

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2011**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District Board of Directors met at the Oakland Town Hall on November 19, 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, Walt Christensen and Dennis McCarthy. Also in attendance: Paul Dearlove (Lake Manager), Rick Kutz, Kent Brown, Steve Mar-Pohl, and Cambridge Cable TV 98.

II. Public Comment

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

III. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting

Draft minutes from the 10-15-11 meeting were reviewed. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the minutes without additions or corrections. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 7-0.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

Sabella presented his treasurer's report for the one-month period ending October 31, 2011. Receipts for the period amounted to \$67.50 in interest income. There was \$8,527.66 in disbursements as detailed in the Transaction Listing. Disbursements mainly consisted of staff payroll, harvesting-related expenditures, Preserve maintenance, and general office expenses. Asset balances at the end of the period included \$200.00 in petty cash and \$135,227 in the checking account. *Jacobsen-Brown moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into the record. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 7-0.*

V. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove summarized Lake District activities since the last meeting. Phone logs and other supporting documents were disseminated. Harvesting equipment was winterized and returned to storage with help from three new crew members—Bruce Crump, Ed Grunden and Dick Langer. The harvesting committee will meet to evaluate the updated operations plan, current staff levels, wage rates, oversight procedures, DNR permitting requirements, etc.

It was reported that all shoreland-restoration work at the Hoard and Curtis Scout Camp was now complete. A final grant-reimbursement claim will be filed with DNR. The Hoiby project was also completed, consisting of four rain gardens and lakeshore plantings. The rain gardens proved effective during a large rainstorm that occurred in early November. Riprap bids were obtained for the Mar-Pohl shoreline work, and one new cost-share proposal was received since the last meeting.

Lake District Preserve activities included debris removal and surveying of the main woodlot in preparation for forestry mowing. Other activities included the design of four new kiosk displays, and the development of "guiding principles" that can be used to direct the completion of a 20-year plan. It was expected that a draft plan would be ready for board review by early spring. In addition, it was recommended that the forestry mowing RFP go out in March, allowing sufficient time to gather bids for purposes of 2013 budgeting.

Outreach included legislative hearing testimony on Senate/Assembly Bill 24 (dealing with DNR permitting in navigable waters), and the October 27th Autumn Discovery Day at the Preserve. Gomez-Ibanez and intern Jeanne Scherer were recognized for all their contributions to the planning of the event. Work was now underway on a winter edition of the Ripples newsletter.

VI. Old Business

A. Review bids and approve cost-share amount for Mar-Pohl shoreline project located at W9172 Ripley Rd.

Dearlove reviewed the scope and status of the project. Information from three contractor bids was shared for the shoreline riprap phase. Bids were not yet available for the lakeshore buffer phase. The landowner, Steve Mar-Pohl, was in attendance to answer questions and request a deadline extension to spring of 2012. The project-completion deadline was set to expire this December. Mar-Pohl explained that a busy work schedule had kept him from adhering to the timeline, but expressed his strong commitment to moving forward. He confirmed he would be able

to gather the requisite bids for the lakeshore plantings and complete all project phases prior to June 1st. Contractor qualifications, bidding procedures and oversight protocols were topics of board discussion. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve cost sharing 50% (or \$3,450) of the riprap installation based on the \$6,900 low bid submitted by A.L. Ltd. Landscaping, and with additional cost sharing to be determined by the board upon review of bids for the shoreline buffer. She further moved that a project extension be granted to June 1, 2012, to allow for the completion of the planting work. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 7-0.*

B. Approve guiding principles for development of 20-year plan for Preserve

Board members were asked to comment on a series of guiding principles--based largely on prior board input--pertaining to a 20-year plan for the Preserve. Once approved, the guidelines would be forwarded to SetterTech to direct his planning efforts. During discussion, minor edits were discussed and incorporated into the document. *Kapsner moved to approve the edited summary of guiding principles (see attached). Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 7-0.*

VII. New Business

A. Schedule 2012 Board meetings

The Board agreed not to schedule meetings for December (2011) or February (2012). Upcoming board meeting dates are as follows: 1/21, 3/17, 4/21, 5/19, 6/16, 7/21, 8/25 and 9/8 (8:00 a.m. budget hearing; 9:00 a.m. Annual Meeting). All meetings to start at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall unless otherwise indicated.

B. Lake District Preserve trapping application

A request was received by local trapper Larry Meyer to extend the application deadline for muskrat trapping. The proposal was to move the deadline from September 10 to October 10 in future years. The stated reason for moving the date was to allow for late-fall scouting of muskrat activity so trappers could determine whether efforts would be economical. During discussion, Molinaro expressed concern that applications would then be coming in right up to the start of the trapping season, with any decisions having to wait until the next board meeting. This could make it difficult for the board to review and act upon applications well enough in advance of the season. Discussion ended with no action being taken to change the application procedures.

VIII. Correspondence/Announcements

- A letter dated 11/14 was sent to Douglas and Valerie Nelson who own property adjacent to the Lake District Preserve woodlot. The letter informed them of the District's plans to survey the property boundary at that location, and to restore the Preserve woodlands through forestry mowing. The landowners were invited to discuss possible partnership opportunities concerning future restoration efforts.
- A 2011 weed-harvesting summary was sent on 11/1 to Susan Graham, Wisconsin DNR, as a condition of our mechanical harvesting permit.
- Written and oral testimony was submitted on 10/26 relating to Senate/Assembly Bill 24. The bill sought to dramatically change public-noticing requirements and permitting oversight for various activities conducted in navigable waters.

IX. Adjournment

Christensen moved for adjournment at 10:00 a.m. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 7-0.

Next meeting: January 21, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD

20-Year Lake District Preserve Plan

Guiding Principles

Overview

On 10-15-11, the Board had its first opportunity to respond to some general questions related to its vision and goals for the Preserve. This input was summarized in the draft meeting minutes (see excerpt below). Dearlove and Gomez-Ibanez held subsequent meetings with Settersten to build upon the Board's input, flesh out additional details as needed, and come up with a series of guiding principles that could be used for plan-development purposes. These guiding principles are hereby presented for Board consideration, modification and approval.

Update by SetterTech on 20-year plan for Preserve (10-15-11 Old Business)

Settersten previously posed several questions for Board consideration. Input sought from the Board included: purpose of the Preserve; management vision; public uses to be encouraged or discouraged; plans for future land purchases; degree of restoration desired; and budgeting implications. There was general agreement that the main purpose of the Preserve was to protect Lake Ripley, namely by protecting the inlet and serving as a water quality filter. Christensen cautioned that District taxpayers and supporters living off the lake might have a different perspective on the value of the resource. In such cases, wildlife habitat or opportunities for outdoor recreation may be considered equally or even more important. Sabella recalled that the original reason for getting grants and purchasing the land was to protect wetland areas and water quality. He felt the property has since developed into an educational asset. In light of staffing and financial constraints, he suggested that future management priority be given to maintenance, with a focus on controlling invasive species and extending the trail. He advocated it be managed to serve multiple purposes. Jacobsen-Brown concurred, indicating she wanted to see more public use of the Preserve. Gomez-Ibanez supported the need to control invasive species before they further encroach into the wetlands and reduce their function. She also felt volunteers would be important in carrying out much of the work. Discussion ended with Settersten explaining how the final plan will aid the District in realizing its various goals. His intention was to have a draft plan prepared by March.

Plan Design

The Preserve will be divided into discrete management zones, with prioritized tasks established for each zone. An amendable spreadsheet will identify individual tasks and associated costs by management zone for each year. Grant-eligible activities and those that are conducive to volunteer implementation will be noted. Forestry mowing will be included in the plan, with a tentative implementation date of winter 2012-2013. It is recommended that the RFP go out for bid in March 2012 for budgeting purposes. The plan will also address such issues as prescribed burn rotations; establishment and maintenance of access facilities (paths, signage, etc.); and how various activities should be timed and coordinated.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Main Purpose or Goal of Preserve

To protect Lake Ripley and its water quality by conserving critical headwater areas

Secondary Goals

- Watershed and natural resource education

- Habitat, especially for grassland/wetland-dependent wildlife
- Non-intrusive access for low-impact recreational uses (hiking, birding, nature exploration)

[NOTE: Additional lands subject to potential purchase are not currently identified.]

Primary Management Objective

Perform land-management activities that maximize wetland hydrologic functions, namely to improve the quality and modulate the volume of water flowing to Lake Ripley. This includes improving the water-absorption/filtration capacity of the wetlands and adjoining uplands.

[NOTE: Complete restoration of habitat types to pristine, pre-settlement conditions is not a primary objective due to budget constraints. Instead, efforts would be focused mainly on controlling or containing invasive pests in a priority-driven manner within identified management zones.]

“Encouraged” Uses

- Quiet, trail-based enjoyment and exploration of the Preserve
- Natural resource education
- Scientific research

“Permitted” Uses

- Hunting (grant condition)
- Trapping (grant condition)
- Leashed dogs on trails (Board-adopted rule)

“Discouraged” Uses

- Off-trail use by dogs or people that might unnecessarily disturb nesting wildlife or cause harm to fragile plant communities
- Biking or motorized vehicle use of any kind
- Any loud or disruptive activities

***Board Action Item**

Prior to the November board meeting, please consider whether these guiding principles reflect your perspectives on the management of the Preserve. Also, please plan to bring any specific concerns, additions or amendments to the meeting.