

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2010**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District Board met at the Oakland Town Hall on January 9, 2010. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: John Molinaro, Gene Kapsner, Dennis McCarthy, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Walt Christensen and Mike Sabella. Jane Jacobsen-Brown was absent. Also present: Paul Dearlove (Lake Manager), Debra Kutz, Richard Kutz, Mac Hannon (Wisconsin DNR), and Cambridge Cable TV 98.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments concerning issues not already on the agenda.

III. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting

Draft minutes from the 11-21-09 meeting were reviewed by the Board. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 6-0.*

IV. Guest Speaker: Mac Hannon, Deputy DNR Conservation Warden, to provide updates on aquatic invasive species threats and control efforts

Deputy Warden Hannon summarized the status of aquatic invasive species (AIS) threats and statewide control efforts. Hannon said he was one of 10 wardens in the state who are responsible for AIS education and enforcement at public boat landings (called "Water Guards"). He also serves as policy administrator. Hannon noted that wardens were now taking a more aggressive enforcement stance, and were spending more time making personal contacts with different user groups. This resulted in the issuance of 30 citations by only six water guards last summer. Most citations were due to the failure of boaters to properly clean their boat trailers and other equipment of invasive plants and animals. The illegal-to-transport law (NR 40; S. 30.07 Wis. Stats.) permits any officer to enforce the law, and makes the second offense a crime. He pointed out that the spiny water flea, which was recently discovered in the Madison lakes, represents only the latest AIS to threaten Lake Ripley at this time. Others include the red swamp crayfish that was found in Germantown, WI. Both organisms can cause major ecosystem disruptions, including the collapse of the sport fishery. Hannon concluded by answering questions from the Board, and going over the new signage that he would be posting at all public boat landings.

V. Treasurer's Report

Sabella distributed and reviewed his two-month report ending December 31, 2009. Receipts for the period totaled \$2,060.00, consisting of \$110.00 in interest income and a \$1,950.00 land-rental payment covering the second half of 2009. Disbursements for the period amounted to \$17,101.51. A Transaction Listing detailed each individual disbursement. Expenses generally consisted of staff payroll, board stipends, a final floodplain study payment, a shore-rental fee for weed harvesting, printing of the lake management plan, a new kiosk and access improvements at the Preserve, and miscellaneous office expenses. Asset balances at the end of the period included \$200.00 in petty cash and \$112,362.46 in checking. Sabella noted that he was awaiting a \$184.76 refund for the return of an industrial descaler that failed to clean the harvester as advertised. *McCarthy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 6-0.*

VI. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove distributed copies of his activity-summary report, phone logs, and other related handouts. He began by showcasing the recently completed *Lake Ripley Improvement Plan*. A content overview was provided, as well as guidance on how to maximize its use. A total of 25 copies were printed and distributed to key partners and local decision-making bodies. The Plan was also posted for downloading on the District's website, and limited copies were available for review at the District office or Cambridge Public Library. Additional hard copies could be printed for about \$30 per book. Dearlove said he was currently in the process of closing out the DNR Lake Planning Grant and applying for final cost-share reimbursement.

Lake District Preserve activities included the completion of grant-reporting requirements, applying for "Community Forest" status, and working with U.S. Fish & Wildlife (USFWS) to secure the equipment and native seed mix

needed for this fall's 26-acre prairie restoration. Once designated as a Community Forest, Randy Stampfl (DNR Forester) had agreed to develop a comprehensive woodland stewardship plan on the District's behalf. This would expand upon a preliminary woodland assessment that was previously provided. As for next fall's prairie restoration, USFWS has pledged to provide the required seed mix with an estimated value of about \$3,900. Charlie Kilian at DNR was currently trying to locate a seed drill and a trained operator to run the equipment. In addition, Dearlove noted that he and McCarthy would be picking up the new information kiosk sometime next week. He said he was also continuing to work with Ducks Unlimited on a donor-recognition sign.

Landowner cost-sharing projects included the completion of the shoreline riprap phase at Alpine Village, and the receipt of permit approvals and contractor bids for the Fischer and Thompson shoreline restorations. An amended permit application was also submitted for the Hoard-Curtis project, which called for a more aggressive plan to revegetate the rock. While a permit decision is still pending, Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Department has pledged \$7,000 in cost-share assistance if certain eligible work is implemented in 2010.

Public outreach consisted of giving a talk to a group of local 5th graders, disseminating Welcome Wagon packets to new landowners, and near-term plans to start working on another Ripples newsletter. With respect to youth education, Gomez-Ibanez summarized recent efforts to develop and implement a water quality curriculum at the local elementary school level. Finally, Dearlove said he was also applying for a grant that, if awarded, would cover 75% of the cost for a new dissolved oxygen meter. A new probe, which costs about \$1,300, was needed to replace one that was on loan from DNR which is no longer operating properly.

VII. Old Business

A. Review of Phase I bids and approval of cost-share amount for the Fischer/Schabowski shoreline restoration at W9346 Ripley Rd.

Project and bid information was distributed for review. A total of three contractor bids were obtained by the landowner for installing riprap along 60 feet of frontage: Hilleshiem Landscapes, LLC (\$11,415), Bedrock Hay & Landscaping (\$7,627.65), and Preuninger Enterprises (\$3,750). Dearlove said the landowner was interested in going with Preuninger, who was also the low bidder. *Kapsner moved to approve the Preuninger quote for \$3,750 as the lowest responsible bid for which 50% cost sharing would be applied. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 6-0.*

B. Review of Phase I bids and approval of cost-share amount for the Thompson/Ewert shoreline restoration at W9184 Ripley Rd.

Project and bid information was distributed for review. A total of four contractor bids were obtained by the landowner for installing riprap along 74 feet of frontage: Hilleshiem Landscapes, LLC (\$11,900), A&N Lenox Dirt Works, LLC (\$11,790), CHILS (\$5,550), and Preuninger Enterprises (\$4,950). Dearlove said the landowner was interested in going with Preuninger, who was also the low bidder. *Kapsner moved to approve the Preuninger quote for \$4,950 as the lowest responsible bid for which cost sharing would be applied. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 6-0.*

C. Review and possible action on bids to perform routine maintenance activities at Lake District Preserve

Proposals from Midwest Prairies, LLC and EC3 Environmental Consulting Group, Inc. to manage invasive vegetation (willow thickets, etc.) were distributed for consideration. A bid was also received later in the meeting from Awesome Landscaping, LLC. While Midwest Prairies recommended a strategy of growth containment, EC3 recommended complete eradication of the willow colonies. Board discussion ensued pertaining to the merits and drawbacks of each approach. The general consensus was to clear invasive brush from the trails and attempt to contain the spread of the existing willow thickets. Molinaro asked Dearlove to prepare and disseminate a Request for Proposals based on the more defined scope of work.

A bid from A&N Lenox Dirt Works, LLC to plow the parking lot was also considered. Discussion ensued as to what frequency of snow plowing would be appropriate. As far as establishing a snow-plowing policy, *Molinaro moved to keep the parking lot accessible throughout the winter months. Motion seconded by McCarthy. As a point of discussion, Sabella suggested a friendly amendment that plowing decisions be made at the lake manager's discretion. Amended motion seconded by McCarthy. Amended motion approved 6-0.* No action was taken on the A&N bid. Kapsner offered to see if Jeff Scheel (Town of Oakland road crew supervisor) would take care of the parking lot as part of his regular plowing route.

