



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 19, 2019
9:00 A.M. at Oakland Town Hall**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call**
Jimmy DeGidio called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Board members present: Mike Sabella, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Mike Doman, Craig Kempel, and Walt Christensen. Keith Kolb was excused. Also in attendance were: Andrew Sabai (LRMD Lake Manager), and Dave DeGidio, **Public Comment** There was none.
- II. Approval of December 15, 2018 minutes. Motion by Sabella to approve December 15, 2018 minutes, second by Gomez-Ibanez, motion passed.**
- III. Treasurer's Report.** Sabella presented the monthly treasurer's report for December 2018. Disbursements were \$11,798, including a cost share of approximately \$1,900 to Charlie Kisow. Andrew Sabai received mileage reimbursement. Sabai explained most of his mileage was driving one-way to Madison to take samples to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene. The District has a balance of \$100,902 at the end of the year. Sabella presented highlights of the 2018 financial report. He will present the full report at the February meeting. **Motion by Gomez-Ibanez to approve the Treasurer's Report, 2nd Kempel, motion passed.**
- IV. Lake Manager's Report** Sabai presented the Lake Manager's Report. **Activity highlights** included: Lake Planning – We are waiting to hear if we are awarded a grant, and should know sometime in February. Grant writing – We will talk more about a wetland restoration grant later in this meeting. Wood cutting is scheduled for next weekend. Internship position – Sabai is writing a description for a summer intern. Dog feces at the preserve – The trash can was about half filled with bagged dog waste and was removed, only taking about a minute and a half. The Town of Oakland does not have a leash ordinance, but owners must clean up dog waste and keep their animals under control. Christensen mentioned that we should add the reason we want to have dogs on a leash and that is to protect ground-nesting birds. Tern nesting structure – We need to remove some trees and brush from the spoil banks on the pond. Most of the materials have been purchased. Ditch plug repair – We are awaiting frozen conditions so the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association can repair an old wetland restoration structure that has eroded. Stream monitoring and rainfall monitoring are continuing. Sabai also mentioned some of the tasks that he does on a regular basis regarding District administration including writing up the meeting minutes. Sabella mentioned that Sabai gets into a lot a detail, and thought detailed could be reduced, especially if there is an audio recording. There was a general agreement that the minutes could be more abridged then they are. **Short/Mid-term** plans include publishing the Ripple's newsletter and continuing with the lake management plan update. **Long-term plans** include wetland/stream restoration planning and funding.
- Correspondence:**
Sabai met with Jan Papa creator of the restoration plan for the island in Majestic Pines subdivision to discuss the project. We may help cost share the project either directly, or more likely, a Healthy Lakes grant.
The Lake Manager's Compensation Committee has met twice, more on that later this meeting.
Sabai met with Doug Nelson to talk about our plans for wetland/stream restoration on the preserve and to see if he may be interested in restoring his side of the creek as well. Nelson is interesting in protecting/restoring his side of the creek, but we will need to discuss the potential project further.

V. **New Business**

A. **Discussion and possible action on the purchase of a multiparameter water quality meter**

Sabai explained that a multi-parameter water quality meter can take many different types of data: dissolved oxygen, temperature, nitrates etc. He had wanted to add the purchase of a meter to the planning grant, but because the DNR now only prorates the purchase, and it would cost the district more than he presented in November. Since that had not been agreed upon by the board, he did not want to add it to the grant. Sabai showed the three separate meters he currently uses, which are cumbersome to transport in the field. Given the high cost of the meter, he thought it best to get part of the purchase funded under a grant rather than dip into restricted funds. Sabella said that \$41,000 of restricted funds are available for purchases such as this.

B. **Discussion and possible action on increasing the Ripples newsletter** DeGidio stated that currently not everyone in Lake Ripley's watershed received the newsletter, but everyone in the watershed should be able to read the Ripples to better inform them about Lake Ripley issues. He went on to say that many people in Cambridge use the lake and are also not well informed. Sabai estimated that expanding to the rest of the watershed might add \$100-150 to one mailing. Adding Cambridge would add about 700 new address. Sabella said each run of the newsletter cost about \$1,400 for printing and shipping about 1,000 pieces. **Motion Gomez-Ibanez to expand the Ripples to all watershed property owners for the winter issue, and expand to Village of Cambridge for the spring issue, 2nd Kempel. Motion passed.**

C. **Discussion and possible action on approving WDNR Wetland Restoration Grant application**

Sabai said this wetland restoration grant would pay for the development of the restoration plan. To develop the plan, we would need a: soil survey, topographic survey, water table monitoring and perhaps an intern. The board needs to be approve a resolution like that of the planning grant in November that allows Sabai to apply and administer the grant. The resolution needs to have the dates corrected. **Sabella moved to approve that Sabai apply for the wetland restoration grant and the resolution with date correction, Doman 2nd, motion passed.**

D. **Discussion and possible action on increasing the District credit card limit** Sabai said with all the work now being done in the Preserve and elsewhere that the \$1,000 credit limit is no longer adequate. A limit of \$5,000 was decided to be adequate. **Gomez-Ibanez moved to allow Sabai to seek increasing the credit card limit to up to \$5,000, Kempel 2nd, motion passed.**

E. **Discussion and possible action on Wisconsin Lakes membership** Sabai explained the cost of being a member of Wisconsin Lakes. Membership cost the District \$700, and Sabai wanted to find out more about the organization. At the state level they lobby for better bills to protect lakes. They help: put on the Lakes Convention, establish lake districts and facilitate communication between districts. Sabai thought it was valuable to continue our membership. **Kempel motion to continue our membership in Wisconsin Lake and pay the \$700 membership fee, Gomez-Ibanez 2nd, motion passed.**

VI. **Old Business**

A. **Discussion and possible action on Lake Manager Compensation process.** DeGidio explained the committee met to discuss the process and presented guidelines on how to increase cost of living increases and merit pay increases. He also stated that the committee was working on updating the evaluation questions. The board had a general agreement that the guidelines are good and the committee should continue its work and bring a final draft to the board.

VII. **Adjournment:** Motion by Christensen to adjourn meeting, 2nd Kempel, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Next meeting: February 16, 2019 (9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall).

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Secretary Date
Recorder: Andrew Sabai