

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2013**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District Board of Directors met at the Oakland Town Hall on May 18, 2013. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, John Molinaro, Mike Sabella and Walt Christensen. Gene Kapsner and Dennis McCarthy were absent. Also in attendance: Paul Dearlove (LRMD Lake Manager), Debra Kutz, Rick Kutz, Kent Brown, and Leah Garrison of Cambridge Cable TV 98.

II. Public Comment

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

III. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting

Draft minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the 04-20-13 meeting minutes without additions or corrections. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 5-0.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

Sabella distributed and summarized his treasurer's report for the one-month period ending April 30, 2013. Receipts for the period amounted to \$5,925.18, consisting of \$74.61 in interest income, \$1,850.57 in real estate tax revenue, and a \$4,000.00 restricted donation from the Jacobsen-Brown Endowment Fund. The donors, who were both in attendance, were thanked for their generous contribution in support of shoreline/wetland restoration and stormwater control. Disbursements of \$11,108.05 mostly related to staff payroll, a DNR lake planning grant expense, harvester repairs, and general office expenses. A transaction listing was presented showing the details of individual disbursements. As of April 30th, asset balances included \$200 in petty cash and \$178,391 in the checking account. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into the record. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 5-0.*

V. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove summarized Lake District activities since the last meeting. Highlights included:

- Distribution of the Ripples newsletter
- Completion of the first round of water quality testing in the inlet and outlet streams
- Publicizing and preparation for the sustainable landscaping seminar, Preserve cleanup, and 'Clean Boats, Clean Waters' program
- CBCW program updates, including the status of volunteer recruitment, training workshops, and plans for hiring interns to replace Jeanne Scherer
- Report on volunteer projects at the Lake District Preserve
- Future UW-Whitewater collaborations with Dr. George Clokey (ecological restoration) and Dr. Eric Compas (GIS mapping/analysis)
- Major ongoing repairs and refurbishing of the weed harvester
- Legal counsel on budgeting and treatment of non-lapsable funds to comply with state statutes
- Representatives from Wisconsin Lakes confirmed to attend the June meeting

VI. Old Business

• **Discussion and possible action on potential transfer of FEMA-owned shoreline property to the District**
Molinaro distributed copies of the warranty deed restrictions he received from Jefferson County. The information on allowable and non-permitted uses related to vacant floodplain property located at N4214 Sleepy Hollow Rd. As discussed at the last board meeting, any FEMA rules and use restrictions would need to remain in place should the board pursue the property transfer.

Jacobsen-Brown recused herself from the discussion since she owns land adjacent to the property in question. Given the prospect of related maintenance costs, Sabella requested assurances that the acquisition would advance

the District's mission of protecting the lake. Christensen and Kent Brown commented that it provided an opportunity to control stormwater and showcase desirable management practices, including potential rain gardens and/or lakeshore restorations. Kent Brown cautioned that public access would be problematic, and discouraged any attempt to turn the property into a park. Molinaro replied that the Board could adopt a resolution disallowing certain uses, but warned that future Boards could reverse those policies. Gomez-Ibanez felt the use restrictions were compatible with the District's goals, and that gaining direct control over the property would be beneficial. ***Sabella moved to notify FEMA and Jefferson County of the District's interest in accepting the property transfer. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 4-0 with Jacobsen-Brown abstaining.***

VII. New Business

A. Discussion and possible action on draft Annual Meeting resolution pertaining to the budget presentation and treatment of non-lapsable funds

A draft authorizing resolution prepared by Attorney Bill O'Connor was distributed for review and consideration. Molinaro summarized that the purpose of the resolution was to formalize the budget format and the designation/use of non-lapsable funds in accordance with state statute. If approved by the Board, the resolution establishing a Lake Ripley Protection Fund would be brought to the Annual Meeting for adoption. This would be a non-lapsable fund used exclusively for capital and maintenance projects that are specifically identified and listed in the annual budget. During discussion, Jacobsen-Brown confirmed that Sabella, as the District's treasurer, was comfortable with the resolution. ***Gomez-Ibanez moved to present the resolution to the Annual Meeting with a recommendation for adoption. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 5-0.***

B. Weed harvester repairs and plans for future replacement

Molinaro and Dearlove reported on the significant maintenance and repair work that was in progress on the weed harvester, and the anticipated cost of that work. The repairs and part replacements were recommended by the lead mechanic of the equipment manufacturer (Aquarius Systems) after a thorough inspection was performed. According to Aquarius, these types of expenses are typical given the advanced age of the equipment in relation to its anticipated life expectancy. Aquarius estimates that the District might get another 3-5 years of use out of the machine, but that parts will continue to wear out and become increasingly expensive to fix or replace. In total, there was about \$10,000 in repairs and replacement parts needed to keep the equipment running smoothly. Dearlove noted that the costs would be a lot more if it were not for the hard work and competency of the harvesting crew. He said staff was doing a great job of servicing the equipment and performing most of the repairs in-house.

Considerable discussion ensued regarding budgeting and financing strategies for replacing the harvester. New machines run about \$130,000. While 50% cost-share grants are currently available through the Wisconsin Waterways Commission, the future of the grant program was presently in question. Jacobsen-Brown felt there was little choice but to present this issue at the Annual Meeting, and to start the process of budgeting for a new machine. Sabella said it would be advantageous to get an independent determination on which harvester components were at greatest risk of failure, and what it would involve to replace them. In reference to the value of the current machine, Christensen noted the time-sensitive marketability that comes with selling a "recently refurbished" harvester. He also made a case for borrowing in terms of realizing a more equitable timing of benefits and tax burdens. Molinaro said he favored laying out the different options at the Annual Meeting, and then requesting authorization to borrow and/or appropriate funds as necessary to acquire a new harvester. He requested that this matter be continued to the next meeting.

C. Discussion and possible action on Lake District Preserve rules and policies related to campfires

There was limited discussion on whether a rule or policy should be created to specifically regulate campfires at the Preserve. It was agreed that the rules and policies that other entities, such as parks departments, have enacted would be researched.

VIII. Correspondence/Announcements

- Final report and grant-reimbursement request sent to DNR on 5/15 for *Feasibility of Restoring Extirpated Non-game fishes to Lake Ripley*
- 5/6 invitation from Rita Hayden, Chair of the Midwest Hydro Users Group, to speak at a 5/16 AIS conference in Wisconsin Dells
- 5/6 email correspondence to DNR, UWEX and Wisconsin Lakes representatives inquiring about strategies addressing shorelines affected by ice push

- 5/2 email correspondence from Clay Alexander of Aquarius Systems recapping his assessment of the weed harvester's status and remaining life expectancy

IX. Adjournment

Christensen moved for adjournment at 10:205 a.m. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 5-0.

Next meeting: June 15, 2013 (9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD