



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 15, 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, Mike Doman, and Keith Kolb. Walt Christensen absence excused. Also, in attendance: Andrew Sabai (LRMD Lake Manager), Debbie and Rick Kutz, Roger Rude, Barbara McGann.
- II. **Public Comment**
DeGidio called for public comment for any items not on the agenda. Roger Rude suggested that all the property owners in sensitive areas be brought together for a meeting and asked what progress had been made towards designation. DeGidio and Sabai commented that meeting with landowners, and the general public regarding sensitive areas would likely take place this winter, and they were waiting on the DNR. Sabella stated that a meeting should take place as soon as possible so that people would be able to attend a meeting while they are still at the lake.
- III. **Approval of July 21, 2018 minutes.** DeGidio asked if there were any questions or amendments to the July minutes. Sabella responded that he had a few corrections. First the minutes said June instead of July and that missing from the Treasure's Report was that the current year's operating profit was \$38,266, which when added will agree with the total assets of \$116,000. **Motion Kolb to approve July minutes with corrections, Kempel second motion passed.**
- IV. **Treasurer's Report.** Report for two month period ending August 31 with receipts of \$36,634 which include: \$11 computer tax refund, \$331 workman's comp refund, \$1,000 donation from the Jacobson Brown Foundation, and the final tax levy payment from Jefferson county for \$35,089 . Our cash position is strong at \$124,937. Expenses noted were the purchase of 1992 dump truck, outboard motor, Ripples newsletter, insurance and samples sent to the state lab for the stream monitoring program. Total expenses for the two-month period were \$27,466. We are awaiting the \$15,000 donation from Ducks Unlimited. **Motion Gomez-Ibanez to approve Treasurer's Report second Kempel, motion passed.**
- V. **Lake Manager's Report**
- A. Annual meeting preparation required a significant amount of preparation and included publication of Ripples newsletter.
 - B. Stream monitoring. Mid-summer sampling settled down into a predictable pattern, and then we started receiving a lot of rain in mid-August, so sampling was stepped up to capture the effects of the increased rainfall. Sabai shared some preliminary data that showed that between June 26 and September 7th 365 lbs. of phosphorus were deposited between County A and Ripley Road. It shows that it was worth the effort to preserve that property and will help plan work upstream to help clean the creek. Sabai also mentioned he was now monitoring the water table in the wetland.
 - C. The new boat motor is working well. Weed harvest started off strong, but quickly tapered off for the rest of the season. Most loads came from Milwaukee Bay. A total of 38 loads were harvested, the lowest since 2009. Sabella asked if all of our equipment could fit in the garage. Sabai replied that everything should fit except for the new boat, but the motor will be stored indoors at the least. The dump truck got stuck while dumping a load of weeds, Roger Rude tried pulling the truck out with his tractor but was unable to. The Town of Oakland was able to lend a hand and pull it out. Preserve work wood cutting, trail making.
 - D. Possible cost share project at Shore Place. Sabai met with Kempel and residents at Cedar Shores to discuss riprap repair and native plantings. Sabai and Kempel went out to conduct water quality

sampling and noted a Secchi disk reading of 6 feet. Kolb commented that every week he has been getting a reading of 6.5 feet every week.

- E. Pontoon classroom with Cambridge AP biology students will be coming up October 5th. Kolb offered to use his pontoon to take the kids out.
- F. The Lake Manager received many slow-no-wake questions because of the emergency slow-no-wake rules in effect for the Madison area lakes.
- G. Sabai attended Lake Conference summer meeting on August 17 and participated in a roundtable discussion of lake managers. There are not many full-time lake managers in the state, and it was helpful to hear some of the projects and progress others have had.
- H. DNR UW-extension and others associated with the Healthy Lakes Program came out to view two of the projects that we have had grants for native plantings. They seem impressed by both the Healthy Lakes projects at Charlie Kisow's and Sylvan Mounds and also one of our older cost-share projects at Sylvan Mounds.
- I. **Long-term plans** Updates to both the Lake and Lake Ripley Management Plan will begin after the annual meeting.

VI. Old Business

- A. **Update on DNR Lands Purchased by the District.** Sabai contacted Fish and Wildlife Service about the status of the grant award. FWS said that the check should be in the mail and arrive next week.

VII. New Business

- A. **Discussion and possible action on the formation of a committee for the update of the lake management plan.** Sabai said he would like to form a committee for the writing of grants and for producing the plan in order to get better feedback during the planning process. He noted that Patricia Cicero from Jefferson County will be on the committee. Gomez-Ibanez, DeGidio, and Sabella volunteered to be on the committee. The committee will first meet to discuss the grant application.
- B. **Discussion and possible action on a zoning or permitting complaint response policy.** DeGidio explained that he wanted to have a policy and procedure on how to move forward with complaints and concerns that lake users, and residents have, and what the role of the District should be in these matters. Doman asked what the District does now. Sabai said that sometimes we will contact the DNR or county zoning depending on the potential for permits or violations. Sabai said he would like a more streamlined policy since we are not an enforcement agency and would like to know how much we should be involved with all the other work we do. Sabella said that years ago the District had a project called "Boat Patrol" where people reported back to the District of violations that they had noticed while on the lake. That was implemented at a time when the Town of Oakland did not have much of presence on the lake. He said that at the time there was form that would be filled out. He suggested that we make a version of this form available, pass it on to the proper authority, and to make sure to keep it simple. Kempel noted that many people on the lake are not aware of the shoreline rules, even if they have been here many years. Gomez-Ibanez asked if a list could be made of the proper authorities to contact with questions about zoning etc. Doman asked that the pier planner be put on the website etc. DeGidio summarized the conversation by saying we should draft a document that has a place to add a description of the concern, and also contact information for county zoning, DNR, etc., and to bring the draft for review at the October meeting.
- C. **Discussion and possible action on future LRMD board meeting dates.** DeGidio mentioned that we have worked around the gun deer season in the past and asked the board if November 10th would work. Kolb said he had a conflict on the 10th and asked when the deer season was. DeGidio said the gun deer season opened on November 17. Sabella asked who could not make the meeting; DeGidio and Kempel said that they would not be able to attend on November 17. Sabai commented that it would be necessary to have a November meeting to approve a grant application due in December. Kolb said that he was willing to work around the date, but

mentioned that we were changing meeting times for personal reasons. Sabella agreed and said we should keep scheduled meeting dates except when weather is bad. **Kolb motioned that we keep the meeting dates of the third Saturday of every month for the next calendar year. Doman second, motion passed.** Sabella said the process for conducting a meeting with chair absent was for the secretary to open the meeting and determine if a quorum is present. The board will elect a temporary chairperson, who will fill the role of the chair for the meeting and until the chair returns.

- D. **Discussion and possible action on Lake Ripley water levels.** DeGidio made a statement on policy, recalling a conversation he, Sabai, and Gene Kapsner, the Town Chairman had about watching water levels when the lake was high around the Labor Day holiday. Kapsner said that there was an elevation set for a slow-no-wake recommendation. We determined that we no longer have a place to measure that elevation, because the gauge has been destroyed. Sabai began a presentation to discuss the broad issue of water level fluctuation by discussing the effects of water levels on lake ecology. Sabai stressed that seasonal water level fluctuations, and extremes of drought and flood were important to long-term lake health. He used Northern Pike spawning in flooded marshes, on vertical stems in the spring as an example. Many aquatic plants and animals have timed their life cycles to water level highs and lows, and without those fluctuations they may not be able to complete aspects of their lifecycle. He presented his experience with bulrushes on Lake Puckaway to illustrate the importance of seasonal low water, and droughts in the reproduction and growth of those plants. In 2012 both planted and naturally occurring bulrushes experience dense growth due to the very low water due to a drought. He also discussed the history of water level monitoring on the lake and problems with staff gauges getting damaged by ice. He proposed that in the future it would be good to build a robust monitoring station. Kempel explained the water level monitoring he has been doing from his boathouse floor since 2015. DeGidio recalled the conversation with Kapsner that we should place the gauge on the east side of the lake to reduce the chance of ice damage. **Kolb made a motion we look into installing a removable gauge at the town boat landing. Gomez-Ibanez second, motion passed** Discussion included Sabai showing an example of automatic gauge that sent out water levels automatically and that data could be viewed online. The installation may cost as much as the gauge. Sabella asked if the gauge could be placed anywhere on the lake. Sabai said that it could. DeGidio suggested we could put it on the FEMA property

No authority has actively managed the water levels of the lake, but a collection of rocks at the outlet may act as a dam. In the past there have been several attempts at construction of a permanent dam at the outlet, but the main issue has been private ownership of location of site. Occasionally there are attempts by unknown individuals to affect the lake's water levels by moving rocks, or adding them to the outlet. Other concerns with a dam are: cost, public perception, low water in the outlet creek. DeGidio said that we should explore water level issues in the upcoming management plan update.

VIII. Adjournment: Kolb moved to adjourn at 10:58, Gomez-Ibanez 2nd, motion passed.

Next meeting: The Annual Meeting – October 20, 2018 (9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall).

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Secretary Date
Recorder: Andrew Sabai