



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
June 16, 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 9:01. Board members present at roll call: Jimmy DeGidio, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Mike Sabella, Craig Kempel, Walt Christensen, and Keith Kolb, Mike Doman was absent Also in attendance: Andrew Sabai (LRMD Lake Manager)
Dave DeGidio, Brock Spack and others:
- II. **Public Comment**
DeGidio called for public comment for any items not on the agenda. There were none.
- III. **Approval of May 19, 2018 minutes. Motion Christensen to approve May minutes, Kolb second motion passed.**
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** Sabella presented the treasurer's report. In the first quarter property tax revenue \$85,696, grants \$1,381, \$131 interest and \$25 in donations. There was little activity in the first quarter, as is normal for that time of year. DeGidio asked if we are continuing to make payments on the woodland herbicide project. Sabai said it would be the last payment. Gomez-Ibanez stated that we should not call the Agrecol plant order for residents as a plant "sale", because it is a reimbursement.
Motion Kolb to approve Treasure's Report, second Gomez-Ibanez, motion passed.
- V. **Lake Manager's Report**
 - A. **Activity** Agrecol plant order was received and distributed to residents who purchased plants. The remaining plants ordered by the district were planted by Gomez-Ibanez, Sabai and volunteers at the lake shore, town rain garden and the Lake District Preserve. A problem with the phone line was fixed by the phone company. Richard Trailer was hired for the Clean Boats Clean Waters program. He had worked for the program in 2017. The GPS for the harvester was purchased and will be installed on the harvester soon, and it will also be used on the boat donated by Dave DeGidio. The plant harvester was launched on June 12 with the help of the Town of Oakland road crew. Our dump truck is not road legal to pull the harvester's trailer. Sabella mentioned that a harvester on Wallace Lake had tipped over and the crew member killed when he became trapped under the harvester. He encouraged us to find out what happened so we could avoid anything similar. Kempel said that we should contact the scout camp and ask them if we could replace the gate with a larger one because it is a tight fit for the dump truck. Kempel commented that he and Sabai need to schedule lake monitoring. Sabai requested that Kempel send him the lake level data that he records, so it may be posted on the internet. Kolb requested that we discuss water level controls at the next meeting. Sabai will be meeting with Amy Gebhart to look at the Phragmites growing on her property and assess the extent of the problem. An agreement with the Gebharts states the District is to find funding for the placement of a "No Motors" sign at the entrance to Vasby's Channel, and that the Gebharts pay for a permit. DeGidio said the district should pay for the sign, less than \$200, to avoid spending the time trying to find and apply for outside funding. Sabella requested that part of the agreement be read "Landowners, in cooperation with the District, agree to apply for a permit from Jefferson County, at Landowner's sole expense, to place a no-motor sign on their property at the entrance to Vasby' channel. If a permit and/or permission from Jefferson County is obtained, Landowners in cooperation with the District, shall place and maintain a no-motor sign no larger than two feet by three feet on the property at the entrance to Vasby's channel in an effort to deter boaters from using motors in this channel in violation of the Town of Oakland ordinance. Lake Ripley Management District will assist with the permit

process and seek funding sources to offset implementation costs. Content of the sign determined by the Town of Oakland and/or their enforcement agencies.”

- B. **Stream Monitoring** Sabai shared some analysis downloaded from the water level logger and converted the data into flow and then compared it with rain events recorded by the rain gauge. Data showed how fast the stream reacted to rain events. Sabai said the preliminary data indicates that the water from these events needs to be dealt with within 48 hours in order to clean the water of the creek. This data will also tell us the volume of water we may need to divert into the wetland to help reduce phosphorus levels. An audience member asked how the data will be used. Sabai explained that the data will be used to improve the Districts’ wetlands ability to reduce the nutrient levels in the creek and therefore prevent a portion of the nutrients from entering Lake Ripley
- C. **Mid-term plans** Annual meeting preparations.
- D. **Long-term plans** Updates to both the Lake and Lake Ripley Management Plan will begin after the annual meeting.
- E. **Correspondence: 5/23/2018** Dave DeGidio donated a 14 foot v-haul fishing boat with trailer. Sabella would like to get the boat painted and have our logo put on it. He would also like us to get the cost estimates for a motor. **5/29/2018** Sabai and Jimmy DeGidio met with Wendy Peich of the Wisconsin DNR to discuss various issues concerning permitting of projects in the lake and surrounding wetlands. Wendy said one of the best ways the District can have an impact on the processes is call for a public hearing on projects we are concerned about.

VI. **Old Business**

- A. **Discussion and possible action on the purchase of a new dump truck.** The Town of Oakland will be selling their large dump truck in the near future. Dick Langer from the harvest crew, took the truck for a test drive. He said the truck would work very well if we built up the sides and put a swing gate on the back. Sabai was concerned that the truck requires a CDL, limiting the number of employees that can use it. Kempel thinks it is important that anyone pulling the harvester and trailer have a CDL regardless of the legal requirements. Christenson said we should look to see if there are any exemptions from the CDL requirements.
- B. **Discussion and possible action on Ripley Estates wetland.** DeGidio met with a group concerned about the future of a small wetland within the Ripley Estates subdivision. Most of the wetland consists of two parcels owned by Dwaine Sievers, the original developer. Sievers no longer wants the property and would like to give it to someone who will maintain it in its current state. DeGidio approached the Town of Oakland to see if they were interested in the property and they were not. Previous discussion with the District indicated LRMD was not interested in the responsibility of this property. Kempel said it was a nice piece of property, but was concerned about mowing and other expenses, and that it did not have a significant impact on the lake. DeGidio said the group was going to research forming an LLC in order to manage it.

VII. **New Business**

- A. **Discussion and possible action on remote board meeting policy.** DeGidio asked if the board had a chance to look at the many documents sent about remote/electronic meeting participation. There was general agreement that they had. Christensen commented that although he was not an elector he would still like to have input. He said Jefferson County is considering electronic meetings in the future and thought that it might be best to let the county lead the way. Sabella asked if it was allowed at the town level, and DeGidio replied that it was not. Sabella said we should not be any different than other local governments. Gomez-Ibanez said the reason that they had suspended remote meetings was that the previous experience was poor, it was hard to know when to have the floor, and to be heard. Kempel said that his previous professional experience had been complicated but they always had an IT person there, and it was expensive. DeGidio said that the technology was adequate, and partially available now, but had questions about quorum and other issues. He said before we address those issues we first need to decide if this is what we want to do, because we will be able to find a way to carry it out. Kolb said that there should always be a quorum physically present at the meeting, and to follow open meetings law and Robert’s Rules of Order, but it would allow 1-3 members to participate remotely. Kolb questioned why we would want to limit participation in meetings due to weather, illness, travel

etc., and that we do better with more participation. Kolb asked when the electronic meeting policy was rescinded. DeGidio stated that there had not been a policy, but there was a motion to move forward with it, this was rescinded in November 2017, so that proper research could be conducted to form a proper policy. He said that if we come up with a policy that the next step will be to amend the bylaws which will need to be voted on at the annual meeting. DeGidio asked if the Board wants to proceed further and asked for comments. Gomez-Ibanez said she would like the board members to commit to be here in person if they wish to participate. Christensen said that he had some experience with the Wisconsin Utility Tax Association Board. He said that because it is a state-wide board people often call in, but it is often difficult to tell if they are still on the line. Remote meetings may require getting the board members the proper technology. Sabella said that he agreed with Gomez-Ibanez, and that he valued everyone's input, but thinks it is important that the board members be physically present. Kempel agrees that members should be present, and was also concerned with the cost. Christensen was worried about all the difficulties vs the possible gain, and said we should stay with what is working. Sabella suggested that board members could be allowed to call in, or have a statement in writing about a specific agenda item during the comment period. DeGidio concluded the discussion by saying that it appeared that the board did not want to pursue crafting a remote meeting policy.

VIII. Adjournment: Christensen moved to adjourn, Kolb second, motion passed.

Next meeting: July 21, 2018 (9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall).

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Secretary
Recorder: Andrew Sabai

Date