



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 18, 2020
9:00 A.M. at Oakland Town Hall
N4450 County Road A, Cambridge WI 53523**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Jimmy DeGidio, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Board members present in addition to DeGidio: Doug Maurer, Craig Kempel, and Walt Christensen. Present via teleconference: Deb Kutz, Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez. Absent: Keith Kolb. Also present: Beth Gehred, Lake Manager, Jon Tilp (in-person), Also present via teleconference: Lianna Spencer, Lake Researcher

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Approve Minutes of March 21, 2020 meeting

Christensen moved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Board on Mar 21, 2020, with the correction of an extra 0 removed from \$18,700 in Lake Manager's Report. Second by Kempel. Passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz distributed to the Board copies of the Treasurer's Report ending Mar 31, 2020. As of that date checking account balance was \$165,786.38. Income for the month was \$10,159.53 consisting of \$10,000 Jacobsen-Brown restricted donation and \$159.53 in interest. Operational expenses for the District amounted to \$6,433.81. Kutz summarized the first quarter 2020. The District is generally on-budget with all items. Care will need to be taken with line 666 - Office Expenses which has been drawn down to \$920 to last the remainder of the calendar year, and budget line 957 - Information & Education which has \$2400 remaining to print two *Ripples*. Since the first *Ripples* cost \$1700, we will need to make adjustments to stay on track. Kutz attended a 3-hour training offered on-line through the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention that is helping her finalize end-of-year 2019 reporting. She will be asking for budget year 2021 input by Board members in the May meeting in preparation of creating a draft 2021 budget.

Gómez-Ibáñez moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into record. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried.

V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence –

Gehred highlighted activities as outlined in her written Lake Manager's Report. Most notable were having had to cancel the prescribed Prairie burn due to a temporary ban on burning issued by the Cambridge Fire Department and the state DNR as part of COVID-19 precautions, attending the 3-day Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention on-line, receiving advance notification of approval by the DNR of an Early Detection-Rapid Response grant to manage phragmites (official acceptance as yet not having arrived), advancing an MOU draft with Asphalt Production, Inc. outlining our partnership, completing her boater-education certification and nearing completion with a 14-week Watershed Specialist Training course offered through the University of Minnesota. Kempel requested a chance to meet seasonal staff, which DeGidio assured him would happen at an upcoming Board meeting. Correspondence included two Daily Jefferson County Union articles highlighting Kutz and Christensen, notification of a \$10,000 grant from the Cambridge Foundation for land acquisition, and an acceptance letter for Gehred into the Lake Leaders program for 2020.

VI. New Business

a. Lake Management Plan Update

Gehred summarized the work advancing the Plan Update. Spencer has made progress updating one of the longest chapters in the Plan – Chapter 5 – Plant Management. A combination of volunteer data entry, and the work of Osmon got the Public Opinion Survey into shape for analysis to determine insights from landowners for management priorities.

b. Discussion and possible action on Turtle Crossing Materials

Board reviewed possible designs before choosing the design donated by Maurer. He invited input for modifications and was asked to change the photo to a Midlands Painted Turtle, to increase the size of the LRMD logo, and to put the Wisconsin Turtle Conservancy Program URL on it. He agreed and volunteered to have 25-30 made as a donation to the District. Kempel suggested an article be put in the Ripples about the effort.

Gómez-Ibáñez moved to approve the turtle sign design with revisions and to accept the donation of 25-30 signs from Maurer. Second by Kempel. Passed.

c. Discussion and possible action to explore watershed signage

After Board discussion it was agreed that the idea to put up signs that would alert drivers when they are entering the Lake Ripley watershed had merit enough for the Lake Manager to spend time exploring regulations, costs and other details. Christensen suggested one way around restrictions of adding them to rights-of-way would be to use existing posts. No vote taken.

d. Discussion and possible action to explore reviewing the District website.

Ideas that came from Board discussion included the creation of a website update committee; making sure that before any changes are made that there be a presentation of the proposed new design to the Board; that there be an addition of a Donate button; that we look for guidance from other Lake Districts/Associations for design features. It was agreed that our existing website looked antiquated, so despite our busy season ramping up, this is a good time to move forward and to accept the offer of help from Steve Tesmer, Tall Guy Productions, who was given good references by Christensen and Gehred.

Maurer moved to explore the update of the District website. Second by Gómez-Ibáñez. Passed.

VII. Old Business

a. Update on Legislative Action Alerts

Lake Manager reported that the State Joint Resolution 1 had paused forward progress with state legislation until next session. Local action upcoming would be attendance of the Jefferson County Zoning and Planning Hearing to continue following the approval process for Conditional Use Permitting for the reopening of the Draeger Quarry. The addition of a two-door garage and workshop near Hwy 12 on the property at N4272 Sleepy Hollow Road was not something that the District felt a need to weigh in on at the hearing.

b. Critical Habitat Area Designation Progress Update

Input on the plan was welcome at this meeting. The CHA Designation Report is on the home page of the website. People are invited to read the draft and submit comments by April 20, 2020 to the DNR via Susan Graham's email susan.graham@wisconsin.gov.

Adjournment

Christensen **moved to adjourn. Second by Kempel.** Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Next meeting: May 16, 2020, with start time of 9 am, at the Oakland Town Hall. Modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic response are anticipated and will be announced with the official noticing of the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gòmez-Ibàñez, Secretary
Recorder: Beth Gehred

Date April 18, 2020

APPROVED