



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 24, 2018
9:00 A.M. at Oakland Town Hall**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District Board of Directors met at the Oakland Town Hall on February 24, 2018. Chairman DeGidio called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Board members present at roll call: Jimmy DeGidio, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Mike Sabella, Craig Kempel, Mike Doman, Walt Christensen. Keith Kolb was absent. Also in attendance: Andrew Sabai (LRMD Lake Manager) Deb and Rick Kutz.

II. Approval of January 20, 2018 minutes

A. Sabai handed out printed minutes with typographical corrections. Sabai confirmed with Sabella that the minutes should read 2017 taxes. *Gomez-Ibanez motioned to approve minutes with typographical corrections, Kempel seconded. Motion passed 5-0, Christensen abstained.*

III. Treasure's Report.

A. Sabella presented treasure's report for January 2018. During the month of January there were \$52,217 of receipts. Received advanced payment on Clean Boats Clean Water, donation in memory of Karen Bennett, and received first installment of real estate taxes from the Town of Oakland and the Village of Cambridge totaling \$51,654. Total disbursements for the month of January were \$9,182. Sabella explained the payment to former Lake Manager Lisa Griffin for \$4,641 for accumulated sick time. \$437 was paid to her for her help during the lake manager transition. The accumulated sick time and transition pay were non-budgeted items. DeGidio said that the transition work was very important and worth it for the taxpayers. *Kempel motion to approve January Treasure's report, Gomez-Ibanez second. Motion carried 6-0.*

B. Sabella presented the year end report for 2017. Total assets as of December 31, 2017 were \$80,634 and there were no liabilities. Sabella explained the Fund Balance line of \$58,802 as being accumulated through unspent budgets over many years, and that this money can be used for unallocated expenses. In 2017 these funds were used to cover legal expenses and balance the budget. Christensen requested a future breakdown of expenses in the preserve from 2017.

IV. Lake Manager's Report

A. Sabai discussed general office keeping progress: cleaning, filing, and storing outdated office equipment. Sabai asked if these items could be recycled. DeGidio suggested that the equipment be donated to local non-profit groups. Sabai created a blog in order to update the public in a timely fashion of the district's activities and nature events in the area. Near-term plans were setting the up the 2018 plant order, purchasing GPS for the harvester, hiring Clean Boats Clean Water intern. Long-term projects started were: conducting a plant and animal survey of the Lake District Preserve, and working on updates to the Lake and Lake District Preserve's management plans. Sabai explained his typical work hours of arriving before 8:00 and working 8 hrs. He will be on vacation from March 23-30th. DeGidio asked that absence of the lake manager be posted on the office door and on the district website and that phone calls be directed to him during the Lake Manager's absence. DeGidio asked that we can get the tree replacement program going for the spring, using funds already allocated in the cost-share program.

B. **Correspondence/announcements.** Sabai met with Ed Grunden and Ryan Degner from Ryan's Auto Care to discuss the possibility of using Degner as a broker to purchase a dump truck. Received an advance payment for the GPS of \$875.00. He met with Patricia Cicero at Jefferson Land and Water Conservation. Cicero discussed past and future projects with Sabai and introduced him to county staff.

V.

Old Business

- A. **Discussion and possible action on DNR lands for sale within the watershed.** Sabai explained that we are waiting on a getting an appraisal for the land and minor paperwork to complete the requirements to receive grant funds for the purchase.
- B. **Discussion and possible action on the purchase of Town of Oakland dump truck.** DeGidio said in discussions with the Town of Oakland that we should make an offer for the dump truck, but they do not yet have a replacement. Doman explained that there might be a need to expand the gate at the Boy Scout Camp. Kempel said that we need to make sure the dump truck will hook up to the trailer and see what it would take to add sides to the box. There was some discussion about if the bed was large enough to haul a full harvester load. Sabai said he talked to Dick Langer earlier in the week. Langer said he thought it took about 15 minutes to run a load of weeds and return. If the town's dump truck took two loads instead of one, it could potentially cost an extra \$1,000 in labor for a season like the 2017 harvest. The extra expense may be worth it for having a smaller dump truck to use at the Lake District Preserve. DeGidio suggested we continue looking into the Town of Oakland dump truck and that we confirm the truck hitch can be altered to hook up to the harvester. There was verbal agreement from the board – no motion made.

VI. **New Business**

- A. **Discussion and possible action on expanded stream monitoring for 2018.** Sabai presented a PowerPoint on stream monitoring: *The district monitors the inlet stream to understand the health of the stream, and Lake Ripley, which receives the bulk of its phosphorus from agricultural runoff, the majority of which flows into the inlet stream. Phosphorus is the main driver of alga blooms and poor water clarity, the main concerns of Lake Ripley users. Current parameters monitored annually are: transparency, dissolved oxygen, and temperature. Phosphorus sampling has only occurred a few seasons. The current monitoring is inexpensive and a good indicator of basic health but misses the total phosphorus load entering the lake. Increasing the amount of data collected, particularly phosphorus concentration and stream flow (to calculate phosphorus load) will help guide management decisions. The data collected can be used in designing management practices to remove phosphorus from the creek water. Currently water from the creek only flows into the wetlands of the Lake District Preserve under severe flooding events. By restoring the connectivity to the wetland, by lowering the floodplain, diverting the stream into a pond, or returning the natural meander the stream, sediment and the phosphorus it contains can be made to drop out of the water as it slows down. In order to start modifying the wetlands we need a lot more data on water quality.* Sabai then made a proposal at several possible funding levels to begin an expanded stream monitoring in 2018 with the goal of adding phosphorus to the sampling and increasing the number of sampling events from 6 to 20.

Discussion: After the presentation Sabella asked how long the monitoring would take place before any work would be started in the wetland. Sabai explained that at least two year's worth of monitoring would occur before breaking ground on wetland manipulation. Sampling would continue during construction and afterward to assess the effectiveness. Christensen asked where the source of the agriculture phosphorus was. Sabai said that phosphorus is naturally occurring in the soil, and also added to fields as fertilizer. These can then erode and be washed into waterways. Doman asked about potential funding sources implementing the solutions to the problem. Sabai said funding can be provided by the DNR and a wide range of other sources if wildlife habitat is a portion of the conservation measure. Sabella explained that the district has money that can be used from unallocated funds in the budget to fund the increased stream monitoring project. ***Gomez-Ibanez motioned to allocate up to \$10,000 to fund the equipment purchases and expenses for the project. Second Kempel. Motion carried 6-0.***

VII. Adjournment

Kolb motioned to adjourn at 11:23 am seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 6-0.

Next meeting: March 17, 2018 (9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall).

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Secretary Date
Recorder: LAG