



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 18, 2020
9:00 A.M. at Oakland Town Hall
N4450 County Road A, Cambridge WI 53523**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Jimmy DeGidio, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Board members present: Deb Kutz, Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Craig Kempel, Doug Maurer, Walt Christensen, and Keith Kolb. Also present: Beth Gehred, Lake Manager. In audience Dave DeGidio, Christianne Laing

II. Public Comment

Christianne Laing, owner of Avid Gardener shop and member of the Cambridge Economic Development Committee, spoke of that committee's desire to get more participation from the Lake District in the Village for educational and social mutual benefit of both organizations. The brainstormed ideas they'd come up with so far were 1. Connecting the Village to the District's annual native plant sale 2. Walking garden tour during the summer; 3. Seizing an educational opportunity with the September car show. Adding the Committee to the effort to promote the District's native plant sale was referred to a future meeting.

Christensen moved to adjust the agenda to move Agenda item VI. (e) immediately before item VII. (b) in order to keep all open session items together. Kempel seconded. Motion passed.

III. Approve Minutes of December 21, 2019 meeting

Christensen moved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Board on Dec 21, 2019, Second by Kolb. Passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz distributed to the Board copies of the Treasurer's Report ending December 31, 2019. As of that date checking account balance was \$99,781. Income was \$90 in interest. She drew attention to a voided check that was made out to a vendor instead of to an intermediary that would pay the vendor. A new check was written. There was no fiscal impact to this change. End of year reports will be finalized and ready for next Board meeting, as the reports are in process at the accountant. Some accounts were over budget, and some underbudget. Those that were underbudget are able to offset much of those that were overbudget. Kutz said that \$15,000 of land acquisition funds is moved into restricted funds which makes it likely that we will be approximately \$13,000 over budget for 2019. Kolb asked where would the overage be accounted? Kutz explained that grants, donations and interest made up about \$9000 of it. The rest comes from savings to cover bills. Kolb reiterated the point that when creating the budget for 2021, we should reverse the trend of taking a loss or using reserves as this is financially unsustainable. General agreement. Board thanks former treasurer Mike Sabella for continuing to help with the transition to Deb Kutz as treasurer.

Kolb moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into record. Motion seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion carried.

V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence –

Gehred highlighted activities as outlined in her written Lake Manager's Report. Most notable were maintenance of monitoring equipment to prepare it for the upcoming year, maintenance to trail cams in the Preserve, update to the 2019 close out of grants with DNR, and the Ice On/Ice Off dates for this winter season. Lake Ripley is

following climate change forecasts and averaging fewer ice on days in the past five years than had been occurring in the decades before for which records were taken. She read from peer-reviewed scientific papers explaining what this means for lake health and said that we will need to take these changing conditions into account in our management recommendations for the next ten years. Correspondence and trainings included upcoming attendance Wisconsin Wetlands Science Conference, Clean Water Lobby Day, Watershed Resources Certificate online class (self-pay), Boater Education class (self-pay), and scuba diving classes (self-pay.)

VI. New Business

a. Lake Management Plan Update

Gehred summarized the work advancing the Plan Update. Of particular note was completion of a scope reduction of the Large Scale Planning Grant we have been working under to close it out. It is now under review by the DNR. She spoke of the need for a lake researcher and field technician to help with studies and analysis for the plan, and how expenses for these positions were written into the new planning grant. Studies, if the grant is successful, will include point intercept aquatic plant survey, non-game nearshore fish survey, and an update to the Preserve Management plan. Gehred said she would have a timeline of when she'd have different parts of the plan ready for viewing by the Board for next meeting. The Board expressed approval for this effort.

b. Discussion and possible action for new sign for Preserve

Board reviewed the design of a new sign for the Preserve that explains why it is important for dogs to be on leash in the Preserve, especially for the months that ground-nesting birds have eggs. Gómez-Ibáñez designed the sign, and donated funds to cover the cost of its creation and hanging, with additional funds to replace the plexiglass on the other educational signs. Board thanked her. It was agreed that the dates of the ground-nesting would be a good addition before it was printed. Lake Manager will work with Gomez-Ibanez to make that change. **Maurer moved to purchase and hang the dogs on leash sign. Kempel second. Motion passed.**

c. Discussion and possible action for updated Cost Share process packet

Chair spoke to the need for an updated packet to give to landowners interested in initiating or maintaining Cost Share processes. The Board reviewed the work done by Gómez-Ibáñez and Gehred to update the packet, and agreed it would reduce confusion and help process. Remaining to be done is to promote the program, an update to the list of contractors, and explanation of where this intertwines with the DNR's Healthy Lakes Projects grants. **Kutz moved to accept the updated Cost Share packet. Kolb seconded. Passed unanimously.**

d. Clean Boats, Clean Water job description and posting

Gehred handed out a job posting for Board review. After discussion, four changes were to be made to include adding a line about reporting structure, to give a pay range from \$12 - \$14, to add the word "approximately" before the hours per week, and to bold the bullet point regarding the need to work weekends and holidays.

e. Discussion and possible action on Lake Manager Review moved to after VII a.

VII. Old Business

a. Update on Legislative Action Alerts

Lake Manager encouraged Board members and public to attend Clean Water Lobby Day at the State Capitol on January 30. Also updated the board on a vote coming up on Jan 21 on SB 252, to provide funding for up to three natural flood risk reduction projects in Ashland County demonstrating natural flood risk reduction techniques. Spoke to AB600 that Cody Horlacher has endorsed to loosen requirements on District bidding procedures, and state senator Stephen Nass working on AB 704 to clear up some rules on boats operated by minors.

- b. Discussion and possible action on land purchase
Christensen moved to enter closed session for agenda items VI. (e) VII (b). Seconded by Kolb. At 10:30 am there was a roll call vote to enter closed session at 10:35 am after short break. Carried unanimously.

The meeting re-opened at 11:20 am.

- c. Discussion and possible action on closed session items. **Kolb moved to proceed with an Environmental Hazards Assessment Phase II. Christensen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Adjournment

Kolb moved to adjourn. Second by Kempel. Meeting adjourned at 11:26 am.

Next meeting: February 15, 2020, with start time of 9 am, at the Oakland Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Beth Gehred

Date January 18, 2020

Minutes approved February 15, 2020