



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 19, 2018
9:00 A.M. at Oakland Town Hall**

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
Chairman Jimmy DeGidio called the meeting to order at 9:00. Board members present at roll call: Jimmy DeGidio, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Mike Sabella, Craig Kempel, Walt Christensen, Mike Doman. Keith Kolb was excused. Also in attendance: Andrew Sabai (LRMD Lake Manager), Roger Rude, and Rick Kutz.
- II. **Public Comment**
DeGidio called for public comment for any items not on the agenda. There were none.
- III. **Approval of April 21, 2018 minutes**
Motion Gomez-Ibanez to accept meeting minutes. Sabella second. Motion passed
- IV. **Treasurer's**
A. Total receipts for the \$2,182 mostly real-estate taxes and earned interest. Disbursements were \$7,227. Agrecol's \$625 check was misplaced by them and will be voided. The original order was reduced to \$381, because some plants were not in stock. A portion of the order will be planted at the rain garden on the lakeshore, and the remainder are paid for by residents for their own planting.
B. **Motion to approve Treasure's Report Gomez-Ibanez, Christensen second, Motion passed.**
- V. **Lake Manager's Report**
A. **Activity** Doman asked if the membranes around the drains on Ripley Road are maintained. DeGidio said that the contractors will be picking up the silt fences next week and repair washouts. Kolb asked how satisfied the town was with the project. DeGidio explained the town was satisfied overall with the project, but there were some complaints about the depth of some of the ditches. Kolb asked Sabai if there would be an additional load into the lake, because of the road work. Sabai explained that it was hard for him to say, because he was not involved with the project at the start, but any construction project is going to have runoff no matter how well erosion control is implemented. The effects should only be short-term. **Stream monitoring** Sabai explained he was very happy with the data being collected. He passed around a sample of water from the creek which contained a large amount of suspended organic matter. The water quality that day was impacted by a large number of carp migrating upstream. The carp were only in the stream for a few days. Kolb asked if some barrier could be put in to the outlet. Sabai said a barrier could be put in the creek, but that the carp population appeared to be low according to fisheries reports. Sabai showed some photos of fish that he has been catching fish in minnow traps to determine what is living in the creek. He also shared some photos of the creek and some of the sampling equipment. The **Prairie burn** looked successful in killing the willows and other trees. DeGidio asked if we will be burning or mowing annually. Sabai said the scheduling would have to be looked as the preserve management plan is updated. Christensen suggested that we seek volunteers to do the burning to save funding. Plant order came in and was distributed to the residents who ordered them. Our portion of the order has been planted at the Lakeshore and Town Hall raingardens.
B. **Near term plans. Clean Boats Clean Waters.** Sabai sent job announcements to several departments at nearby universities but did not get any applications. He is looking at the applicants that Jefferson County had for Rock Lake and will be contacting those not offered for the position. He will also contact Richard Trailer, part of the harvest crew, who had done it last year. Other plans include: harvester will be prepped and launched, and GPS will be purchased for it.

- C. **Mid-term plans.** Sabai would like to have a budget meeting to discuss what projects we want to work on for next year. Sabella said that we would not have the first six months of budget data before July meeting. But we agreed that we could have a project meeting to begin prioritizing what we might be able to do in the coming fiscal year.
- D. **Long-term plans** include management plan updates for Lake Ripley and the Lake District Preserve.
- E. **Correspondence:**
 - **Ripley Estates Wetland.** Sabai met with Donna Pahaski to discuss the wetland within Lake Ripley Estates that is a sort of common area for that neighborhood. Donna asked several questions about management of the property, and said that the owner, Dwaine Sievers was interested in turning over to a group that would protect it. DeGidio will do some more work to investigate the neighborhood situation. He also said their best option would be to form an LLC for the sole purpose of managing the property.
 - **The trapper** at the preserve, Travis Olsen sent in his trapping report for the last season. He caught. 37 muskrats 5 opossums and 11 raccoons.
 - **Majestic Pines pier** – DNR denied slips on the east side of the pier. Now they want to extend pier.

VI. Old Business

- A. **Update on grant for DNR lands purchased by the District.** Paperwork is nearly completed, and we should be reimbursed soon.
- B. **Discussion and possible action on the purchase of a new dump truck.** Sabai said the dump truck committee met to discuss specifics of the truck and decided that a landscaping style truck, based off of a Chevy 3500 or similar truck, with four-wheel-drive, dual rear wheels and a 12 foot box would suit our needs. The current truck is not ready to tow, because the wiring harness needs to be repaired, so we are going to look into the Town of Oakland launching the weed harvester. Sabella was asked if we have funds in the budget to purchase a truck. Sabella said we had about \$15,000 to purchase equipment and we could use money from unallocated funds. **Motion by Kolb to approve up to \$25,000 for Sabai to purchase a dump truck with input from the Weed Harvest Committee. Second by Gomez Ibanez. Motion passed 7-0**
- C. **Update on Ripley Park Project** Mike Rumpf shared some changes to the plan with Sabai. Changes to the project plan included a rain garden, a grass swale and putting in rocks at the exits of culvert to assist with water infiltration. Drainage tiles will still be put in to pump water out of some of the low-lying areas. DNR had discouraged the original plan which included only the drainage tile and pumping.
- D. **Update on the Lake District Preserve – woodland invasive species project.** Sabai decided to end the treatments early because the results were not what was hoped for and that expenses for 2018 would be greater than the benefits. The contractor had explained that treatments would need to continue annually, or at least every other year to keep the plants under control, but agreed to end the contract.
- E. **Discussion and possible action on continued invasive phragmites control on south shore of lake.** The District received an Invasive Species grant to control a phragmites patch on the Gebhart property. The grant paid for herbicide treatments of the patch, which have only been partially successful. Funding has now run out for the project. If allowed to persist the patch will increase in size, affecting other properties, and producing more seed, which could further the spread beyond the lakeshore. Sabai said he will talk to the DNR about funding for the project. Sabella expressed concern for using district funds on private property. Doman worried that if we don't take care of this now it will cause more problems in the future. Roger Rude stated that burning the marshes may help the problem, and that the district funds work on the shoreline. Jimmy said those restorations were part of the cost-share program, which anyone can apply for.
- F. **Other Issues:** Doman also mentioned that Amy Gebhart had complained about motor boat use in Vasby's channel. DeGidio mentioned that there was an agreement to purchase and install a "no motors" sign. Sabai will look into the costs involved, and the Town of Oakland will have to approve the wording of the sign. Sabai mentioned that we should help the DNR make Critical

Habitat Areas official. It may help with management issues around the lake. Sabella mentioned the removal of trees near the shoreline along Ripley Road. He said that although we are not an enforcement agency we have a duty report suspected violations. Sabai will call county zoning. We agreed to dedicate the former DNR property at the annual meeting.

VII. Adjournment: Motion by Kempel to adjourn, second Doman. Motion passed, meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: June 16, 2018 (9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall).

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Secretary Date
Recorder: Andrew Sabai