

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2009**

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District Board convened its regular monthly meeting at the Oakland Town Hall on January 17, 2009. Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Mike Sabella, John Molinaro, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Walt Christensen, Dennis McCarthy, Gene Kapsner and Georgia Gomez-Ibanez. Also present were Paul Dearlove (Lake Manager), Kent Brown, and Gary Zibell (Cambridge Cable TV 98).

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting

Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the 11/15/08 minutes. Motion seconded by Sabella. Motion carried 7-0.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Sabella presented the fourth-quarter and year-end financial statements for the 2008 fiscal year. Handouts included Balance Sheets, Statements of Operation, Actual-to-Budget/Budget-Remaining reports, General Ledgers and Transaction Listings. As of December 31, 2008, the balance sheet showed current assets consisting of \$200.00 in petty cash and \$75,907.49 in checking. Current long-term liabilities consisted of a \$41,000.00 note payable to the Cambridge State Bank for land-acquisition purposes. The 3.5% note is payable on an annual basis over a five-year period. The first interest and principal payment of \$8,200 will come due in the current fiscal year. Equity consisted of \$14,714.00 in restricted funds. Restricted funds include the F.K. Elson Memorial Fund, Floodplain Study, Lake Planning Grant, and the Capital Equipment and Land-Acquisition Fund. Sabella described how the revenues and costs related to the Lake District Preserve land purchase affected the Statement of Operations, resulting in a net operating loss of \$32,392.78 for the 12-month period. For the same period, total revenues of \$360,542.93 exceeded the \$110,211.00 that was budgeted, mainly due to the receipt of various grants, donations and interest income. Budgeted versus actual direct costs and operating expenses were also reviewed. *McCarthy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 7-0.*

V. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove reviewed the status of several active cost-share projects. Three shoreline projects were to be completed shortly, and a preliminary property-restoration plan had been prepared for Hoard-Curtis. Non-cost-shared "treefall" installations were continuing along the west shore thanks to the efforts of Kent Brown. Sabella questioned whether the treefalls posed any kind of boating hazard or liability risk. It was explained that the installations were a DNR-permitted activity, and that their location in very shallow water next to shore should not present any navigational problems. Dearlove also announced that the District successfully closed on 66 acres of land next to the Preserve this past December. A handout was provided summarizing acquisition-related financing. An additional \$75,000 was possible through the NAWCA grant program, but funding awards will not be announced until March. Dearlove said he also applied for a C.D. Besadny Grant that could help defray the cost of native prairie seed for future restoration work. A land-management plan was currently being developed for the Board's review, and there will be a dedication event this summer. Dearlove concluded by briefly reviewing the status of the lake-management planning effort, reserving further discussion until later in the agenda. He said the upcoming Ripples newsletter would provide information on the planning process and how the public can get involved.

VI. Old Business

A. Closing on land acquisition and discussion of next steps

Molinaro announced that the District closed on the 66 acres next to the Preserve on 12-12-08, which was targeted for acquisition for at least the last 10 years. While the purchase was made possible with the help of generous grants and donations, he said that a bank loan did prove necessary in the end. It was his understanding that the first loan payment would not be required until 2010 so it can be addressed through our budgeting process. Sabella offered to send a letter to Cambridge State Bank to confirm this arrangement since it was not reflected in the loan agreement. As per Kapsner's recommendation, Sabella also agreed to request that all future loan payments be made after the first of the year. As for next steps, Molinaro said a tire pile and abandoned car were to be removed from the

property by the seller by spring, as per a verbal agreement at closing. Other next steps discussed included checking/spraying for gypsy moths and other invasive species, entering into a two-year tenant farming agreement, marking the new property boundaries, updating signage, reconfiguring the walking path, seeding certain areas to prairie, and servicing the bank loan. Kapsner recommended we continue to seek donations to help cover loan payments and future restoration work. Molinaro added that temporarily renting a portion of the land for farming, which the DNR grant allowed, could help cover such expenses. He also said that Dearlove will be approaching Pheasants Forever and other groups for restoration assistance.

B. Management plan review-and-completion schedule

Dearlove previously distributed draft planning-related documents for Board review. These materials included a proposed plan-review and completion schedule; draft table of contents; draft management goals, objectives, indicators and targets; and status of prior management recommendations. At Molinaro's request, Dearlove reviewed the purpose of the draft materials in the context of the overall plan. He also explained what the Board could expect moving forward in terms of reviewing and commenting on the different plan components. He anticipated being able to hold a public hearing in September. This was followed by questions and discussion from the Board.

C. Status of proposed ban on phosphorus lawn fertilizers

Molinaro updated the Board on recent legislative action relating to phosphorus lawn fertilizers. He provided some background on the issue, and indicated that a new bill had been introduced in the Assembly calling for a statewide ban with some limited exceptions. The Lake District, Town of Oakland and Jefferson County previously passed resolutions supporting such a measure for lake-protection purposes. He described the latest bill and said it was receiving significant bipartisan support. Molinaro said he expected the bill to pass this time around, and promised to keep the Board apprised of any future developments. While a citizen was recently advocating for the adoption of a local ordinance, Molinaro and Kapsner opined that the issue was best addressed at the state level for various implementation and enforcement reasons.

VII. New Business

Molinaro announced the 31st Annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention in Green Bay on March 18-20. This year's convention will focus almost exclusively on aquatic invasive species. An overview of the three-day agenda was provided, and Board members were invited to attend. Kapsner urged that continued attention be given to federal legislation targeting ballast discharges into the Great Lakes, especially since this was a major source of invasive species problems.

VIII. Correspondence

- A 11/20/08 letter was sent to Montgomery Associates regarding payment of out-of-scope items associated with the floodplain study. Sabella asked if the Board intended to follow through on its pledge to consider raising or budgeting funds to cover the remaining overrun costs. Molinaro agreed to put it on next meeting's agenda.
- 01/05/09 e-mail replies were received from Heidi Bunk and Laura Herman of Wisconsin DNR regarding zebra mussel monitoring. The recommendation was to discontinue counting and measuring zebra mussels, but to continue deploying samplers for possible early detection of quagga mussels.
- 01/09/09 letters and supporting documentation were sent to Ducks Unlimited and DNR to close out both land-acquisition grants. Ducks Unlimited will be issuing a check for \$5,000, and DNR will be issuing a final grant payment of \$2,225.

IX. Adjournment

Kapsner moved for adjournment at approximately 10:25 a.m. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: March 21, 2009

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD