

**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting Minutes  
September 17, 2011**

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

The Lake Ripley Management District Board of Directors met at the Oakland Town Hall on September 17, 2011. Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Gene Kapsner, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Mike Sabella, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, John Molinaro and Walt Christensen. Dennis McCarthy was absent. Also in attendance: Paul Dearlove (Lake Manager), Debbie Kutz, Shirley Teske, Kent Brown, Rich Schoemer, and Cambridge Cable TV 98.

**II. Election of Board Officers**

Molinaro outlined Section 33.29(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes. The statutes direct that the board, immediately following each annual meeting, elect a chairperson, secretary and treasurer to serve as officers. *Sabella moved to nominate Molinaro as chair. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 6-0. Molinaro moved to nominate Sabella as treasurer. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 6-0. Gomez-Ibanez moved to nominate Jacobsen-Brown as secretary. Motion seconded by Sabella. Motion carried 6-0.*

**III. Public Comment**

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

**IV. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting**

Draft minutes from the 07-16-11 regular meeting were previously distributed for Board review. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the minutes without additions or corrections. Motion seconded by Sabella. Motion carried 6-0.*

**V. Treasurer's Report**

Sabella presented the Treasurer's Report for the two-month period ending August 31, 2011. Receipts for the period amounted to \$45,752. Receipts consisted of \$116.00 in interest on the demand account, a \$100.00 donation to the restricted Friends of the Preserve account, \$20.00 for a plant sale reimbursement, \$40,819.00 in real estate taxes (second installment), \$4,663.00 in DNR grant reimbursement for the Hoard-Curtis Scout Camp project, and \$34.00 in personal property exempt computer state aid. Disbursements for the period amounted to \$19,021.00. A transaction listing documented the nature of each individual disbursement. As of August 31<sup>st</sup>, asset balances included \$200.00 in petty cash and \$170,418 in checking. *Jacobsen-Brown moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into the record. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 6-0.*

**VI. Lake Manager's Report**

**A. Weed harvesting and lake conditions**

Dearlove reported that weed harvesting operations were active through September 12<sup>th</sup>. Overall plant growth was unusually robust this summer, and has taxed our existing capabilities. All further discussion was deferred to the closed session due to an ongoing labor dispute. A final report documenting findings from this summer's aquatic plant inventory was distributed for board review. Findings were generally positive or consistent with prior surveys, including improved plant diversity and continued declines in Eurasian watermilfoil. One exception was that the non-native curly-leaf pondweed was becoming more prevalent. Early-season harvesting efforts were largely directed at this particular weed. Survey data also show greater depths of rooted plant growth, most likely due to higher water clarity. General water quality conditions, based largely on data collected by McCarthy, were reviewed. This included higher than average clarity readings, average phosphorus concentrations, and one bacteria warning at the Ripley Park beach this summer, most likely due to geese activity. Two rounds of crayfish sampling failed to yield any native or invasive crayfish. The annual pier and watercraft census was also completed. No unusual findings were reported other than a continued increase in number of boatlifts.

**B. Landowner cost sharing**

The Hoard-Curtis Scout Camp shoreland restoration is nearing completion, with a final round of planting to be completed in October. A second DNR grant reimbursement was received for work previously completed. Shoreline-repair work at the Lindelof property was completed and paid for. Rain garden work at the Hoiby property is supposed to move forward this fall, but no word yet from the landowner or contractor regarding a start date. The

Mar-Pohl shoreline project is still on hold while the landowner collects the necessary contractor bids. These bids should be available for board review by the October meeting. It is anticipated that the landowner will be requesting a project extension.

**C. Lake District Preserve activities**

A second mowing of the new prairie was completed. A Request for Proposals for forestry mowing was drafted and distributed for board review. The RFP will be discussed and hopefully approved at the next board meeting. The recommendation from SetterTech is to wait until next September to send it out, so the actual work can then be performed next winter. It was estimated that around \$25,000 would have to be set aside for a project of this nature. In regards to long-range management planning, SetterTech requested that the Board play an active role in the visioning and goal-setting process. The board will be offered that opportunity at next month's meeting. The long-range plan is intended to assist the board in anticipating and budgeting for future property-management needs.

**D. Community outreach and events**

Recent events included an audit committee meeting, budget hearing and Annual Meeting of the property owners. Minutes from the budget hearing and Annual Meeting were drafted and distributed for review. Dearlove thanked Sabella and the audit volunteers for all their work, as well as Gomez-Ibanez and Jacobsen-Brown for taking hearing/meeting notes in his absence. Other events included the completion of the Facebook photo contest. The contest was successful in generating increased traffic to our new Facebook page. Jeanne Scherer, LRMD summer intern, was acknowledged for her efforts. Although the paid internship has concluded, Scherer has agreed to continue working for the District on a limited basis for class credit. She is currently working with Gomez-Ibanez to plan a Citizen Science event at the Preserve this fall. Other outreach consisted of several articles that ran in the Cambridge News, including its special Lake Ripley Edition. The Cambridge News was thanked for printing the articles and for allowing us to publish a corrected budget at no charge. Other activities included providing comment on the county's shoreland zoning updates. Adoption of the updates was postponed due to state-level uncertainty circulating around NR115.

**VII. Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Budget-publishing options, costs and legal requirements**

Molinaro explained that Wisconsin law requires direct mailing of the budget to all District property owners. This requirement is satisfied via the mailing of the Ripples newsletter. The budget also gets posted in the three official notice boxes around town, on our website, and at least once in the Cambridge News prior to the Annual Meeting. Since publishing in the newspaper is not a legal requirement, Molinaro asked if the board wanted to continue the practice which costs about \$260 each time. In light of ongoing cost-cutting efforts, he asked for input on whether the extra notification was worth the cost.

Kapsner suggested adhering to the legal requirements and not incurring unnecessary costs, pointing out that every property owner in the District receives the newsletter. Sabella advocated for continuing to publish at least once in the newspaper for purposes of improved transparency. Jacobsen-Brown concurred, saying it was good information for the general public to see, including those who are interested but not in the District. Christensen proposed publishing a notice of where the budget can be reviewed (such as at the library), rather than publishing the entire document. Discussion ended without reaching consensus. Until board action is taken to the contrary, Molinaro said the budget will get published once in the local newspaper. This cost had been budgeted for 2012.

**B. Citizen proposal for pet waste station at Preserve**

Dearlove introduced Rich Schoemer and summarized the request for a "Pet Waste Eliminator" station for the Preserve. A picture was distributed showing the system in use at the Cambridge fishing ponds. It included a metal sign with an attached bag dispenser and trash receptacle. Cost was \$135, but did not include installation or trash pickup charges. Current Preserve rules allow dogs on leash (except when used for hunting), and require owners to clean up after their pets. Schoemer spoke in favor of spending the small amount of money needed to keep pet waste off the trails, which he felt would encourage greater use of the property. He offered to pay for the system if the board could support it. Issues brought up during discussion included maintenance/access concerns, cost of trash pickup, nature and degree of current problem, and whether it might invite other problems like more dogs or illegal

trash dumping. Sabella said he liked the idea and, as treasurer, would happily accept any donations to help pay for it. He and Jacobsen-Brown proposed contacting the Town's waste hauler to see how much it would cost for regular trash removal. Following discussion, Molinaro said the matter would have to be further investigated.

**IX. Correspondence/Announcements**

- Treasurer Sabella submitted written certification of the Lake District's approved tax levy of \$118,257 to the Town clerk.
- 8-31-11 email from Hans Bralten expressing concern about the abundant weed growth and perceived need for more aggressive harvesting.
- 8-10-11 letter from Larry Aschbrenner stating that he no longer intends to pay his Lake District taxes, contesting the need for a lake manager, and asking to be removed from the Ripples mailing list.

**X. Closed Session [as per Wis. Stat. §19.85(1)(c) to consider staff employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data]**

*At 10:10 a.m., Kapsner moved to enter into closed session to discuss staffing concerns related to weed harvesting. Motion seconded by Sabella. Motion approved by a 6-0 roll call vote.* Shirley Teske provided copies of written statements from Ted Teske and Bill Ratzburg that she requested be read during closed session.

**XI. Return to Open Session**

*Kapsner moved to return to open session at 11:10 a.m. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 6-0.*

*Kapsner moved to cease weed-harvesting operations for the season, and to make arrangements to remove the equipment from the lake. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 6-0.*

**XII. Adjournment**

*Kapsner moved for adjournment at 11:10 a.m. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 6-0.*

Next meeting: October 15, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD