

**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting Minutes  
April 18, 2009**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The Lake District Board met at the Oakland Town Hall on April 18, 2009. Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Gene Kapsner, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, John Molinaro, Mike Sabella, Dennis McCarthy and Walt Christensen. Also present were Paul Dearlove (Lake Manager), Gary Zibell (Cable 98), Kent Brown, Richard & Debbie Kutz, Dave & Jim DeGidio, Liz Fischer and Tom Schabowski.

**II. Public Comment**

There were no public comments concerning issues not already on the agenda.

**III. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting**

Draft minutes from last month's meeting were previously distributed for Board review. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the 03-21-09 minutes as written. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 7-0.*

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Sabella presented financial statements for the first quarter ending March 31, 2009. Handouts included Balance Sheet, Statement of Operations, Actual-to-Budget/Budget Remaining, General Ledger, and Transaction Listing. As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, there was \$122,672.72 in total current assets (total liabilities and equity), including \$200.00 in petty cash and the remainder as cash in the bank checking account. There was \$42,085.82 in total liabilities. Total current liabilities of \$9,285.82 consisted of \$1,085.82 in accrued federal and state payroll taxes, and a loan obligation of \$8,200.00 related to the Preserve acquisition. Total long-term liabilities of \$32,800.00 included the full loan amount of \$41,000.00, less the current loan portion of \$8,200.00. Total equity was \$80,586.90, consisting of \$14,714.00 in restricted funds, a \$20,393.49 fund balance, and \$45,479.41 in net income. For the three-month period ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Statement of Operations showed total revenues of \$77,530.44. Revenues included \$70,082.97 in property taxes, \$7,250.00 in grants, a \$10.00 rain garden workshop registration, and \$187.47 in interest income. Total direct costs were \$12,576.00 for landowner cost sharing, resulting in \$64,954.44 in revenue over direct costs. Total operating expenses were \$18,309.48, consisting mainly of staff wages, board member stipends, and general office expenses. This resulted in a general operating profit of \$46,644.96. Other expenses included \$674.00 charged to capital reserve/land acquisition, and \$491.55 for information and education, resulting in a net profit of \$45,479.41. *Molinaro moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented into the official record. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 7-0.*

**V. Lake Manager's Report**

Dearlove reported on his activities since the last meeting:

Lake District Preserve: A tenant farming lease was signed and first rental payment received. It was unclear whether there would be time to repair a gully before a crop is planted. If not, the plan was to reshape the gully and turn it into a grassed waterway after the fall harvest. Other recent activities included marking some of the property corners, making arrangements for debris removal (tires, abandoned car, etc.), and conducting a gypsy moth survey of the woodlot. According to Mark Watkins of the Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Department, there is currently no evidence of the destructive gypsy moths within the Preserve. The need for special hunting permissions or rules was also discussed. The consensus opinion was that this could be revisited in the future if any problems develop. Meanwhile, suggestions included posting hunting information at the entrance and encouraging visitors to wear blaze orange during hunting seasons.

Landowner Cost Sharing: The status of five, active cost-share projects was reviewed. It was noted that an additional six, pre-approved landowners had allowed their contract-signing deadlines to expire. A spreadsheet was passed around containing more specific project details. Dearlove said that these individuals would now have to reapply for funding consideration when and if they decide to re-commit. Discussion of other activities related to landowner cost sharing was reserved for later agenda items. These included a status report on the Hoard-Curtis Scout Camp project, and the results of the subcommittee evaluations for three new project proposals.

Lake-Management Planning: A water quality report relating to the lake's current and historic trophic condition was previously distributed to the Board. Discussion was postponed until later in the agenda. Dearlove noted necessary changes to the plan-completion schedule to reflect current workload realities. In particular, unavoidable delays would be likely due to grant-writing requirements for the Hoard-Curtis Scout Camp project. Previously-reviewed sections of the plan were now posted to the Lake District website for public review. As part of a fishery report update, it was confirmed that no walleye stocking occurred over the last two years due to insufficient DNR resources. However, stocking would be taking place again this spring. The DNR was also in the process of doing fyke-net surveys, and had promised to get us the results so they can be incorporated into our management plan. Preliminary survey results reveal healthy fish populations and low carp numbers. According to DNR fisheries biologist Don Bush, these findings offer little evidence that a permanent carp barrier is needed at the outlet.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **A. Payment of out-of-scope costs related to floodplain study**

Dearlove distributed copies of an e-mail from Jon Lefers of Montgomery Associates (MA) responding to the Board's offer to split the \$1,500 in total out-of-scope costs. Lefers was reluctant to agree to the offer, indicating that the costs were necessary and contractually justified. Dearlove said that Lefers was willing to wait for funds to be budgeted, but only if it didn't sour relations between MA and the Lake District. Following discussion, the Board agreed to come up with the remaining \$900 still owed. It was noted, however, that MA should have provided more advanced warning regarding the amount of the extra costs as they were being incurred. Sabella said payment would not be advisable until it could be addressed during this summer's budgeting process.

### **B. Review of Sylvan Mounds 1<sup>st</sup> Addition lakeshore planting bids for possible cost-share approval**

Debbie Kutz and Jimmy DeGidio submitted bids from LJ Reas Environmental (\$2,540) and McKay Nursery (\$2,259) for Board review. The bids were for the planting of a 1,280-square-foot area behind a recent riprap install, as per a DNR permit condition. Kutz and DeGidio said they preferred going with LJ Reas, particularly because she offered a better plant selection for the cost and they liked her work. Dearlove was of the opinion that the McKay proposal failed to meet the "responsible bid" test by not including native species. Molinaro added that the cost-share subcommittee had arrived at the same conclusion, and was recommending approval of cost sharing based on the LJ Reas bid. *Kapsner moved to approve cost sharing and accept the LJ Reas proposal as the lowest responsible bid. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. As a point of discussion, Sabella asked about plant guarantees. Molinaro replied that, regardless of any guarantee, it was the landowner's responsibility to replace plants as needed during the 10-year maintenance period. Dearlove added that he verifies the health of the plants at the time of installation and before signing-off on the project. Motion carried 7-0.*

### **C. Status of Hoard-Curtis Scout Camp restoration and decision on next steps**

Molinaro provided an update on the Hoard-Curtis project. This project is still awaiting final cost-share approval. Total costs for the proposed restoration were estimated to exceed \$65,000 based on preliminary estimates. Given the project's size and importance, he informed the Board that he made an executive decision to have Dearlove apply for a DNR Lake Protection Grant and riprap permit on behalf of Hoard-Curtis. This would involve considerable time over the next couple weeks to meet the May 1<sup>st</sup> grant-application deadline, consequently delaying progress on the lake management plan. He added that Hoard-Curtis was demonstrating its commitment to the project through aggressive fundraising and volunteer work.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Possible approval of contract to plant prairie seed on 4.5 acres of Preserve land**

A bid from EC3 Environmental Consulting Group was distributed for Board review. The proposal was to seed 4.5 acres of recently acquired Preserve land to native prairie. Molinaro noted that the cost was under the threshold that would require additional bids. He said that Jay Settersten of EC3 was asked to prepare the bid given his qualifications and prior efforts to get us a \$2,000 grant award from Pheasants Forever. The bid was for \$2,300, and included the cost of seed and labor. Kapsner recommended including an herbicide application that would cost an extra \$500. *Kapsner moved to contract with EC3 and spend up to \$2,800 for seeding and an herbicide treatment. Motion seconded by Sabella. As a point of discussion, Christensen questioned approving the use of an herbicide without knowing whether it would be needed. Gomez-Ibanez said the need would become known as soon as plants begin growing. It was agreed that the extra \$500 would only be spent if deemed necessary by the consultant. Motion carried 7-0.*

