' at Korth Park will be on Thursday, July 23 from 5:30-8:00pm.

XI. Adjournment

Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ollhoff-Nett. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:08am.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Lianna Spencer

Date: July 27, 2026