



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 16, 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: Debbie Kutz, Doug Maurer, Craig Kempel, and Walt Christensen. Present via teleconference: Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Keith Kolb. Also present: Beth Gehred, Lake Manager, Jon Tilp (in-person), Also present via teleconference: Lianna Spencer, Lake Researcher, Dwight Osmon, Field Tech

II. Public Comment

None. The Board chair noted the passing of Ann Molinaro, long-time volunteer with the Lake District, and wife of one of the organizers of the District, and 20-year Chair, John Molinaro.

Thanks were given to Doug and Leah Maurer for their donation of 25 Turtle Crossing signs for use around the District and beyond to alert motorists to this being turtle nesting season.

III. Approve Minutes of April 18, 2020 meeting

Debbie Kutz moved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Board on Apr 18, 2020. Second by Gómez-Ibáñez. Passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Kutz distributed to the Board copies of the Treasurer's Report ending April 30, 2020. As of that date checking account balance was \$162,028.38. Income for the month was \$3,548 consisting of \$3023 lottery credit, \$500 restricted land purchase donation and \$24.56 in interest. Operational expenses for the District amounted to \$9696.81. Kutz explained that there is a tradition at the District of the treasurer giving monthly updates, exceeding the quarterly reporting that is the legal requirement, and she prefers to continue to do so.

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

Kutz went over the first quarter 2020 report that had been prepared by the accountant. She explained that she intended to have the accountant pick up some responsibilities that had formerly been handled by the Board treasurer. It required slight changes to her role, but she felt it better suited the interests of the District for future recruitment of Treasurers. There was money put into the 2020 budget to accommodate this need, and so far there had been no additional costs associated with the move.

Gómez-Ibáñez moved to accept the May Treasurer's Report and enter it into record. Motion seconded by Kempel. Motion carried.

V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence –

Gehred highlighted activities as outlined in her written Lake Manager's Report. Most notable was the hiring of the CBCW staff, the search for additional lakeplant harvesters, the upcoming delivery of \$800 worth of native plants to conclude this year's native plant sale, kayaking of a stretch of the inlet creek, and completion of her University of Minnesota Watershed Specialist certificate, a 112-hour interactive online training. Correspondence included notification of a \$3,000 grant from Alliant Energy for land acquisition, a letter from Curt Byfield of the

DNR saying that our EDR grant had been approved but official acceptance would be coming no earlier than June, a letter of Senator Tammy Baldwin thanking the District for its support for conserving and restoring the Great Lakes, and a notice from the WDNR that District secretary Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez had been named an Invader Crusader for her work educating about and managing aquatic and terrestrial invasive species around both the Cambridge School and Lake Ripley Management District.

VI. New Business

a. Lake Management Plan Update

Gehred summarized the work advancing the Plan Update. Feedback about rationale for edits to Chps 5 and 6 by the committee was positive. Gehred thanked Spencer and Gómez-Ibáñez for their work on both chapters. Gehred also reported that there will be a public meeting to give the results of the public opinion survey, and to offer a chance for lake residents to learn about the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan. The meeting is likely to take place in June.

b. Discussion and possible action on phragmites management grant

Board was updated on the status of the EDR grant and the informational letter to the landowners to explain the extent of the treatments that would be undertaken in the next five years and the preference of the District to have their cooperation in the process. The decision was to move forward with the management of the invasive species, for the good of the many and the lake, under the authority of the conservation easement on the deed. The letter will be resent as a courtesy to the landowners with the statement that we are still open to input, but we are moving forward as outlined.

Kolb moved to resend the letter to the landowners with the signature area removed. Second by Doug Maurer. Passed. Christensen amended the motion to say that the outreach should go out on Wednesday, certified mail. Motion seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion carried.

c. Introduction of two new staff members.

Lianna Spencer, attending via teleconference, spoke to her educational and professional background pertinent to her LRMD position as Lake Researcher. Dwight Osmon followed with his professional background pertinent to his LRMD position as Field Technician. DeGidio explained to the Board that the Researcher position is funded by a DNR LPL grant, and the Field Tech position is funded through the 2020 budget. Both staff were warmly welcomed.

d. Discussion on 2021 Budget item Board requests

Kutz spoke to the need for the Board to start to suggest items to include in the 2021 budget. DeGidio suggested that we rent a boat slip for the District boat, sundry expenses were suggested to accommodate this change (lock, cover, etc.). Kutz suggested the budget should accommodate increased accounting and bookkeeping expenses, Kempel suggested increased staffing levels, if continued, will need a budget. Gomez-Ibanez had a list of items for the Preserve that she will get to the Lake Manager in time for the budget talks. Kolb agreed with all earlier suggestions and advocated for an approach to the budget that does not use our reserve to fund current operations. Kutz explained that as a government body, we are advised to keep our budget to within 10% of our working needs for the year. DeGidio assured Kolb that the practice of using our reserves to offset the mil rate was not the intention for the upcoming year.

e. Lake Manager Evaluation Process

DeGidio asked that board members fill in the evaluation form for the Lake Manager within the next week, per the process that was established by the Board in 2017, to mark the one-year employee anniversary. These should be mailed or dropped off directly with the District chair before the next Board meeting. The Board will enter closed session at the June meeting for discussion and decision.

VII. Old Business

a. Update on Legislative Action Alerts

Lake Manager reported she'd attended the Jefferson County Zoning driving meeting for two parcels on the southwest side of the intersection of Hwy 18 and County Road A, and will be watching developments as the petitioners have the land included in the Town of Oakland urban growth area. She also said that changes to the way that the District conducts its election will likely be guided by the passage of new state law dictating the process.

b. Discussion and Possible Action on MOU between Asphalt Contractors, Inc and LRMD
The Board reviewed the MOU.

Christensen moved to approve the MOU with amendments as tracked. Motion seconded by Gómez-Ibáñez. Motion carried.

c. Discussion and Possible Action - Critical Habitat Area Designation

The date for public input on the plan has ended. There were 3 comments given. Gehred reported that Graham is moving forward with the work and feels that the process will be wrapped up ahead of calendar year 2021.

d. Update on website research

There were no objections to building a test website on the Lakekits platform, and accepting the proposal from Tall Guy Productions for \$1200 of donated help in designing a test website, as outlined by his proposal.

Adjournment

Christensen **moved to adjourn. Second by Kempel.** Meeting adjourned at 11:07 am.

Next meeting: June 20, 2020, with start time of 9 am, at the Oakland Town Hall. If there are modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic response they will be outlined with the official noticing of the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez, Secretary
Recorder: Beth Gehred

Date May 16, 2020