



**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
December 15, 2018
9:00 A.M. at Oakland Town Hall**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call**
Jimmy DeGidio called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. All board members (Mike Sabella, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Mike Doman, Craig Kempel, Walt Christensen, and Keith Kolb) were present. Also in attendance were: Andrew Sabai (LRMD Lake Manager), Dave DeGidio, Tom Harvey, Debbie and Rick Kutz.
- II. Public Comment** Harvey offered to answer any questions about the shore-place project. DeGidio stated it was on the agenda and he may be called on then.
- III. Approval of November 17, 2018 minutes.** DeGidio thanked Mike Doman for running the meeting on Nov. 17. **Motion by Gomez-Ibanez to approve November 17, 2018 minutes, second by Sabella motion passed.**
- IV. Treasurer's Report.** Sabella presented the treasurer's report for the month ending November 30th. Income for the month consisted of interest of \$54 from the demand account. Dispersments for the -+month totaled \$9,624. Payroll taxes and pension contributions for October occurred in November. There was a total of \$112,598 in the checking account. Sabella noted that the distributed written report stated it was October, but it should have read November. **Motion by Kolb to approve the Treasure's Report, 2nd Gomez-Ibanez, motion passed.**
- V. Lake Manager's Report** Sabai began by stating that stream monitoring was continuing, but was now slower after the summer months. He presented some of the water quality data from 1989-2018 and thanked Kempel and Kolb for assisting with the data collection. Average water clarity reading was 5.86 feet and minimum 3.75 and maximum was 6.5. Deb Kutz asked if all the data was comparing the same months, Sabai said it was. Firewood cutting was delayed due to rain. Tentatively it is rescheduled to January 5. Sabai shared trail camera photos of muskrats, coyotes, wood ducks, great-blue heron and others. Removal of the buoys was delayed due to a change of contractor, but they were removed before they were frozen in place. DeGidio noted that the District received several calls about the buoys and thanked those who had contacted the District. Sabai said he had heard a comment that the trail was too narrow because of the tall grasses falling into it. Short-term plans are to print the Ripples newsletter, and continue with Lake Management Plan update and Wetland Restoration planning.
- Correspondence:**
- Jimmy DeGidio's students created a large post pounder for use on the preserve.
 - 11/20/2018 Sabai met with Clayton Frazer of Pheasants Forever and Eco-Resource Consulting to discuss spring burns in the preserve, but we also discussed stream/wetland restoration in detail. .
 - Kim Erickson delivered a 3-year management plan for the island surrounded by Vasby's Channel. Jan Papa a specialist in restorations and a home owner in Majestic Pines, drafted the plan. The group may be looking to do a cost-share for the project.
 - Sabai met with Clayton Frazer and Steve Hjort from Eco-Resource Consulting to get feedback on wetland/stream restoration. They offered to draft an outline of other data we may need to collect to proceed with the wetland restoration
- VI. Old Business**

A. Discussion and possible action on complaints about dog feces in the Lake District Preserve.

DeGidio said he received some complaints about dog feces in the trail at the Lake District Preserve. DeGidio and Sabai discussed the issue and they decided to purchase a waste station. The board had discussed the issue in 2011, but did not pursue the issue. Kempel said he approved of the project and it was a good reminder for people to clean up after their pets. Gomez-Ibanez said their previous concern was that it would take up the Lake Manager's time, and that people might dump other trash there. She asked how it had been going. Sabai replied that the station had been in place about a month, and the can was not quite half full. The day it was installed he also cleaned up the trail. Yesterday he took a walk through the trail and found piles of feces that totaled: 1 unidentified, 1 coyote, 6 otters (all in the same area), and 9 dog. He thought we were getting about half compliance. Sabella said that there might be unintended consequences of having the waste station. DeGidio said this was a pilot project to identify how much time it takes to manage the station and other issues associated with it. Christensen said that there were some other upsides to the station because it can draw attention to other rules regarding dogs. Doman said it was a win-win to clean up and may bring more people to the Preserve. **Kolb made a motion to continue the pilot project and to determine if there is a town ordinance requiring dogs be leashed and if there is to post that ordinance and its number. Sabella 2nd.** Motion passed

B. Grant application updates Sabai updated on the planning grant. The large-scale planning grant application was similar as described in the November meeting with one omission. Sabai had planned on seeking funding for a multi-parameter water quality meter, but the state had changed their policy on how they fund meters. The state now prorates the meters based on the length of the grant. Because the meter is an expensive item Sabai did not want to have an added cost to the District that had not been discussed at a meeting. Most of the grant would pay for water quality monitoring, and printing and mailing of a user survey. Kempel asked if the purchase could be funded by asking for donations in the newsletter. Kolb asked if the item could be added to the next annual budget. Sabella mentioned that former board member Jane Jacobson-Brown and her husband had donated substantial funds over the years that could be used to purchase a meter. DeGidio said we should put the purchase of the meter on the agenda for the January meeting. The wetland conservation trust grant application was not submitted because Sabai had difficulty meeting with the preserve's neighbors to determine their willingness to participate in the restorations on their side of the creek. Because this is a key part of the scale of the restoration, he determined it would be better to delay the grant application. In the mean time water quality monitoring and planning efforts would continue and lead to a more solid grant application. Sabai had met with consultants from EcoResource Consulting. They agreed to come up with an outline to help us continue the process of planning and future grant applications. If we had received the Wetland Conservation Trust Grant, we would be a year ahead of schedule. We are still on schedule for the original timeline.

DeGidio asked if we wanted to discuss increasing the reach of the Ripples Newsletter to the entire watershed not just the district. Sabai said that the Ripples newsletter currently only goes out to people within the Lake District boundary, but people who live within the watershed can have a major impact on the lake. He thought it would be a good idea to expand the newsletter at least once a year to help watershed landowners understand impacts to the creek and lake. Currently we do not have a budget for expanding the newsletter. Kolb asked why everyone in the watershed was not within the District. DeGidio and others discussed the history of the District, but no one was certain as to how its boundaries were set. Sabai explained that most lake districts do not include the entire watershed. Board members expressed a desire to increase the circulation to everyone in the watershed for every issue. Sabai said we could delay the fall/winter newsletter until after the next meeting. DeGidio said that we will add it to the next meeting agenda. DeGidio asked Sabella for an update on banking options. Sabella said he talked to the new owners of the Cambridge United Community Bank. The senior vice president of treasury services said that she would give us a monthly rate Federal Effective Funds Rate, which closely approximates the rate for the Local Government Investment Pool. There would be a deduction in the rate of 50 basis points to offset the costs of maintaining the account. Because of the bank merging date in January they asked if the change could be delayed until February. Sabella said he

thinks it would be a good idea to stay with the bank, but he would like to see if he can lower the basis point reduction.

VII. New Business

- A. Discussion and possible action on Shore Place cost-share project** Tom Harvey gave a brief overview of the situation at Shore Place. He said roughly 100 feet of the shoreline has been undercut and eroded. He would like to add riprap and vegetation buffer, by following DNR guidelines. DeGidio said that the cost-share committee had met with Harvey on site, in October and scored the project, and it passed. The shore-place homeowners association approved the project and received three quotes from contractors for the project. Harvey had preferred the middle bid because it had the most detail and best proposal for the vegetation buffer. **Kolb motioned to approve the Shore Place project at no more than 50% of the lowest bid, which was \$12,905. Doman 2nd.** Doman asked when the project might be completed. Harvey said that the contractor said he could complete the project by April. DeGidio said that there was only \$5,000 in the 2019 budget for new cost-share projects, and our share of this project would be \$6,452.50. If the motion passes money may need to be moved between line items to fund the full 50% cost-share. **Motion passed rollcall vote 7-0.**
- B. Discussion and possible action on lake manager compensation process**
Discussion began with Sabella suggesting that this discussion should take place in a closed session, Gomez-Ibanez agreed. Christensen stated that because this discussion is about the position and not about a specific employee, it could and should be discussed in open session. DeGidio gave an overview of the committees meeting and intention. The committee recommended that two positions a Lake Manager and Lake Manager Senior, be created to reflect job duties, and pay scale based on the manager's experience. Only one of the positions would be filled at a time. Sabella retracted his earlier comment. After much discussion and an informal poll of board members, it was decided to continue in open session by discussing the position only, and not benefits. After some discussion it was concluded that suggestions and questions should be sent to the lake manager to be compiled and then discussed by the committee. The committee will then report back at the February board meeting.

VIII. Adjournment: Motion by Christensen to adjourn meeting, 2nd Kempel, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

Next meeting: January 19, 2019 (9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall).

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Secretary Date
Recorder: Andrew Sabai