

**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting Minutes  
March 15, 2008**

**I. Call to Order & Roll Call**

The Board of Directors of the Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) convened its regular monthly meeting at the Oakland Town Hall on March 15, 2008. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: John Molinaro, Mike Burow, Dennis McCarthy, Jane Jacobsen-Brown and Georgia Gomez-Ibanez. Gene Kapsner and Mike Sabella were absent. Also present were Paul Dearlove (LRMD Lake Manager), Greg Shafer, Kent Brown and Cambridge Cable TV 12.

**II. Public Comment**

Greg Shafer said he was still interested in acquiring some of the land next to his property that the Board was trying to purchase. He asked if it was possible to get the names of our DNR contacts so he could deal with them directly. Molinaro clarified that the LRMD, and not the DNR, has an option to purchase on the land next to the Preserve. He explained that DNR's involvement in this matter was strictly limited to considering our two grant applications that would help with the purchase. Molinaro said the Board would take Shafer's request under consideration as the acquisition effort progresses.

**III. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Minutes from the last meeting had been distributed to the Board for review. *Jacobsen-Brown moved to approve the 01/19/08 meeting minutes without any additions or corrections, and was seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 5-0.*

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Molinaro requested that the Treasurer's Report be postponed until the next meeting due to Treasurer Sabella's absence.

**V. Lake Manager's Report**

Dearlove distributed copies of his Lake Manager Report, updated phone logs, and other handouts related to his activities since the last meeting. He said much of his time has been devoted to pursuing the public land acquisition next to the Lake District Preserve. This work has included securing the necessary appraisals, preparing two large grant applications, and approaching a number of prospective donors. He said he would reserve further discussion on the topic for the closed session portion of the meeting. Other work and announcements consisted of the following:

- An operations plan for the weed-harvesting program was completed. The plan had been reviewed by the operators and distributed for Board consideration. He said additional details would be covered under a later agenda item.
- Two rain garden workshops and a native plant sale were set to take place at the town hall this summer. The first workshop will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The second workshop will take place on June 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:30-12:30, with the native plant sale running from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Preliminary details were shared, including proposed curriculum, registration cost, participating instructors, and basic goals and objectives.
- Dearlove said he planned to co-host a half-day training seminar at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention (April 17-19, 2008). The hands-on, interactive seminar will instruct participants on how to design and implement community-based social marketing programs for lake-protection purposes.
- Progress continues on the updating of existing LRMD management plans. An outline will be shared at the May or June meeting to solicit preliminary Board input. It will present upcoming planning and public-participation activities, general report content, priority short- and long-term action items, and estimated completion timelines.
- A report on the status of several pending projects will be presented at the next meeting. In addition, plans are underway to go back and thoroughly evaluate the condition and performance of previously installed practices.
- A prescribed prairie burn at the Preserve is scheduled for the second week in April.
- The Lake Ripley area litter cleanup is scheduled for May 10, 2008, from 10:30-12:30.
- Three legislative bills related to lakes are currently being followed at the state level. The bills pertain to a proposed ban on phosphorus lawn fertilizers, the codification of pier rules, and possible ratification of a Great Lakes Compact.

**VI. Old Business**

**A. Adopt authorizing resolutions for land-acquisition grants**

Dearlove distributed copies of the authorizing resolutions that were required for grant-application purposes. *Burow moved to approve LRMD resolutions #2008-1 and #2008-2 for purposes of completing the DNR Stewardship and Lake Protection grant applications. Motion was seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 5-0.*

**VII. New Business**

**A. Operations plan for weed harvesting**

Dearlove distributed copies of a weed-harvesting operations plan, and summarized its purpose and major elements. Plan specifications and guidance were provided for the following: standard operations period, recommended staffing levels, compensation rates, wage reviews, minimum operator qualifications, training requirements, scheduling protocol, timesheet preparation, oversight procedures, and board reporting policies. Molinaro questioned whether the plan was capable of evolving in response to changes in policy, procedure or weed-growth conditions. Dearlove responded that making future policy or procedural amendments to the plan could be easily accomplished. He said it was designed to have built-in flexibility to addresses variability in weed-growth conditions, namely through work scheduling and oversight mechanisms. Jacobsen-Brown asked if the operators were satisfied with the definition of mechanical work, which can command a higher wage rate. Dearlove confirmed that the operators had reviewed and seemed satisfied with all plan components. Molinaro suggested its adoption be postponed until the next meeting to give the Board more time for review.

**B. Nomination of Jay Settersten to serve on cost-share project scoring committee**

Molinaro briefly summarized the role of the cost-share project scoring committee. With Derek Hoffman recently stepping down from the Board and the committee, Molinaro said it was time to appoint a replacement. He then introduced Jay Settersten and noted that the Board should have already received copies of his bio. He said he felt Settersten would make a fine addition to the committee given his expertise in stormwater management and ecological restoration. Settersten added that while he lives just outside the district's boundaries, he would be grateful for the chance to get more involved and contribute as a volunteer. *Molinaro moved to appoint Jay Settersten to the cost-share project scoring committee. Motion was seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 5-0.* Committee members now consist of Molinaro and Settersten, with Dearlove acting as technical advisor. Dearlove provided Settersten with a copy of the scoring sheet used to evaluate proposed projects, and said he hoped to convene a committee meeting in the near future.

**C. Schedule future meeting dates**

The Board set the following meeting schedule: 4/12/08, 5/10/08, 6/21/08, 7/19/08, 8/16/08 (budget hearing and Annual Meeting), 9/20/08, 10/18/08, and 11/15/08. All meetings would start at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall, except for the June meeting which would start at 8:30 due to the rain garden workshop. There would not be a meeting in December.

**VIII. Correspondence**

There was no other significant correspondence that had not already been addressed through the course of the meeting.

**IX. Closed Session [as per Wis. Stats. § 19.85(1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchase of public properties]**

Molinaro asked for a roll call vote to enter into closed session as authorized under Wis. Stats. §19.85(1)(e). All members present voted in favor of moving the meeting into closed session at 9:50 a.m.

**X. Return to Open Session & Adjournment**

*McCarthy moved to return to open session for purposes of adjournment at approximately 10:45 a.m. Motion was seconded by Burrow. Motion carried 5-0.*

*Jacobsen-Brown immediately moved for adjournment. Motion was seconded by Burow. Motion carried 5-0.* Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: April 12, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary  
Recorder: PDD

Date